

22 singapore

NTU-IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON JOINT VENTURE

Many firsts for S'pore's newest medical school

AMANDA LEE
leeguiping@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – When it came to selecting which medical school he hoped to enrol in to fulfil his dreams of becoming a doctor, Mr Stewart Retnam was especially drawn to one aspect of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) — its patient-centric approach.

“It offers earlier and more extensive exposure to patients and clinical environments and I really felt that would prepare students ... for tackling actual clinical situations in the future,” said the 21-year-old, who is among the pioneer cohort of 54 students at Singapore's newest medical school, a joint venture between Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Imperial College London.

He recounted how, during the three months before his International Baccalaureate examinations, he suffered frequent headaches and breathing dif-

ficulties, and was diagnosed with the flu. It was only when he consulted an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist that he learnt that he had sinusitis, the infection of the sinuses.

Mr Retnam, who is an LKCMedicine scholarship recipient, said the care his doctor showed him meant more to him than the medicine he took.

“I wanted to be in the position to be able to help people in my situation and bring them (patients) relief and comfort through good care,” he said.

LKCMedicine features a five-year programme that will teach students the scientific basis of medicine, how to handle a doctor-patient relationship and provide clinical experience.

The school received 817 applicants from among those who sat for the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), part of the school's admissions requirements, which includes A-Level results or its equivalent.

Four hundred and forty candidates were shortlisted for Multiple Mini In-



Mr Stewart Retnam and Ms Huang Baoxian are among the inaugural cohort at LKCMedicine. PHOTO: NTU

terviews (MMI), a series of eight interviews with interviewers from different professions, such as doctors and scientists, where the candidates were assessed based on whether they have the traits to become a patient-centric doctor.

The school also emphasises the use of technology to teach, with students having access to over 200 e-lectures recorded by professors, clinicians and scientists on their iPads, which are part of the teaching materials developed by Imperial College London.

The school will also be pioneering the use of plastinated specimens, or human bodies preserved through plastination, for medical education. Its students will be the first in South-east Asia to use the Anatomage Table for learning, which displays life-sized 3D images of full body anatomy.

Ms Huang Baoxian, 19, one of the pioneering cohort, is looking forward to using the table for learning.

“The body is not a 2D thing, it's a 3D structure ... to be able to see it in 3D ... (allows me to) virtually dissect it (and) to be able to learn more and ... give way for mistakes in case ... we cut (it) wrongly,” said Ms Huang, who is a Nanyang Scholarship recipient.