



PRESS RELEASE

NUS Medicine launches new centre to bolster global pandemic preparedness and response to infectious disease emergencies

The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) has established the Centre for Infectious Disease Emergency Response (CIDER), aimed at enhancing global preparedness for pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks. The Centre has also released a book and introduced a new Master's programme, to equip individuals with the critical public health knowledge and practical skills needed to lead during infectious disease crises.

Singapore, 10 February 2025 — The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) announced the official launch of the Centre for Infectious Disease Emergency Response (CIDER), an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing pandemic preparedness and strengthening responses to infectious disease emergencies. The launch was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health, Singapore and attended by over 15 ambassadors and other country representatives.

Led by infectious diseases and global health expert and Centre Director **Professor Dale Fisher**, CIDER will serve as an education and operational hub for public health professionals, researchers, and policymakers across Singapore and internationally. The Centre is part of NUS Medicine's ongoing commitment to building a robust global health infrastructure. Through a wide range of training, teaching, and operational initiatives, CIDER will play a crucial role in enabling healthcare professionals to tackle infectious disease outbreaks with improved resilience and response capabilities. As part of its mission, CIDER will focus on expanding the regional capacity to prevent, prepare for, detect, and respond to infectious disease emergencies—with a long-term vision to foster global health equity.

Prof Fisher said, "We are proud to launch CIDER—a Centre which will not only advance research and education but will have a direct and tangible impact on national health systems. Through establishing the Centre, we aim to empower the next generation of public health leaders to effectively respond to infectious disease emergencies and, ultimately, contribute to a healthier, more resilient world." Prof Fisher is currently also Professor of Medicine at NUS Medicine, Group Chief of Medicine at the National University Health System (NUHS), and Senior Consultant in the Division of Infectious Diseases, National University Hospital (NUH).

Master of Science in Infectious Disease Emergencies (MSc IDE)

As part of CIDER's flagship offerings, the newly launched Master of Science in Infectious Disease Emergencies (MSc IDE) is a groundbreaking programme for professionals in the field of public health and outbreak response. The MSc IDE is a first-of-its-kind degree designed to

equip individuals with the critical knowledge and practical skills needed to lead during infectious disease crises.

Developed by CIDER in collaboration with leading local and international experts, the MSc IDE programme is specifically tailored for early- to mid-career professionals with work experience in relevant sectors such as public health, health promotion, health administration, occupational and environmental health, clinical research, or other related fields, who are looking to take on leadership roles in outbreak response and management.

Dr Louisa Sun, Deputy Director, CIDER, added, “The MSc IDE programme reflects our commitment to building a resilient workforce capable of responding to global health threats. By combining academic rigour with real-world application, we will be equipping professionals with the tools they need to make a real difference in global health crises—comprehensive training in areas such as outbreak dynamics, prevention strategies, and emergency response management.” Dr Sun is also Consultant at the Division of Infectious Diseases, and Head of the Infection Prevention and Control and Epidemiology Unit at Alexandra Hospital.

The programme includes three compulsory core courses on the following topics:

- 1) Leadership and Coordination;
- 2) Surveillance and Epidemiology; and
- 3) Communications and Engagement in a Crisis.

Students will also be required to choose and complete seven elective courses from the list of offerings available, on the following topics:

- 1) Clinical Management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and Facility Infrastructure;
- 2) Interventions for Outbreak Control;
- 3) Research in a Pandemic
- 4) Mental Health and Support for the Vulnerable;
- 5) Laboratory;
- 6) Training for Outbreak Response;
- 7) Outbreak Prone Pathogens; and
- 8) Infectious Disease Emergency Response Modelling.

Prof Fisher will lead the programme, supported by a distinguished faculty of professionals from around the world. These include **Professor Daniel Bausch**, Visiting Professor, CIDER, NUS Medicine, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; **Professor Benjamin Ong**, Department of Medicine at NUS Medicine and Senior Consultant at the Division of Neurology, NUH; **Dr Shawn Vasoo**, Clinical Director and Senior Consultant at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), Singapore; **Dr Maleena Suppiah Cavert**, Chief, Learning & Culture, Tsao Foundation; **Associate Professor Ayelet Berman**, Visiting Associate Professor, NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH), and Lead of the Law & Governance Program at the Asia Centre for Health Security; **Associate Professor David Allen**, Department of Medicine at NUS Medicine and Senior Consultant at the Division of Infectious Diseases, NUH; and **Professor Paul Tambyah**, Deputy Director, Infectious Diseases Translational Research Programme, NUS Medicine, and Department of Medicine at NUS Medicine and Senior Consultant at the Division of Infectious Diseases, NUH.

Graduates of the MSc IDE will be well-equipped to shape health policies, lead emergency responses, and contribute to the development of global health systems. Registration for the programme opened on 1 November 2024, and will remain open until 30 April 2025, with the first cohort beginning in July 2025. The programme will welcome up to 80 students annually, ensuring a high-impact learning experience and facilitating the development of lifelong professional collegiality and networks.

“Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Responses”: A Groundbreaking Textbook

In line with its educational efforts, CIDER is proud to announce the publication of a book, titled “Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Responses” from NUS Press. This peer-reviewed, comprehensive resource is designed to guide professionals in managing infectious disease crises. Edited by Prof Fisher, the book features contributions from over 100 global experts actively working in the field of infectious diseases, including **Professor David Paterson**, Director, ADVANcing Clinical Evidence in Infectious Diseases; **Dr Sylvie Briand**, Director, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board; **Dr Ali S. Khan**, Richard Holland Presidential Chair and Dean, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Professor Alex R. Cook**, Vice Dean (Research), SSHSPH; **Professor Heidi J. Larson**, Director, Vaccine Confidence Project, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and **Myriam Henkens**, Senior Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières.

This comprehensive book will serve as an essential textbook for the MSc IDE programme and is also aimed at professionals globally who need practical, evidence-based strategies to prepare for infectious disease emergencies. The book’s content is grounded in real-world applications, offering actionable insights and solutions based on the latest research and field experiences.

The Lancet, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, highlighted the book’s comprehensive approach to infectious disease preparedness, praising its real-world applicability and its potential to become the “backbone for courses and training” in public health and outbreak response.

“Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Response is a crucial resource, taking readers through the key components of an effective outbreak response. Informed by lessons from COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks, this book provides the essential knowledge needed for global health professionals and policymakers.”

– *The Lancet*, Vol 405, 1 February 2025

The recognition from *The Lancet* reinforces the book’s role as a vital tool for policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and public health leaders in preparing for and managing future infectious disease crises. The full review is available at <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/cider/resources/publications/>.

The book is available for purchase in hard copy at SGD \$180 around the world via NUS Press’ global distribution channels or can be accessed online for free. Royalties from the sale of the book go to bursaries to support CIDER students. To further extend its impact, NUS Medicine is working on translating the book into multiple languages, ensuring that it reaches underserved regions with limited access to digital resources. The distribution of physical copies will empower healthcare workers in areas with limited infrastructure, allowing them to make informed decisions during times of crisis.

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Lien Ying Chow Professor in Medicine, and Dean of NUS Medicine, said, “The launch of CIDER marks a significant milestone in Singapore’s ongoing efforts to position itself as a global leader in public health and pandemic preparedness. By offering educational opportunities, practical training, and operational support, CIDER aims to enhance public health systems, particularly in low-income countries, through scholarships and financial aid for professionals from these regions.”

For more information, please visit the following links:

- About CIDER: <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/cider/>

- About the MSc IDE: <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/cider/education/msc-infectious-disease-emergencies/>
 - Open access to online version of the book: <https://emergencies.pubpub.org/>
 - Physical copies of the book can be purchased at the NUS Coop bookstore, good bookshops and online booksellers, or at the NUS Press webstore: <https://nuspress.nus.edu.sg/collections/frontpage/products/infectious-disease-emergencies>
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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 <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 one of the leading medical schools in Asia and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject 2024).

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