

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NUS Medicine takes on global, publicly accessible platform to strengthen data and insights for women's health**

*Singapore, 7 January, 2026* – Women continue to experience a significant health gap, typically influenced by access to treatment, effectiveness of treatment and available resources dedicated to understanding health conditions, with wide-ranging human and economic implications. To contribute in narrowing the women's health gap, the Global Centre for Asian Women's Health (GloW), under the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) will take over the hosting and enhancement of the Women's Health Impact Tracking (WHIT) platform, a first-of-its-kind, publicly accessible tool which measures progress on closing the women's health gap across a set of conditions and countries.

The [WHIT platform](#)—initiated and developed by the World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute (MHI)—consolidates and translates complex datasets into clear, comparative insights. It supports decision-making across clinical and public health agencies, research institutions, advocacy groups, and funding bodies. Highlighting conditions that uniquely or predominantly affect women, it identifies where needs are greatest and where care delivery, clinical effectiveness, or data quality require closer attention. By comparing disease burden with current investment patterns, WHIT helps to identify under-resourced areas. It complements major datasets such as the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) and WHO mortality data, offering a consolidated view of gaps and opportunities at global and national levels.

Research by the WEF and MHI indicates that closing the women's health gap could yield substantial benefits, including improvements in quality of life and productivity. Earlier analyses estimate that narrowing the gap could add up to US\$1 trillion to the global economy annually by 2040<sup>1</sup>. These findings underpin *The Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap*, which outlines the global actions needed to advance women's health—and which provides the foundation for the creation of WHIT, as a tool to measure progress against this agenda.

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Lien Ying Chow Professor in Medicine, and Dean of NUS Medicine, said, "As stewards for the WHIT platform, NUS Medicine will build on its already strong foundations so that the platform can serve as a high quality, long-term resource for

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Closing\\_the\\_Women's\\_Health\\_Gap\\_2024.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Closing_the_Women's_Health_Gap_2024.pdf)

policymakers, clinicians, researchers, and the public. Advancing women's health requires coordinated, international effort—to ensure that the issues affecting women are measured consistently and understood more clearly.”

Moving forward, WHIT will further broaden its condition coverage, improve data quality, strengthen participation from countries—particularly low- and middle-income regions—and deepen use cases for stakeholders across disciplines. The aim is to establish a comprehensive and long-term data/information platform that enhances accountability and supports coordinated action on major health conditions among women. It will continue to support leaders across sectors in building a future where women's health is understood, prioritised, and improved worldwide.

Professor Cuilin Zhang, Director of GloW, NUS Medicine, said, “Improving women's health requires sustained attention to the conditions that affect us most, risk factors that lead to the conditions, effective methods that treat the conditions, and factors that shape our access to screening, diagnosis, and care. WHIT brings these issues into focus by organising information and data in a way that is accessible, understandable, transparent, and actionable. We aim to extend its reach so that countries and partners can make better-informed decisions to support women's health across diverse landscapes. Maintaining and lifting the platform would require tremendous, joint efforts from multiple disciplines in our ecosystem—involving epidemiologists, clinicians, data scientists, economists, and more. We welcome partners and collaborators.”

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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.

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## **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/>