



PRESS RELEASE

Key United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foundation supports NUS with US\$3M medical professorship

Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable & Humanitarian Foundation to support translational research, including use of new technologies and genomics

Singapore, 30 January 2020 — The gift from **Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable & Humanitarian Foundation** will enable the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) to drive research, education and innovation in the field of endocrinology, particularly in the area of translational research in diabetes.

It is the first-ever gift from the Foundation to a tertiary institution in Singapore. The professorship will be named for **Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan**, the founding father of the UAE, who was noted for his philanthropy and humanitarian legacy.

The **Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professorship in Medicine** will also support research in the use of technologies and genomics to understand individuals' pre-disposition to diabetes.

Dean of NUS Medicine, Professor Chong Yap Seng, said, "We are deeply grateful for the Foundation's shared belief in the importance of research and collaboration in the field of endocrinology and metabolic health and its very generous support of our ongoing research. Diabetes is a deadly scourge and this professorship will be an important launch pad for future academic exchanges and collaborations to advance transformational research in this field."

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that by 2020, an estimated 32 per cent of the adult population (age 20-79) in the UAE, including both UAE nationals and expatriates, may have diabetes or prediabetes over the next decade, if present trends continue. The UAE has a national agenda of reducing diabetes prevalence in the country from 19 per cent to 16.4 per cent by 2021.

His Excellency Hamad Salem Bin Kordous Al Ameri, Director General of the Foundation, said, "The **Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professorship in Medicine** will be the cornerstone for collaboration and innovative research in this area between institutions in the UAE and Singapore. Equally important, it perpetuates the abiding legacy of the UAE's founding father, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, of global humanitarianism and improving the lives of others, regardless of race, language or religion."

As an endowed Professorship, the gift capital of US\$3 Million will be preserved in perpetuity, and invested to generate an annual income that will fund the Professorship.

About Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the founding father and the principal driving force behind the formation of the UAE. He is popularly referred to in the UAE as the Father of the Nation.

Sheik Zayed steered Abu Dhabi to independence from the British, and drove its consolidation into the UAE, a union of seven emirates on the western side of the Arabian Gulf.

His people enjoy cradle-to-grave government services, including free schools, free health care and some of the world's highest personal incomes. Sheikh Zayed built cities, towns, hospitals and universities. A noted philanthropist, he believed oil wealth was a gift to be shared with countries and people in need. Sheik Zayed endowed many charitable appeals around the world. His generosity to various charities was extensive, to causes from displaced Afghans and Palestinians to Iraqi war victims.

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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>.

About the Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable & Humanitarian Foundation

Established in 1992 by Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Foundation was set up as a charitable endowment to support sustainable charity and humanitarian projects, activities and events within and outside the UAE. Additionally it contributes towards the achievement of economic and social development and the improvement of people's lives.

The Foundation has provided assistance in over 166 countries, valued at billions of UAE dirham, and in diverse sectors, most notably in health, education and humanitarian aid.

Major achievements in Arab countries by the Foundation include, but are not limited to, school rehabilitation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Palestine); the Zayed Mother and Child

Hospital (Yemen); Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Fum Zakeed, Tata District (Morocco); and Sheikh Zayed Library and Al-Manar University, Tripoli (Lebanon).

Its projects in Asia include the Vocational Training Centre and Home for People with Special Needs (India); Re-building Hulu Mosque (Philippines); Zayed College for Computer Sciences in Chittagong (Bangladesh); Arabic Studies Center, Beijing (China); Zayed Mother and Child Hospital (Afghanistan), among others.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit <https://www.zayedchf.gov.ae/Home/index>