



PRESS RELEASE

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Better Data for Better Health: NUS Medicine and IHME launch new regional centre to tackle ageing, climate, and chronic disease risks across Southeast Asia

Singapore, 2 February, 2026 – The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington School of Medicine, today launched the NUS-IHME Global Burden of Disease Research Centre, a new regional hub to serve as a key analytical engine for the Southeast Asia and the surrounding region by delivering scientific evidence that its leaders can translate into policy.

Southeast Asian countries are home to nearly one in 10 people worldwide and faces a perfect storm of health challenges driven by a rapidly ageing population, changing disease patterns, and the growing health impacts of climate change. Yet many within the region lack critical data and insight that would help local leaders allocate resources more efficiently, target inequities, and operate proactively rather than reactively, particularly during an outbreak or a pandemic. Research at the Centre will help bridge the gap between longevity and healthy ageing in the greying demographic. Additionally, experts will examine the intensifying impact from extreme heat and other environmental shifts, while also addressing the persistent and emerging threats such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), metabolic risks, women's health, and dietary and lifestyle factors.

Associate Professor Marie Ng, Director of the Centre, who has joint appointments at NUS Medicine and IHME, said, “This Centre is about empowering decision-makers with the data and insights they need to improve population health, both regionally and globally. By embedding global methodologies within local contexts, the Centre seeks to not only generate population health data but also translate insights into meaningful policies.”

Based at NUS Medicine, the partnership leverages the strengths of both NUS Medicine and IHME by bringing together IHME's globally recognised expertise in health metrics with NUS Medicine's deep regional networks, research capabilities and academic leadership in the healthcare sector.

“The launch of the Centre underscores Singapore’s role as a regional hub for health intelligence and policy-relevant research. Singapore’s strategic location in Southeast Asia, together with its leadership in the academic and healthcare sector, make it a natural base for this work. The insights generated through the Centre will inform health strategies across the region and contribute to global discussions on population health and sustainable health systems,” said Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine.

A globally renowned leader in population health metrics, IHME has a track record in capacity building and supporting national health policy development. Its flagship project—the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study—has informed health strategies in over 200 countries and territories, including Singapore.

“Better health starts with better evidence, and unifying our expertise will allow us to pinpoint the leading causes of death and disability and provide solutions that are grounded in regional and local context,” said Dr Christopher J.L. Murray, IHME Director.

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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 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, 30 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs 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 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 12,00000 graduates have passed through our doors.

In our pursuit of health for all, our strategic research programmes focus in 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 Health System. It is one of the leading medical schools in Asia and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher World University Rankings 2026 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/>