



PRESS RELEASE

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Estate of Medical Alumna Bequeaths S\$6.75M to her Alma Mater

The Freda Paul professorship, bursary and student prizes made possible after legal action by estate to recover misappropriated funds

Singapore, 29 December 2020 - The gift from the late Dr Freda Paul Malliamalar, a respected paediatrician at the Singapore General Hospital and associate professor of paediatrics at the then Faculty of Medicine, University of Singapore, was willed in 2007.

Dr Paul, who was single, passed away in August 2016 at the age of 87. She took a special interest in children with special learning needs and had bequeathed much of her estate to help needy female medical students at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Afflicted by dementia shortly after she had the will written, she was befriended by a construction worker and an engineer who were working on a site adjacent to her home. Together with her maid, they influenced Dr Paul into transferring to them large sums of money from the proceeds of sale of her old home and into making a new will in 2010 that would have bequeathed almost all of her remaining assets to themselves. The new will omitted any bequest to the National University of Singapore (NUS). Some of the proceeds of sale were used to purchase a smaller home for Dr Paul.

Her distant relatives, Mr Philip Jeyaretnam S.C. and Dr Ruhunadevi Joshua, learned of Dr Paul's plight and jointly applied to be appointed deputies to take care of Dr Paul and safeguard her estate under the Mental Capacity Act. Both are not beneficiaries of her estate.

Mr Jeyaretnam and Dr Joshua successfully applied to court for a statutory will restoring Dr Paul's earlier testamentary intentions, including her gift to NUS. They then took proceedings on behalf of her estate against the wrongdoers and obtained judgment on 15 May 2017. In total, following enforcement proceedings, a sum of about S\$4

million was recovered and further funds were realised from the sale of Dr Paul's later home.

The gift from Dr Paul's estate will enable NUS Medicine to establish a bursary for financially needy female undergraduate medical students as well as a prize that will be awarded to female undergraduate medical students.

The Professorship that the gift funds will support an entire spectrum of translational research in the areas of paediatrics such as cancer, genetics, immunology, metabolic diseases and cardiac health, as well as studies on disease trends, health outcomes and neurocognitive development problems.

"I am delighted that Dr Paul's life and career will now be honoured by this significant bequest to NUS Medicine, as she had wanted," said Mr Philip Jeyaretnam.

"Dr Freda Paul's legacy as a renowned paediatrician and her desire to support female medical students throughout their journey of learning will be ensured through this generous bequest, which sees the establishment of the Freda Paul Bursary Fund, Freda Paul Professorship and student prizes," said the Dean of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Professor Chong Yap Seng.

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye said, "We are deeply appreciative of this generous gift from the late Dr Freda Paul, which will go a long way towards nurturing the next generation of female medical leaders as well as advancing the field of paediatrics. I hope this gift will also inspire more NUS alumni to impact society by supporting programmes at the University, either through lifetime gifts or a bequest as exemplified by the late Dr Paul."

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Emma GOH
Communications
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore
DID: +65 85690984
Email: emmagoh@nus.edu.sg

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, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established our NUS Overseas Colleges programme in more than 15 cities around the world.

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.

About 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 our 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/>