



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NUS AND UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA TO COLLABORATE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

*Singapore, 4 May 2016* – A S\$1million gift from Indonesian philanthropist Dato' Sri Prof Dr Tahir has provided the momentum for a new partnership in medical education and research between the National University of Singapore (NUS) and one of Indonesia's largest and most prestigious universities, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM).

The collaboration between the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) and UGM was marked by the signing of an agreement today by Dato' Sri Dr Tahir, NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and UGM Rector Professor Ir. Dwikorita Karnawati.

The collaboration, which has a focus on medical education, will include student electives and the development of a global medicine curriculum. In addition, the two medical schools will work together to build clinical and governance capacity through training workshops as well as attachments in various medical specialties. These exchanges will help to facilitate research collaborations in common areas of interest.

Speaking at the ceremony, which was graced by two former Indonesian Presidents – Prof Dr Baccharudin Jusuf Habibie and Prof Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono - NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan noted the very high priority that nearly all countries of the world accorded healthcare. Medical research has provided deep insights into the fundamental nature of many important diseases, and this has led to the development of better diagnostic tools and treatments that have benefited countless patients. Together with advances in clinical training of doctors, nurses and health professionals, life expectancies and the quality of life have been lifted for entire populations.

Professor Tan said that, at the same time, nearly all societies face great healthcare challenges ranging from epidemics of chronic conditions like obesity, diabetes and hypertension, to the threat of infectious disease outbreaks. Countries are also confronted with rising healthcare costs and an ever-growing demand for healthcare services that often outstrip supply, he added.

Professor Tan further commented, "At NUS Medicine, we have placed a strong emphasis on biomedical research which focuses on how Asians differ in the progression of disease and their responses to treatment, compared with Caucasians. We have also given high priority to translating key discoveries into new management approaches, diagnostic tools and treatments which benefit patients in Singapore and Asia. In this regard, collaborations with like-minded institutions are very important, as these enable the pooling of complementary expertise, clinical experiences and research, which are necessary to accelerate the development of new treatment approaches and implementation of clinical "best" practices.

"That is why the Tahir-NUS-UGM Collaboration in Medicine between NUS and the medical school of UGM, enabled by the generous gift from Dato' Sri Prof Dr Tahir, is a vital one. UGM is the largest and one of the most prestigious research universities in Indonesia, counting illustrious alumni that includes the current Indonesian President, Mr Joko Widodo."

Thanking Dr Tahir – who was recently conferred an honorary doctorate by UGM – Prof Tan said that NUS is honoured to count Dr Tahir among its distinguished alumni. "We celebrate with pride, his many achievements as well as his deep passion for education. We are also extremely grateful for the generous and unstinting support that he has shown NUS for over nearly a decade, through gifts to bursaries, scholarships and medical research at NUS."

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Cheryl TAN  
Senior Executive  
Corporate Communications  
Dean's Office  
NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine  
DID: (65) 6772 6783  
Email: [cheryl\\_tan@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:cheryl_tan@nuhs.edu.sg)

### **About 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 multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 26 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's fifth RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres.

Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

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

### **About NUS Yong Loo Lin School of 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 what would become the National University of Singapore.

The School offers one of the finest undergraduate medical programs in the Asia-Pacific region and commands international recognition and respect. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-2016 by Subject list NUS Medicine as Asia's leading medical school, while the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2016 placed NUS Medicine 22 globally.

The School admits 300 students to its medical undergraduate degree programme annually. Its principal missions are to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and foster research that will help to transform the practice of medicine. It also plays a pivotal role in producing future leaders in healthcare delivery, discovery and public service as well as in Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Initiative.

The School's 18 departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and the Centre for Medical Education to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore's healthcare needs.

The School is also a member of the National University Health System, an integrated academic health system which comprises the National University Hospital, the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore, the National University Heart Centre, Singapore, the National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore, the NUS Faculty of Dentistry and the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

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