



SPEECH BY MR LIM CHUAN POH
CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING BOARD, LKCMEDICINE

AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF TOH KIAN CHUI ANNEX OF LEE KONG CHIAN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NOVENA CAMPUS

23 OCTOBER 2013

Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education

Professor Bertil Andersson, President, Nanyang Technological University

Miss Toh Keng Choo, Chairman, Toh Kian Chui Foundation and Board members of
the Foundation

My fellow NTU Board of Trustees and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Governing
Board members

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you and thank you for joining us today at the official
opening of the Toh Kian Chui Annex of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Novena
Campus. In particular, I would like to thank Minister for Education for taking time from
his very busy schedule to grace this occasion.

Let me also mention that the President of Imperial College London and the Dean of
LKCMedicine, who is also the concurrent Dean at Imperial College's Faculty of

Medicine, are with us in spirit. They are required 10,000 km away in London to officiate at the Graduation Ceremony of the sister medical school at Imperial College. They have sent their best wishes to everyone present today.

As we are gathered in this brand new lecture theatre located in the Toh Kian Chui Annex, I am reminded of how far we have come in the developmental journey of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. What began as an idea has, over the course of the last three years finally come to fruition, culminating in the admission of our inaugural cohort this August. On that day, we became a medical school. Today, we mark another significant milestone.

Being the newest medical school in Singapore brings with it opportunities and challenges. One such challenge is the lack of a proven track record notwithstanding the good reputation of NTU, Imperial College London, and NHG and the full commitment and dedication of the faculty and staff at LKC Medicine. We are therefore grateful for the confidence and trust that the community have in us when we witnessed over 800 students applying for the 54 places in our first admissions exercise. Today is another such occasion and this will greatly encourage all of us at the School to work even harder to succeed in our mission to produce doctors you and I would like to have caring for us.

This encouragement was conveyed to us in early December last year when our Executive Vice-Dean, Professor Lionel Lee, told us that the Toh Kian Chui Foundation had agreed to make a gift of S\$20 million to LKCMedicine.

Since its establishment, a cornerstone of the Toh Kian Chui Foundation's mission has been supporting students and helping them to achieve their dreams of obtaining an education. In 2002, the Foundation established a scholarship for medical students at NUS to honour the wish of its founder, the late Mr Toh Kian Chui, who if he had been given an opportunity for an education, would have chosen to study medicine to benefit his fellow man. The Foundation has also supported bursaries in almost every University, Polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education in Singapore.

At LKCMedicine, half of the Foundation's S\$20 million gift will support undergraduate student scholarships and a top student gold medal for the graduating cohort. In time to come, we expect to award up to 25 scholarships each year, which will help ensure that no deserving student will be deterred from pursuing a world class medical education for lack of financial resources.

The other half of the Foundation's gift will go towards the establishment of a Distinguished Professorship and also to further medical education and research. This will enable LKCMedicine to attract the most capable and committed talent to mentor our students, and to support vital research activities that will redefine the future of medicine and transform healthcare to improve the lives of Singaporeans.

The impact of this gift to LKCMedicine will continue for generations to come. We are thus honoured to name this Annex, the education wing of our Novena campus, after Mr Toh Kian Chui. The late Mr Toh is one of Singapore's post-independence construction pioneers whose humble manner and generous spirit greatly impacted the lives of those who knew him. He has also guided the Toh Kian Chui Foundation's giving philosophy, which is to support any worthwhile cause to alleviate suffering due to poverty, disease, disability, old age or mental illness.

The School embraces this giving philosophy and this is reflected in the design of the Toh Kian Chui Annex. Constructed with a distinctive glass façade, the Annex not just reflects the splendid historic and pre-war architecture of the heritage building next to it, it is intended also to remind everyone of the importance of upholding the values that define this institution going forward.

Indeed, Singapore has its pioneers to thank for some of its most enduring institutions. Many of them share the same rags-to-riches story as the late Mr Toh, and used their wealth to pay it forward, helping to create opportunities for the less privileged in society. It is therefore the School's and, I believe, the Foundation's hope that the students at LKCMedicine who have benefitted from this generosity will one day be in a position to continue this legacy of paying it forward.

In closing, I would like to once again offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Miss Toh Keng Choo, Chairman of the Toh Kian Chui Foundation, and your fellow board members for this generous gift and for your belief in the School's mission.

Let me also thank Minister Heng Swee Keat for his presence and for accepting our invitation to officially open the Toh Kian Chui Annex.

Thank you very much.