

NUS offers joint PhD, new NTU medical school set to open

By **NG ZHUO YANG**

THE National University of Singapore (NUS) is launching a joint Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programme in biomedical science with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) starting next month.

A collaboration between NUS' Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Faculty of Science with HUJ's Faculties of Medicine and Science, the new joint PhD programme will train a core group of biomedical scientists with international research experience that is coupled with a strong footing in Asia.

This partnership, said NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan, would open more opportunities for researchers and students from both universities to break new ground in biomedical science.

In the short term, the new joint PhD programme aims to take in between two to three students from each institution, with NUS and HUJ conducting its own selections according to their respective requirements for acceptance into a PhD programme.

NUS said yesterday that two of its students have already been selected for the inaugural intake, which begins its programme

when the new academic year starts next month. They will be required to divide their time between both campuses in Singapore and Jerusalem, spending a minimum of nine months at each institution.

Meanwhile, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is also gearing up to receive an inaugural intake in its new medical school, a joint set-up with Imperial College London.

Similarly set to begin classes when the new academic year starts next month, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine's (LKC-Medicine) first batch of students will comprise 54 students who

were picked from some 817 applicants.

Mostly coming from top schools like Raffles Institution and Hwa Chong Institution, these students achieved scores that surpassed the global average for their BioMedical Admissions Test, an admissions requirement of LKC-Medicine in addition to A-Level results or other equivalent qualifications.

Moreover, the crop of 54 top students – all Singaporeans – also demonstrated the skills required to be outstanding patient-centred doctors, including excellence in problem solving, communications and applying scientific knowledge.

This was ascertained by LKC-Medicine through a series of eight short selection interviews that all 440 short-listed candidates had to attend.

NTU provost Freddy Boey said: "It is fantastic that our new medical school at NTU is getting off to such a resounding start."

He added that LKC-Medicine students can look forward to a novel and robust medical programme that will be aided by technology-driven lessons, simulated patients, team-based learning and the latest educational tools such as virtual dissection and plastinated human specimens.