MEDIA RELEASE

15 APRIL 2021

JOINT STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT OF DR KEVIN WHITE BY GIS AND NUS

Dr White's appointment is part of GIS' and NUS Medicine's drive to recruit stellar scientific and industry talent into Singapore.

Dr Kevin White.

SINGAPORE – The Agency for Science, Technology and Research's (A*STAR) Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) are pleased to announce the joint strategic recruitment of Dr Kevin White. At GIS, Dr White will come on board as Programme Director of Nucleic Acid Therapeutics (NAT), and Senior Group Leader, while at NUS Medicine, he will be Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Precision Medicine Translational Research Programme (TRP).

Dr Kevin White most recently served in roles as President and Chief Scientific Officer at Tempus, a multi-billion dollar precision medicine company in the US. He helped to found and build the company from scratch, overseeing the work of several hundred scientists who built genomic testing and predictive algorithms to treat cancer patients and other disorders.

Prior to Tempus, Dr White was the James and Karen Frank Family Professor of Human Genetics and Medicine at the University of Chicago, where he was also the Founding

Director of the Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology. He led the Institute from 2006 to 2016, during which he recruited a new faculty while raising more than US$150 million to advance precision medicine research.

Dr White's research helped to pioneer the fields of functional genomics and systems biology in the late 1990s, combining the generation and analysis of large-scale biological data-sets to generate insights into complex biological systems. Since the mid-2000s, he has focused his efforts on developing new approaches for accelerating precision medicine through the analysis of large-scale omics and clinical data.

Dr White's recognitions for innovation include the Keck Biomedical Investigator Award, the Beckman Young Investigator award, and the Crain's Business '40 Under 40' list. He has served on the scientific boards of a wide range of start-up biotech companies and foundations. In addition to Tempus, he is a founder of Provaxus and HealthSeq (now Tempus Singapore). He has also held scientific advisory board positions at institutions that include Harvard University, Yale University, Northwestern University, and the National Cancer Institute.

At GIS, Dr White will play a leadership role in orchestrating a multi-institutional programme in NAT involving A*STAR and other ecosystem partners. He will direct the NAT programme with a focus on translating NAT assets for clinical use. He will be responsible for coordinating programmes with clear outcome-based milestones thataddress key challenges faced by the industry and medical community in implementing nucleic acid based therapeutics. Dr White will grow the NAT community in Singapore to build an end-to-end value chain involving research scientists, medical practitioners, industry partners, and regulatory stakeholders with the aim to create a vibrant innovation ecosystem for NAT development in Singapore and the region. At NUS Medicine, Dr White will lead a discovery programme in understanding the function of genetic variation in disease and biology.

Dr White said, "We are at an exciting time in the evolution of precision medicine. We are experiencing a rapid expansion of diagnostic and predictive analytic capabilities for identifying patient-specific therapeutic targets, but those capabilities are outpacing our ability to develop personalized therapeutics." He continued, "There is a growing need for low-cost, rapidly deployable, and personalizable platforms for therapeutic development, and to advance this field the NAT programme will be focused on translating cutting-edge RNA and DNA based approaches into therapies and vaccines, using both viral and non-viral delivery mechanisms."

Prof Patrick Tan, Executive Director of GIS, said, "Dr White will bring a wealth of industry and scientific expertise, particularly in the conduct of early to mid-stage biotechnology companies. He will establish a world-class translational engine for NAT by working with the best that Singapore science has to offer, thereby positioning Singapore as a thought-leader for NAT in Asia and the world."

At NUS Medicine, Dr White's recruitment is a timely move for Singapore as it advances further into precision medicine, with customisation of healthcare tailored to individual

patients or subgroups of patients, an area that has been called the future of healthcare and is supported by Singapore's Ministry of Health.

Prof Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine, said, "Dr White is a fitting and valuable addition to the School. His remarkable expertise in functional genomics and precision medicine alongside his wide entrepreneurial and industry experience will position the School as a thought leader in precision medicine in Asia and beyond. Not only will he help foster multidisciplinary collaborations between researchers in the medical sciences and computing and engineering sciences, he will also provide valuable mentorship to younger researchers, clinician scientists and graduate students who work in this field, and help them to develop their talents and expertise."

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Enclosed:

ANNEX A – Notes to Editor

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About A*STAR's Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS)

The Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) is an institute of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). It has a global vision that seeks to use genomic sciences to achieve extraordinary improvements in human health and public prosperity. Established in 2000 as a centre for genomic discovery, the GIS pursues the integration of technology, genetics and biology towards academic, economic and societal impact, with a mission to "read, reveal and write DNA for a better Singapore and world".

Key research areas at the GIS include Precision Medicine & Population Genomics, Genome Informatics, Spatial & Single Cell Systems, Epigenetic & Epitranscriptomic Regulation, Genome Architecture & Design, and Sequencing Platforms. The genomics infrastructure at the GIS is also utilised to train new scientific talent, to function as a bridge for academic and industrial research, and to explore scientific questions of high impact.

For more information about GIS, please visit www.a-star.edu.sg/gis.

About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

A*STAR is Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency. Through open innovation, we collaborate with our partners in both the public and private sectors to benefit the economy and society. As a Science and Technology Organisation, A*STAR bridges the gap between academia and industry. Our research creates economic growth and jobs for Singapore, and enhances lives by improving societal outcomes in healthcare, urban living, and sustainability. A*STAR plays a key role in nurturing scientific talent and leaders for the wider research community and industry. A*STAR's R&D activities span biomedical sciences to physical sciences and engineering, with research entities primarily located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis. For ongoing news, visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

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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, 30 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 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 interprofessional 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, cuttingedge 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 2021 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2021).

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