

PRESS RELEASE

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NUS Medicine to receive S\$2 million grant to boost infectious disease diagnostics across Asia

Singapore, 1 October 2025 – The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) today announced a co-funded gift of S\$2 million from the Novo Nordisk Foundation and Temasek Foundation to support a programme to enhance the diagnostics for severe bacterial infections and combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a deadly health issue in Asia.

The programme, DETECT-Asia (Strengthening Diagnostics for sEvere bacTERial infeCTIONS in Asia), is a regional initiative which will enhance microbiology testing for severe bacterial infections across Asia, contributing to the global fight against AMR. AMR remains a major health challenge, responsible for an estimated 4.7 million deaths globally in 2021¹, with Asia bearing a particularly high burden, driven by challenges such as limited diagnostic infrastructure, gaps in systematic surveillance, and uneven access to quality healthcare. Estimates by the World Economic Forum also indicate that strengthening solutions across the Asia-Pacific region could generate annual healthcare savings of US\$10–15 billion while reducing socio-economic loss by US\$35–40 billion².

Led by the ADVANCE-ID (ADVANCing Clinical Evidence in Infectious Diseases) team—a clinical research network based at NUS involving over 100 hospitals in Asia, the programme aims to:

- Enhance the speed and accuracy of diagnostics for severe bacterial infections, including those associated with high mortality and AMR, such as bloodstream infections and hospital-acquired pneumonia;
- Strengthen diagnostic infrastructure in hospitals across Asia, helping to improve clinical decision-making and treatment outcomes;
- Contribute to regional efforts to address AMR by enabling more timely identification of resistant pathogens and supporting data-driven approaches to care; and
- Lay the foundation for future large-scale interventional studies, and support the development of standardised protocols, workforce training, and regional data and material sharing practices that can be scaled over time.

Adjunct Assistant Professor Mo Yin, Deputy Director, ADVANCE-ID, NUS, said, “Severe multidrug resistant infections remain a major cause of death and illness across Asia, driving

¹ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01867-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01867-1/fulltext)

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[https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Targeted_Action_and_Financing_the_Fight_Against_Antimicrobial_Resistance_in_Asia_2025.pdf#:~:text=Investment%20in%20solutions%20to%20fight%20antimicrobial%20resistance,cutting%20annual%20socio%2Deconomic%20costs%20by%20\\$35%2D40%20billion.](https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Targeted_Action_and_Financing_the_Fight_Against_Antimicrobial_Resistance_in_Asia_2025.pdf#:~:text=Investment%20in%20solutions%20to%20fight%20antimicrobial%20resistance,cutting%20annual%20socio%2Deconomic%20costs%20by%20$35%2D40%20billion.)

socio-economic inequity. DETECT-Asia marks a crucial step toward better diagnostics and more effective patient care. With the support of the Novo Nordisk Foundation and Temasek Foundation, we are well-positioned to further enhance the regional capacity, data, and collaborations needed to strengthen pandemic resilience and transform infectious disease management in Asia.” Adj Asst Prof Mo Yin is also from the Infectious Diseases Translational Research Programme at NUS Medicine.

Dr Marianne Holm, Vice President, Infectious Diseases, Novo Nordisk Foundation, said, “Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most pressing global health challenges, with disproportionate impact in low- and middle-income countries. Through DETECT-Asia, we are supporting new diagnostic capabilities that will save lives today while also building regional capacity for tomorrow. This programme directly supports our international mission to combat AMR and improve global health outcomes, and we look forward to working with Temasek Foundation, NUS Medicine, and other partners to strengthen infectious disease research and innovation across Asia.”

Dr Lee Fook Kay, Head, Pandemic Preparedness, Temasek Foundation, added, “At Temasek Foundation, we are committed to advancing healthcare innovation and resilience across Asia. With the Novo Nordisk Foundation and NUS Medicine, we seek to build up and link our hospitals to get faster and better data and testing by sharing through DETECT-Asia. This can help save lives, boost preparedness for future outbreaks, and scale innovations from the laboratories into standard care everywhere.”

The initiative advances global priorities in AMR and pandemic preparedness, while strengthening Asia’s leadership in infectious disease diagnostics and 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 15 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 2025).

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