



PRESS RELEASE

New elective on Innovation and Research for medical students

This new elective will include special workshops on innovation and sponsored elective programmes at NUS Overseas Colleges to hone their entrepreneurial skills

Singapore, 7 September 2019 — A new elective on Innovation and Research for fourth-year medical students was announced by Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) at the annual Medical Grand Challenge (MGC) on 7 September 2019.

Aimed to encourage students to make innovation an everyday part of their healthcare practice and to hone their entrepreneurial skills, this elective will include special workshops on innovation and sponsored elective programmes at NUS Overseas Colleges. All the medical student participants and organisers of the MGC will have priority in this programme.

“Besides being professionally competent, doctors also need to be innovative to keep refreshing and improving the healthcare tools we have at our disposal. Hence, we provide students with platforms that hone problem-solving skills, to expand their modes of thinking and perspectives. Innovative thinking and collaborative team work are part of our training at NUS Medicine, alongside the academic rigour and soft skills training that students go through,” said Prof Chong.

At the third edition of MGC, students from various NUS faculties such as Business, Computing, Engineering, Law and Yale-NUS College, and their counterparts from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), presented their innovative solutions to unmet healthcare challenges they have identified. Some examples are redesigned mattresses to prevent pressure sores in bedridden patients, sensors developed to detect common diabetic complications, and a gamified exercise machine to encourage seniors to exercise.

Organised by NUS Medicine, MGC began in 2017 and aims to inculcate an inquisitive instinct among NUS Medicine undergraduates, while encouraging creativity and entrepreneurship. Through the multi-disciplinary nature of the competition, the Challenge also seeks to foster collaborative teamwork among students from different faculties and backgrounds. Over the past year, these students have gone through interdisciplinary boot camps to develop and refine their proposed solutions and prototypes to a number of existing healthcare problems.

This MGC competition concluded today, with the efforts of the 14 teams assessed by a panel of judges from a variety of industries such as information technology, healthcare and engineering. Each team was provided a \$500 seed grant to bring their proposal to life, and their innovations were judged for impact on healthcare, business strategy, creativity, innovation and the feasibility of bringing the ideas to market.

“Marrying both my passions in medicine and technology is something I have always wanted to do, even before starting medical school. Ultimately, we hope to make MGC a starting ground, a sandbox, for our students to learn about the field, as well as cultivate budding start-ups and connections to help them develop and enter the market,” said Eleanor Loh, co-president of MGC, and a second-year medical student.

For the first time, international teams from the University of Utah and National University of Ireland, Galway presented their projects, allowing our students to learn from competitive international teams.

“MGC is a great platform for our students to think about problem-solving and innovating. Having students from other schools share their projects will help us figure out where we stand on an international level, and encourage us to extend ourselves in the right direction,” Prof Chong said.

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)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore, as well as 12 NUS Overseas Colleges across the world. Close to 40,000 students from 100 countries enrich our vibrant and diverse campus community.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 29 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; as well as risk management and resilience of financial systems. Our latest research focus is on the use of data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit 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 2019 by subject and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2019 list NUS Medicine as the 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>.