



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Students compete in search for innovative healthcare ideas

*Singapore, 14 September 2018* — Identify the problem, then fix it. That is the challenge given to teams of National University of Singapore (NUS) students participating in a competition that tests their ability to find solutions to unmet needs and gaps in healthcare.

From redesigning wheelchairs to reduce strain on nurses' backs, helping migrant workers access healthcare through technology, and an app that helps find healthier hawker food options: these are some of the solutions that the students have come up with as participants in the Medical Grand Challenge 2018.

Over the past year, the students from the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) and their counterparts from the Business, Computing, Engineering, Dentistry, and Science faculties have gone through interdisciplinary boot camps to develop and refine their proposed solutions and prototypes to a number of healthcare problems. The students, grouped into 14 teams, are taking part in the second edition of the Challenge, which was launched last year.

Based on the idea that all discoveries begin with a single question, the Challenge aims to nurture a culture of curiosity among undergraduates, while encouraging creativity and entrepreneurship. Given the immense value of multi-disciplinary work, the Challenge also seeks to foster relationships between students from different faculties and backgrounds.

The year-long competition concludes on 14 September 2018, when the efforts of the 14 teams are assessed by a panel of judges for impact on healthcare, business strategy, creativity, innovation and the feasibility of bringing the ideas to market. Working on a range of different topics, the 14 groups were shortlisted and provided seed grants of \$500 each. The judges hail from various industries that may step in to take truly outstanding student innovations forward to the next stage of development and eventual commercialisation.

"I believe that innovation is critical in the medical field because there must be constant improvements and upgrading to provide the best patient care. I want to help encourage a culture of creativity and innovation among our peers and provide them with a platform to bring their ideas to life," said Lim Jia Ying, co-president of the Medical Grand Challenge, and a first-year medical student.

Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, Dean of NUS Medicine, said, "Into its second year, the Medical Grand Challenge remains a stimulus to encourage bright young minds to collaborate, unleash their creativity and apply their ingenuity to tackle important needs in Singapore

healthcare. We hope the Challenge sparks a life-long interest in innovation, and out-of-the-box thinking among our students to solve real-life problems.”

Professor Chong Yap Seng, academic advisor to the Medical Grand Challenge, added, “In today’s fast-changing, technology-driven society, it is not enough for doctors to be knowledgeable and competent. They have to be constantly thinking of new solutions and be able to understand and work with people from multiple disciplines and backgrounds. The Medical Grand Challenge provides an exciting opportunity for them to do so.”

Please refer to the [Annex](#) for more information on the Medical Grand Challenge and the 14 student projects.

For more information about the Challenge, visit the [website](#) (medicine.nus.edu.sg/cenmed/mgc/nus.html) and [Facebook page](#) (facebook.com/nusmgc)

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## **About the National University of Singapore (NUS)**

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 Faculties and Schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives. NUS also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

NUS takes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to research, working with partners from industry, government and academia, to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in NUS' Faculties and Schools, 30 university-level research institutes and centres, and Research Centres of Excellence cover a wide range of themes including: energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems. The University's latest research focus is to use data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg).

## **About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine)**

Established in 1905, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is the first institution of higher learning in Singapore and the genesis of the National University of Singapore.

The School offers one of the finest undergraduate medical programmes in the Asia Pacific region and enjoys international recognition and respect. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 by subject and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2017 list NUS Medicine as a leading medical school in Asia.

It admits 300 students to the MBBS degree programme annually and its principal missions are to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and foster research that will help to advance the practice of medicine.

The 18 NUS Medicine departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Centre for Medical Education, the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, the Centre for Healthcare Simulation as well as the restructured public hospitals to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore's healthcare needs. The School is a founding institutional member of the National University Health System.

For more information about NUS Medicine, please visit <http://nusmedicine.nus.edu.sg>.