



PRESS RELEASE

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New dean appointed for NUS medical school

Singapore, 25 April 2018 – The National University of Singapore today announced the appointment of fetal growth and early development clinician-researcher Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng as the 17th Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) from 1 January 2019. He succeeds Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, who has led the School since 2011. Assoc Prof Yeoh will be assuming full-time duties as the Deputy Chief Executive of the National University Health System, of which the School is a founding institution.

Assoc Prof Chong is Vice-Dean (Academic Medicine) at NUS Medicine, and concurrently Senior Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the National University Hospital. He is also the Executive Director of the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (SICS) under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

NUS President, Professor Tan Eng Chye, said, “We are delighted with the appointment of Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng as the next Dean of NUS Medicine.

“He is an outstanding and multiple award-winning clinician-researcher, educator and administrator, and a homegrown talent. He has a clear vision and strategy for further deepening the impact of the region’s leading medical school. Yap Seng deeply appreciates the significant role our medical school has played in the island’s healthcare landscape since 1905, and its mission of nurturing future generations of doctors and nurses for the nation. We entrust NUS Medicine to Yap Seng with great confidence.”

Led ground-breaking research in fetal growth and early child development

A highly respected scholar and researcher in fetal growth and early development, and an eminent medical professional well-known among both the international and local medical and academic community, Assoc Prof Chong has received numerous awards in teaching, research and clinical service. Last year, he was named the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist at the Singapore Ministry of Health’s National Medical Excellence Awards. He was also conferred the Mentoring, Innovation and Leadership in Educational Scholarship Award (2015) at the Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference, NUS.

Assoc Prof Chong has an impressive research track record particularly in winning big grants, and has received more than S\$100 million in research grant funding to date. He is the Lead Principal Investigator of the National Medical Research Council’s Metabolic Translational and Clinical

Research Flagship Programme, with a S\$25 million grant awarded in 2009 and renewed in 2014. He is also the Co-Investigator of several large A*STAR Strategic Positioning Fund and Industry Alignment Fund-Pre-positioning grants, as well as being the Lead Principal Investigator of the Growing Up in Singapore Towards Healthy Outcomes (GUSTO) study, Singapore's largest and most comprehensive birth cohort research effort.

Assoc Prof Chong was the Head of the Medical Education Unit of NUS Medicine from 2004 to 2014, and has been Vice-Dean (Academic Medicine) of the School since 2015. He has also been Director of the A*STAR-NUS Singapore Centre for Nutritional Sciences, Metabolic Diseases, and Human Development since 2014, and the Executive Director of SICS since 2015.

"I am deeply honoured to be given the privilege of leading Singapore's oldest and biggest medical school. Like the majority of doctors in Singapore, I am an alumnus and am aware of the central role the School plays in healthcare. Building on the work of my illustrious predecessors, I will do my best to ensure that the School continues improving the health and lives of Singaporeans through excellence in education, research and innovation, and a full-hearted commitment to service."

Prof Tan Eng Chye also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the out-going Dean, Assoc Prof Yeoh Khay Guan, for his stellar leadership of NUS Medicine. "Khay Guan, who is also a Medicine alumnus, has led the School with great distinction and care, while concurrently blazing a trail as an outstanding clinician-investigator and gastroenterologist and Deputy Chief Executive of the National University Health System."

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives. NUS also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

NUS takes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to research, working with partners from industry, government and academia, to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in NUS' Faculties and Schools, 30 university-level research institutes and centres, and Research Centres of Excellence cover a wide range of themes including: energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems. The University's latest research focus is to use data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

About NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine)

Established in 1905, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is the first institution of higher learning in Singapore and the genesis of the National University of Singapore.

The School offers one of the finest undergraduate medical programmes in the Asia Pacific region and enjoys international recognition and respect. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 by subject and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2017 list NUS Medicine as a leading medical school in Asia.

It admits 300 students to the MBBS degree programme annually and its principal missions are to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and foster research that will help to advance the practice of medicine.

The 18 NUS Medicine departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Centre for Medical Education, the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, the Centre for Healthcare Simulation as well as the restructured public hospitals to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore's healthcare needs. The School is a founding institutional member of the National University Health System.

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

BIOGRAPHY OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHONG YAP SENG



**Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng
Dean Designate, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore**

Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng is a clinician-investigator with a special interest in fetal growth and early development. He is the Executive Director of the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also the Lead Principal Investigator of the National Medical Research Council Translational and Clinical Research Flagship Programme on Developmental Origins of Health & Disease, and the founding Director of the A*STAR-NUS Singapore Centre for Nutritional Sciences, Metabolic Diseases, and Human Development.

His other research interests include strategies to promote breastfeeding, the genetic epidemiology of pregnancy-related disorders, and intrapartum and postpartum management issues. He has over 250 research publications, including papers in the *The Lancet*, *JAMA*, and *BMJ*, and received more than S\$100 million in research grant funding to date. He also has numerous collaborations with industry, particularly in the area of early human development and nutrition. He was conferred the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Award by the Ministry of Health in 2017.

As Vice-Dean (Academic Medicine) of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Assoc Prof Chong supports the School in the strategic recruitment of top faculty, development of research collaborations within the university and its external partners, as well as the promotion of academic medicine. He led the School's Medical Education Unit from 2004 to 2014 and his contributions to medical education have been recognised by university and national awards.

Assoc Prof Chong is a Senior Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, National University Hospital (NUH). As the Consultant in charge of the Delivery Suite in NUH from 2001 to 2014, he balanced interests in high-risk obstetrics with natural childbirth and breastfeeding advocacy.