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BY SARA GROSSE - 13 HOURS 32 MIN AGO

SINGAPORE — As the Health Ministry ramps up infrastructural capacity to meet future healthcare needs, more doctors are also being trained.

With the opening of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, medical intakes have grown by 34 per cent over the past five years, said Health Minister Gan Kim Yong today (Aug 15).

Mr Gan was speaking at the Nanyang Technological University’s first White Coat Ceremony for the inaugural batch of 54 medical students at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

The annual White Coat Ceremony is a tradition at many schools of medicine and typically marks the beginning of a student’s clinical education.
Mr Gan said with Singapore’s healthcare landscape evolving and chronic diseases becoming more prevalent, healthcare professionals will need to take a different approach to care,

“Our doctors cannot hope to treat and cure chronic conditions with a simple prescription or surgery. They need to play a greater role in promoting healthy living and facilitating the early detection of lifestyle risks that could lead to chronic diseases,” said Mr Gan.

He added he was encouraged that part of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine’s curriculum requires students to be attached to patients with chronic diseases for two years.

This, he said, will develop students’ empathy towards their patients and increase their understanding of a patient’s needs.

At the ceremony, the students were presented with their white coats and stethoscopes.

The students will be the first to benefit from the School’s innovative technology, such as the Anatomage Table for virtual dissection and the use of plastinated human specimens for anatomy learning.

The first cohort of 54 students was selected from more than 800 applicants.

They will graduate from the five-year programme with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. CHANNEL NEWSASIA