



## PRESS RELEASE

### Goh Keng Swee Foundation Gifts S\$1.2M In Support of Medical Education

**Singapore, 14 May 2021** - The Goh Keng Swee Foundation, established by Dr Phua Swee Liang in 2008 to perpetuate the values of her late husband, today announced a gift of S\$1.2 million to the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) in support of financially disadvantaged medical students.

The gift was announced on the 11th death anniversary of Dr Goh, who passed away on 14 May 2010 at the age of 91 after years of ill health, during which he was nursed by Dr Phua. The late Dr Goh served alongside Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, holding Cabinet appointments as Deputy Prime Minister, as well as helping the finance and defence portfolios at key stages of Singapore's development.

He is widely regarded for his role in the development of Singapore into a prosperous nation. As early as 1981, Dr Goh set up the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) with the foresight to protect Singapore's reserves from unforeseen economic crisis. In the year before his retirement from political office, he sowed the seeds of biotechnology in Singapore, with his involvement in the introduction of Nobel laureate Dr Sydney Brenner to Singapore, and the establishment of the Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology (IMCB).

"I am very pleased that Dr Goh's life and memory will be honoured by this gift to NUS Medicine. In his dealings with people, Dr Goh made no distinction between race, religion, gender, wealth or power, provided people were genuine and decent. His compassion and thoughtfulness toward people has always moved me and it is my hope that recipients of this bursary will embody the same attitude towards their patients and those around them," said Dr Phua.

The Foundation was set up by Dr Phua two years before the passing of Dr Goh, who was also Minister for Education as well as Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and headed various government-led companies. As Singapore's first Minister for Finance in 1959, he introduced a massive industrialisation programme and transformed the swampy Jurong into Singapore's first industrial estate. Dr Goh also initiated the establishment of the Economic Development Board (EDB) in August 1961.

The Foundation has been a longstanding donor to the NUS Medical Society - Christine Chong Hui Xian Bursary, set up in 2011. The bursary commemorates the late Christine Chong, from the Class of 2012, who succumbed to cancer during the course of her studies. In memory of her passing, the 62nd NUS Medical Society formed a committee to raise funds for an endowed bursary. They approached the Foundation and Dr Phua was so impressed by the knowledge that the students themselves contributed funds to initiate the bursary, that she instantly made a sizeable contribution. Since then the Goh Keng Swee Foundation has frequently made donations to add to the fund. Since its inception, the bursary has helped close to 70 medical

students to significantly alleviate the financial burden of their medical education.

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye said, “We are deeply appreciative of this generous gift from Dr Phua. It will go a long way towards nurturing the next generation of medical leaders, helping train the compassionate and competent doctors that Singapore needs, as well as advancing the science and practice of medicine in Singapore.”

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine, expressed the School’s gratitude for the Foundation’s gift, “We are deeply honoured and grateful for this gift from Dr Phua and the Foundation. One in six of our medical undergraduates needs financial assistance and this gift from the Foundation will be invaluable in alleviating their financial worries, allowing them to fully experience the benefits of a comprehensive medical education and contribute to the greater community as students.”

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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, 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, 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](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 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/>