

NTU partners US university to set up \$70m institute

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NANYANG Technological University (NTU) announced yesterday that it will be collaborating with Northwestern University's (NWU) International Institute for Nanotechnology, to launch the \$70 million NTU-Northwestern Institute for Nanomedicine.

Both universities have put in "substantive investments" into the research institute that will focus on the medical applications of nanotechnology. Both parties preferred not to disclose their stake in the investment.

NTU president Bertil Andersson announced the collaboration on Monday at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting held in Chicago.

"This partnership with Northwestern and their International Institute for Nanotechnology is a testament of NTU's growing rep-

utation as a new powerhouse in nanomedicine research," Professor Andersson said.

The institute will support a global group of scientists working on joint research projects in the areas of disease diagnostics, timed-release therapeutics, and targeted drug delivery methods, which would greatly increase the efficacy of existing drugs. Researchers will also design new methodologies, such as gene silencing and theranostics, to treat diseases.

The NTU-Northwestern Nanomedicine Institute will utilise research facilities on Northwestern's campus as well as NTU's Yunnan Garden campus and Novena campus.

At NTU, it brings together the university's key nanotechnology-related projects and experts, across its engineering and science schools, including NTU's new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.



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NTU said that the institute's new facilities in Singapore will be ready by the end of next year, but work on research projects will start early this year. NTU researchers will have access to NWU facilities and vice versa.

Northwestern provost Daniel Linzer added: "Successful collaborations between academic institutions require significant and enduring faculty involvement. Northwestern and NTU faculty have been collaborating for many years now. We look forward to our faculty and students conducting research that yields a significant impact on human health."