Singapore, 13 January 2005

Leading scientist and biotech entrepreneur the first Lee Wee Nam Professor

Dr Garland R. Marshall, a leading scientist and entrepreneur in the fields of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, is the first Lee Wee Nam Professor of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This Professorship of Life Sciences is part of a generous $10 million donation to NTU in 2001 by the family of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam to establish an endowment in the field of life sciences. The endowment contributes towards NTU’s efforts to become a centre of excellence in life sciences education and research.

Dr Marshall is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at Washington University’s School of Medicine. He has made significant scientific contributions such as developing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) protease inhibitors - a class of anti-HIV drugs for the treatment of AIDS.

Dr Marshall also pioneered computational methods (molecular modelling and associated computer graphics approaches) to analyse and understand peptides such as hormones, antibiotics, and other compounds. His breakthrough computational methods have enabled the design of large and diverse compound molecule populations, enabling drug therapy companies to increase the probability of discovering novel compounds of significant therapeutic and commercial value.
A shining example of a successful biotech entrepreneur, Dr Marshall founded Tripos Inc., the leading vendor of computer-aided molecular design software. He also founded Metaphore Pharmaceuticals Inc., to focus on tapping metals to treat pain and inflammation caused by tissue injury, rheumatoid arthritis, etc.

As part of his professorship, Dr Marshall will meet and interact with research professors and students from NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and other engineering schools to share research insights, life sciences trends and explore possible collaboration. NTU has also arranged for Dr Marshall to touch base with researchers from institutes who are actively involved in the life sciences’ scene in Singapore.

Dr Marshall will also be delivering a public lecture on ‘Therapeutic Approaches to AIDS’, on 13 January 2005, 6pm at the Biopolis. During the lecture, Dr Marshall will share the current state of research in the development of therapeutic inhibition of HIV and review the prevention of development of AIDS in HIV-positive patients. Aside from NTU staff and students, the lecture will be attended by students from various secondary schools and junior colleges, as well as members of the science and research community.

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**About Nanyang Technological University**

Nanyang Technological University was recently ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement at the 50th place globally and 7th in Asia, in its ranking of the 200 best universities in the world. The campus was originally developed for a Chinese language university, Nanyang University in 1955. In 1981, Nanyang Technological Institute was established on this campus to educate engineers for the rapidly developing Singapore economy. In 1991 Nanyang Technological University was inaugurated.

The university has a strong engineering school ranked among the best in the Commonwealth, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programs in the world, an internationally acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best Schools of Communications and Information in Asia, and a new (2001) School of Biological Sciences playing a leading role in Singapore’s Life Sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is an international authority on terrorism. The university is in a major expansion from 16,000 to 22,300 undergraduate students. During this expansion three new schools are being built – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Art, Design and Media.

A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. The university is now in the process of realizing its New Undergraduate Experience initiative with a comprehensive curriculum, wide choices of options for students, vibrant campus life and international experience.
Strong international relationships and collaboration programmes is a hallmark of the university. This includes the Singapore-MIT Alliance, Singapore-Stanford Partnership, Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management, Singapore – University of Washington Alliance in Bioengineering, Global Immersion Programme with Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, University of Washington and Georgia Institute of Technology, among many other programmes in US, China, India, Japan and Europe.