



PRESS RELEASE

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NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine receives \$6 million gift for Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre

Singapore, 5 May 2023 – The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) has been gifted \$6 million for the Mind Science Centre, an academic research centre under NUS Medicine, by Mr Lin Tah Hwa. In recognition of the generous gift, the Centre will be named as the Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre, in memory of Mr Lin’s late mother, Madam Yeo Boon Khim.

Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean is the Guest-of-Honour at the launch of the Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre held at Conrad Centennial Singapore Hotel on Friday evening, 5 May 2023.

Established in 2016, the Mind Science Centre was set up to lead translational research on mental health and resilience, and build preventive strategies and social interventions that focus on early detection to tackle mental health risk factors in the local community, among various age groups. Its pioneering project was the Jurong Ageing Study (JAS), which looked at ageing within a cohort of elderly participants living in the western region of Singapore. Findings from this cohort study have been incorporated into the Age Well Everyday Programme and translated into tangible activities and efforts to increase socialisation and delay cognitive deterioration among seniors.

Associate Professor John Wong Chee Meng, Lin Jo Yan and Yeo Boon Khim Professor in Mental Health and Neuroscience at NUS Medicine, from the Department of Psychological Medicine and Director of the newly-named Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre said, “This gift represents the Lin family’s strong belief in our work to improve and ensure the quality of life and life satisfaction of each and every Singaporean till old age. By synergising different knowledge domains and cross-disciplinary collaborations, we hope to find more ways to bolster mental resilience and promote mental well-being and help Singaporeans withstand the multitude of challenges in this fast-paced world.”

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine, endorsed the use of the gift to enhance the Centre’s efforts. “We are deeply grateful to Mr Lin Tah Hwa for his generosity. This gift will support the transformational work being carried out at the Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre as it develops innovative strategies to address and boost the mental well-being of Singaporeans. This will be an important pillar for Singapore in the arena of psychological medicine as our country reforms its healthcare system, targeting better population health under its Healthier SG strategy.”

“The naming of the Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre is (my mother’s) humble gift to charity and society. It is in line with the values that she imparted to me – to always remember to help others less fortunate than ourselves, to have a sense of gratitude to the community and country when we have good fortune, and to always know the joy of giving something back to

our fellow human beings when the time comes. These are the values my mother taught me during her life, and these are the values I hope, by example, to impart to others now that she is gone,” said Mr Lin.

Apart from the \$6 million gift to NUS Medicine, Mr Lin also made another \$2 million donation in 2023 to establish the Chan Sek Keong Professorship in Private Law. A personal friend of Mr Lin, Dr Chan Sek Keong was the third Chief Justice of Singapore in 2006. He had an illustrious career as a banking and corporate lawyer, before starting a 26-year-long career in public service until his retirement in 2012. Dr Chan has been serving as the Pro-Chancellor of NUS since 29 April 2015. This new Professorship endowed by Mr Lin aims to help the NUS Faculty of Law attract and retain the finest academics in the field of private law, which includes contract law, equity, property, restitution, torts and trusts.

“NUS Law is deeply grateful to Mr Lin for his selfless generosity in establishing this Professorship in honour of his friend, thus enabling us to recognise Dr Chan’s far-reaching contributions to Singapore law as one of our finest legal minds. Building on his legacy, the Chair will support research and education by an esteemed academic in private law, a field that is of vital importance to Singapore’s prosperity and stability,” added Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS Law.

Apart from these gifts, Mr Lin and his family have also made four other professorship gifts to the National University of Singapore since 2009.

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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 <https://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 one of the leading medical schools in Asia and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject 2023).

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

About Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre

The NUS Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre takes an upstream and evidence-based approach to optimise cognitive performance, build emotional resilience and promote mental wellbeing through translational research and community-based interventions. Its mission is to nurture an undefeated mind and build resilience across all ages. The Centre focuses on academic research in neuroscience and mental health, translation of the research into community interventions through strategic partnerships, programme evaluation and capability building of healthcare professionals and volunteers, with the intention to create a network of shared knowledge to benefit the local community.

The Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre is a research centre of National University of Singapore and National University Health System.

For more information about NUS Medicine, please visit www.mindsciencecentre.sg.



FACT SHEET ON THE YEO BOON KHIM MIND SCIENCE CENTRE

The Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre's research is grounded in epidemiology, genetics, immunology, endocrinology and imaging studies, which reveals biological, cognitive, behavioural and lifestyle determinants of different ethnic groups, used to inform intervention methods.

Since the first project, the Centre has widened its reach to target both the well and at-risk population with sub-clinical symptoms, by adopting a life-course approach to detect and prevent mental health early. This places greater emphasis on bolstering transdisciplinary research in mental health and wellness. The element of research translatability would be made more apparent through community intervention development such as art and mindfulness activities, to strengthen emotional resilience and optimise cognitive performance from young, while maintaining this continuum that adjusts with the ebb and flow of life experiences, which varies from person to person.

Over the years, the Centre has grown and expanded its research focus and capabilities to create four pillars of research, namely Population Mental and Social Health Integrative Therapeutics, Digital Mental Health, Environmental Effect on Mental Health and most recently, Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health.