

SINGAPORE

NTU launches 2 multi-disciplinary research centres to tackle ageing issues

Together they will study ways that the silver generation can stay healthy, as well as explore info-communication technology solutions to healthcare issues.

By Sara Grosse, Channel NewsAsia

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SINGAPORE: Nanyang Technological University (NTU) officially launched a S\$12 million multi-disciplinary research institute on Friday (May 6) to help the elderly lead a healthy and active life.

The Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (ARISE) will study ways that the silver generation can stay healthy through disease prevention, treatment and management.

The institute will bring together expertise and facilities within NTU, ranging in disciplines from business and engineering to social sciences, health and medical sciences.

ARISE will also work with healthcare industry partners. For example, NTU inked a partnership with Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Institute of Geriatrics and Active Ageing on Friday.

Some of NTU's video games that double up as exercise are already being tested at the hospital's geriatric centre.



Minister Gan Kim Yong viewing some of NTU's technology-driven projects aimed at improving quality of life for the elderly. (Photo: NTU)

To complement ARISE, a new S\$7 million Centre for Population Health Sciences (CePHaS) - also launched on Friday - will look into pressing healthcare problems and explore how to make use of info-communication technology to solve healthcare issues.

"At the end of the day, research findings must be translatable and work on the ground, so that we can reap the benefits of research," said Health Minister Gan Kim Yong, who was at the launch event.

On its part, the Government will launch its third grant call under the National Innovation Challenge (NIC) on Active and Confident Ageing later this year.

The 'Ageless Workplaces' Innovation Grant wants to find solutions that will help older workers remain employable. The grant is also looking for ground-breaking solutions that can enhance the productivity and health of older workers.

To date, the NIC has launched two grant calls to crowd source the best multi-disciplinary solutions in areas like greater productivity in home care for seniors and how the onset of dementia can be delayed.

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