



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NUS Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology celebrates centenary with transformative gifts from staff**

*Singapore, 8 October 2022* – Three new donations – to set up two scholarships and one professorship – all from the staff of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine), will mark the centennial celebrations of the department this month.

**The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Centennial Centennial Bursary, the Sabaratnam Arulkumaran Scholarship and the Kuldip Singh Visiting Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology**, have been established by staff and colleagues of the department which celebrates a century of healthcare for mothers and infants this month.

The three new gifts will be unveiled during the NUS Obstetrics and Gynaecology Centenary Celebration Conference on women's health, **Women-Health-Life**, which will be held over two days, starting from Saturday 8 October 2022.

Funded with donations from 26 consultants and senior consultants from the department, the **Obstetrics and Gynaecology Centennial Bursary** of \$750,000 will provide financial support for medical students who are facing financial difficulties. The bursary is an expression of the department's commitment to continually improve the quality of undergraduate clinical teaching and training.

Besides its focus on grooming competent healthcare professionals, the department is keen to look beyond the shores of Singapore to identify promising researchers to drive medical research and innovation. It aims to do this through a new scholarship that will help lead to further collaboration with other research institutions here in Singapore and overseas. Named after Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, who headed the NUS O&G department from 1995 to 1997, the **Sabaratnam Arulkumaran Scholarship** will support young academic clinicians and scientists doing research work at the department. Their work will eventually translate to clinical practices that will also benefit marginalised communities and populations in developing countries. To date, the scholarship has raised \$300,000 to support more scholars on this path.

The third donation to be announced by the department, which is organising this two-day Centenary Celebration Conference on women's health, aims to help academic faculty in the department to build and sustain long-term research alliances internationally. A total of \$1 million was endowed by one of the department's own, Professor Kuldip Singh, to establish the **Kuldip Singh Visiting Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology** that will support Professors from any specialty of O&G to find like-minded research partners of the same specialty and mentor promising academics to enhance the calibre of translational research in O&G. An associated objective for the professorship seeks to uncover new knowledge and advance or develop clinical practices in the area of maternal and children's health.

The Guest-of-Honour for the Centenary Celebration Conference is the President of the Republic of Singapore, Madam Halimah Yacob. Distinguished guests include Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of National University of Singapore, Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine, Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran and Dr Sidney Yee, a scientist specialising in medical technology and innovation. Prof Sabaratnam Arulkumaran is known to be a strong advocate of academic medicine and a passionate educator, while working tirelessly to promote equitable healthcare for all in Southeast Asia. As keynote speaker, he will speak on the topic of women's right to safe and affordable healthcare on the first day of the conference. Dr Sidney Yee, the keynote speaker for the second day of the conference, will discuss the possibilities and implications of the increasing role of machines in our daily lives.

The conference will focus on a wide range of topics that centre on the health and well-being of women and children, enhancing human potential, which covers pre-conception and pregnancy and extending from cradle to grave. Also included: the discovery of the origins of disease and initiating novel therapies to maximise the healthspan of an individual's life.

Extending her congratulations to the department on its centenary, President Halimah Yacob said, "I would like to commend the NUS Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for its unwavering commitment to maternal and child health, as well as the critical role it plays in teaching and training the next generation of healthcare professionals. May the next one hundred years see NUS scale new heights of academic and clinical excellence."

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine added, "We are proud to be celebrating one hundred years of research and clinical work in the area of maternal and child health. The health of women is the cornerstone and bedrock of society, and we need to recognise that attaining and sustaining good health is a journey that begins in the mother's womb, extending to her children, with a ripple effect that touches wider society. With the three new gifts, the School and department hope to engage with the wider research community regionally and internationally to continue to make greater strides in this area of maternal and children's health and well-being."

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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 16 colleges, faculties and schools 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, research centres of excellence, corporate labs and more than 30 university-level research institutes 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 Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS 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 one of Asia's leading medical schools 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 2022).

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