



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Cardiac geneticist is inaugural Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professor in Medicine

*Endowed professorship supported by UAE foundation will help drive research in heart disease and heart health of diabetic patients*

**Singapore, 30 October 2020** — Professor Roger Foo Sik Yin, Director-Designate of the Cardiovascular Disease Translational Research Programme and Deputy Director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) has been appointed the inaugural Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professor in Medicine, from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2023. The Professorship is made possible by a gift from Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable & Humanitarian Foundation.

This gift, the first-ever from the Foundation to a tertiary institution in Singapore, will enable NUS Medicine to drive research, education and innovation in the field of endocrinology, particularly in the area of translational research in diabetes. 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 and heart disease.

Prof Foo, who is also Assistant Dean (Research) at NUS Medicine, seeks to uncover mechanisms in heart disease, including the heart health of diabetic patients and those who are at significant risk of diabetes.

"I am deeply grateful for this honour. Metabolism exquisitely and critically regulates how the heart functions; I am excited to continue with research that could reveal genetic and epigenetic switches that can be targeted to control metabolism, and uncover ways to prevent and treat heart disease in diabetic and pre-diabetic patients," he said.

Dean of NUS Medicine, Professor Chong Yap Seng, said, "We are looking forward to deepen research and knowledge, as well as academic exchanges, that could lead to translational breakthroughs in endocrinology that impact healthcare. On behalf of the School, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Foundation for their generous support."

His Excellency Hamad Salem Bin Kardous Al Ameri, Director-General, Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, said, "I am delighted that the Zayed Professorship at the National University of Singapore will be the cornerstone and the beginning of collaborative relationship between the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation and the School of Medicine at NUS."

His Excellency Saeed Ahmed Ghobash, Former Chancellor, United Arab Emirates University, said, "The Zayed Professorship will undoubtedly advance the research between the United Arab Emirates University and the National University of Singapore. Indeed an important collaboration."

The professorship is named for Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, who was noted for his philanthropy and humanitarian legacy. 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.

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### **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.

### **About 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, 31 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; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

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)**

The NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is Singapore's first and largest medical school. Our enduring mission centres on nurturing highly competent, values-driven and inspired

healthcare professionals to transform the practice of medicine and improve health around the world.

Through a dynamic and future-oriented five-year curriculum that is inter-disciplinary and inter-professional in nature, our students undergo a holistic learning experience that exposes them to multiple facets of healthcare and prepares them to become visionary leaders and compassionate doctors and nurses of tomorrow. Since the School's founding in 1905, more than 12,000 graduates have passed through its doors.

In our pursuit of health for all, our strategic research programmes focus on innovative, cutting-edge biomedical research with collaborators around the world to deliver high impact solutions to benefit human lives.

The School is the oldest institution of higher learning in the National University of Singapore and a founding institutional member of the National University Health System. It is Asia's leading medical school and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2019).

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