Mega Novena campus for NTU medical students to train in

New 20-storey facility fosters team-based learning while immersing new generation in latest healthcare tech

Toh Wen Li

Medical students at Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTU) have a new home that accommodates both classroom learning and clinical experience with "patients" under one roof.

Unveiled yesterday, the new campus for the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in Novena has a centre that simulates real-life clinical scenarios, as well as learning spaces that emphasise team-based learning, among other facilities.

Speaking about this "unique learning environment", NTU president Bertil Andersson said: "This not only helps transition and integrate students into the medical scene, but also nurtures a generation of doctors well-versed in using the latest technologies to solve tomorrow’s healthcare issues."

Besides the Centre for Clinical Simulation, the 20-storey building in Mandaly Road near Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) has over 40,000 sqm of space filled with cutting-edge technologies and facilities.

These are designed to support NTU’s "flipped classroom pedagogy", which encourages self-directed, team-based learning. For instance, seating in the learning studio is clustered, and alcoves let students view LED screens in groups at the Anatomy Learning Centre.

This centre has over 170 pathological specimens donated by NTU’s partner, Imperial College London, and an anatomic arm table, a human-size virtual operating table.

At the Centre for Clinical Simulation, a simulated ward, a practical skills lab and a communication suite allow students to simulate medical skills in simulated scenarios – for instance, suturing prosthetic wounds on simulated patients.

The new campus, in use since January, and the Experimental Medicine Building at NTU’s main campus form the dual campus of the medical school, which opened in 2013 and has 320 students now.

Students can travel back and forth between campuses by shuttle bus, and are also attached to hospitals and clinics around Singapore.

The new Clinical Sciences Building also has an indoor gym, a dance studio, a 500-seat auditorium and a music room.

First-year student Nadia Nasuha Mohamad Nazri, 19, likes the intimate setting of the alcoves at the Anatomy Learning Centre. "We can look at specimens up close, in small groups. There’s one teacher per alcove, so people ask more questions."

The school has accepted 120 students for the academic year starting in August, and aims to expand the cohort size to 150 in about three years.

The new building, linked to TTSH’s upcoming wing via a skybridge, is part of Health City Novena, Singapore’s biggest healthcare complex, due to be ready in 2030.

— tohwenli@sph.com.sg