



PRESS RELEASE

NUS Medicine and Duke-NUS researchers to study the immune response of COVID-19 vaccines in children

This holistic study will serve as the basis of understanding differences in hybrid immunity and vaccine immunity in children

Singapore, 11 December 2021 — With the Multi-Ministry Taskforce’s announcement of COVID-19 vaccinations beginning for children aged five to eleven by end 2021, researchers from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Medical School are working together to recruit participants for a non-interventional observational study aimed at studying immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines in different groups of children. This will be done by obtaining information on COVID-19 vaccine responses that has not been studied before in the field of Paediatrics.

The researchers aim to enroll a total of 460 participants over 12 months to track vaccine responses, vaccine efficacy, monitor side effects and to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 infections in these children. Eligible children would comprise those who are healthy and without a previous COVID-19 infection and who are getting vaccinated against COVID-19 for the first time, those who are not vaccinated immediately, and others who are immunocompromised and planning to be vaccinated, all with reference to a standard mRNA vaccine dosing regimen.

Participants will be recruited from the wider community, while immunocompromised patients will be recruited from National University Hospital’s (NUH) Khoo Teck Puat - National University Children’s Medical Institute (KTP-NUCMI). All study visits will be conducted on the NUH KTP-NUCMI premises.

The study is being conducted in the hopes of developing a comprehensive guide of recommendations for vaccinations in children, vaccinating immunocompromised children and the effects of the natural infection of COVID-19 in children. Additionally, the study also hopes to obtain evidence for the vigour of hybrid immunity in children who may contract COVID-19 and get vaccinated when they recover.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Tham, one of the lead Principal Investigators from NUS Medicine and Head of the Division of Paediatric Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology at NUH KTP-NUCMI, shared her hopes for the study, “We hope to obtain crucial data on how vaccinating our children will help protect them against COVID-19, and to better understand the risks and benefits which will help us provide better care for this vulnerable group.”

For more information on participation in the study, please contact:

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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, 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, 29 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 common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; as well as risk management and resilience of financial systems. Our latest research focus is on the use of data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit 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 2022 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject 2021).

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

About the National University Hospital

The National University Hospital is a tertiary hospital and major referral centre with over 50 medical, surgical and dental specialties, offering a comprehensive suite of specialist care for adults, women and children. It is the only public hospital in Singapore to offer a paediatric kidney and liver transplant programme, in addition to kidney, liver and pancreas transplantation for adults.

The hospital was opened on 24 June 1985 as Singapore's first restructured hospital. Each year, the Hospital attends to more than one million patients.

As an academic health institution, patient safety and good clinical outcomes are the focus of the Hospital. It plays a key role in the training of doctors, nurses, allied health and other healthcare professionals. Translational research is pivotal in the Hospital's three-pronged focus, and paves the way for new cures and treatment.

A member of the National University Health System, it is the principal teaching hospital of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry.