



PRESS RELEASE

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New MOH–NUS Fellowship launched to strengthen everyday ethics in Singapore’s healthcare sector

The inaugural Fellowship—awarded to NUH nurse Kwek Shi Qi—equips experienced healthcare professionals to translate ethical principles into everyday clinical decisions through rigorous study and real-world attachments

Singapore, 4 March 2026 – The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) launched the MOH–NUS Postgraduate Fellowship in Biomedical Ethics, a postgraduate programme to advance the understanding and translation of the practice of ethics in healthcare settings, and to equip healthcare professionals and leaders with the frameworks and tools to address real-world ethical challenges in everyday healthcare practice. The first awardee of the Fellowship is Ms Kwek Shi Qi, a registered nurse at the National University Hospital (NUH), and alumna of the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, NUS Medicine.

Singapore’s healthcare system is growing increasingly complex, fuelled by advances in medical technology, an ageing population, and more informed patients. This complexity routinely brings critical questions of consent, communication, fairness and end-of-life decisions to the patient’s bedside. Beyond delivering excellent care, healthcare professionals must navigate these ethical challenges while balancing patient autonomy, professional responsibilities, and system-level constraints in a transparent and principled manner. It is essential to equip them with knowledge and understanding of biomedical ethics, ethical analysis and reasoning, so that they can recognise and resolve conflicts early, and reduce moral distress.

Associate Professor Michael Dunn, Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE), NUS Medicine, said, “The Fellowship builds system-wide ethical capacity by training practising healthcare professionals and grounding their capstone projects in frontline clinical attachments. Focused on translating ethics education into practice, the programme will enable Fellows to develop transformative improvements in healthcare practice locally.”

As the inaugural Fellow of the programme, Ms Kwek will undertake a Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics at CBmE, NUS Medicine, in a unique model of healthcare ethics training

that combines academic scholarship with formal placements in public healthcare and policy settings. In her role as a staff nurse since August 2024, she has provided specialised care to patients with cardiovascular diseases at the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS), while collaborating with a multidisciplinary team to ensure holistic patient wellbeing. She empowers individuals through patient education to better understand and manage their conditions, and uses clear, empathetic communication to support patients and their families through critical phases of care—upholding dignity and offering clarity during moments of uncertainty. As part of the Fellowship, she will conduct a research project, titled “Everyday ethics on the ward: Exploring nurse-led ethics support”, which will map barriers and drivers for nurses mediating ethical conflicts in frontline work; clarify roles, steps and escalation criteria that complement existing ethics committees; and inform nursing education through practical tools.

Ms Kwek said, “Nurses are pivotal in addressing ethical conflicts that arise daily in frontline care, given the extensive contact we share with patients and their families. I believe that a deeper understanding of ethics in clinical decision-making would help me better support my patients. Through the MOH–NUS Masters Fellowship Programme in Biomedical Ethics, I am eager to discover how we can empower Singapore’s nurses to navigate everyday ethics in the ward. The Fellowship bridges rigorous academic training with frontline practice through active discussions and study attachments, equipping healthcare professionals with the expertise to make ethically sound and compassionate decisions that will greatly shape patient care.”

The Fellowship provides full funding for tuition and relevant university fees, and a monthly stipend of S\$3,800 for the duration of the programme. It is supported by a fund of up to S\$1.2m from MOH, reflecting a national commitment to embedding ethical reasoning alongside clinical excellence in everyday practice.

“Ethical dilemmas are part of everyday life at the bedside. This Fellowship equips healthcare professionals with practical tools to make principled, patient-centred decisions, and to resolve conflicts early, even when there are no easy answers,” added Dr Sumytra Menon, Director at CBmE, NUS Medicine.

Adjunct Professor (Dr) Raymond Chua, Deputy Director-General of Health (Health Regulation), Ministry of Health, said, “Excellent healthcare is defined as much by ethical considerations as it is by clinical outcomes. This fellowship reflects our commitment to boosting the capabilities of our healthcare workforce in healthcare ethics. By embedding deep ethical expertise within our teams and cultivating a new generation of ethics practitioners, we ensure that our healthcare system continues to evolve in a way that prioritises the well-being of every patient while navigating increasingly complex medical and technological challenges.”

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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 12,000 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/>