



PRESS RELEASE

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NUS Medicine's Heat Resilience and Performance Centre to lead Southeast Asia's efforts in heat health and productivity

Singapore, 01 December 2023 – A Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine research centre dedicated to finding ways to combat rising global temperatures has been appointed to lead and coordinate Southeast Asian efforts in this area.

The [Heat Resilience and Performance Centre \(HRPC\)](#) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) will be the Southeast Asia (SEA) node of the [Global Heat Health Information Network \(GHHIN\)](#), an initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to establish a regional community for future collaborations and knowledge-sharing on issues pertaining to heat and health.

The appointment was announced at the COP28 United National Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 1 December 2023. This appointment enables the Centre to work closely with international and regional partners to create and scale up efforts to protect populations from the adverse health impacts of extreme ambient heat in the SEA region, said its director, Associate Professor Jason Lee. "This appointment to lead the new SEA regional heat health node allows us to foster more synergistic conversations with stakeholders, enhance existing collaborations and establish new partnerships to catalyse efforts to increase coordination and generate quicker dissemination of critical information relating to heat-related health risks and interventions within the region," Assoc Prof Jason explains.

Leveraging current technologies and trends, the HRPC remains invested in emerging technological approaches steeped in basic science and mechanistic explanations that can be translated to effective application, and that will push the boundaries in heat resilience research and allow the Centre to stay ahead of the curve to counter the challenges of working and living in rising ambient temperatures. The gathering of heat and health experts, through the HRPC, aims to spur further interrogation, giving way to a deeper understanding of the complex and intricate area of heat and human physiology. This is grounded in the HRPC's deep commitment to advance evidence-based awareness, preparedness and intervention policies to address extreme heat challenges that are plaguing populations in the Southeast Asian region and which are predicted to intensify in coming years. The Centre will lead the way in identifying knowledge gaps, reviewing preparedness efforts and rolling out actionable strategies. It aims to become a trusted source of expertise for governments in the region, actively monitoring and identifying emerging community, national and regional needs and opportunities in the face of rising ambient temperatures.

Following its appointment by the GHHIN, the Centre will be hosting the first Southeast Asian regional heat health forum in mid-2024 to catalyse more collaborative and aligned heat health research and policy efforts. This three-day event in Singapore will bring together a multi-disciplinary community of like-minded experts to share learning and knowledge across

domains and align research, policy, industry and community interests, to highlight urgent priorities and consolidate resources in the region.

With the aim of creating effective public policies, forum participants will seek consensus on how SEA-GHHIN Network partners can come together to support the channelling of available expertise and resources to accelerate the roll-out of practical solutions to protect the populations from the extreme heat, whilst also recognising the diversity of barriers across the region.

A joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organisation and World Health Organization, the GHHIN brings together scientists, practitioners, and policy makers from a broad range of disciplines to create a shared space for information-exchange, capacity building, synthesis of science and learning and the promotion of evidence-driven interventions to inform life-saving preparedness and planning measures to protect the most vulnerable population. This overarching mission aligns with the core mission of the HRPC, which seeks to routinely and rigorously use high-quality information to drive evidence-based policymaking, while working with partners locally, regionally and globally, to enhance heat resilience through innovative research.

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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 more than 20 NUS Overseas Colleges entrepreneurial hubs 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 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 Asia's leading medical schools and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024 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/>.