Dr Harvey V. Fineberg
M.D., Ph.D., Institute of Medicine President

Public Lecture @ NUS
The Art of Science Advice to Policy Makers:
LESSONS FROM THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Many challenges in contemporary society have a scientific and technological foundation. Whether seeking economic progress, coping with the environmental degradation, or working to improve health, policy makers make many decisions that involve science and technology. The U.S. National Academies (National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council) are designed to bring knowledgeable experts and science to bear on policy making. Based on experience at the U.S. Institute of Medicine, this lecture will examine the factors that promote or impede the role of science and evidence-based advice in national policy making.

Public Lecture @ NTU
Protect your Health:
WHY PREVENTING DISEASE SEEMS SO DIFFICULT AND STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PRESERVE YOUR HEALTH

“A stitch in time saves nine.” Familiar sayings, such as this one, celebrate the attraction of preventing disease. Yet, many societies and individuals fall short of adopting the policies and carrying out the personal practices that can help prevent disease. This lecture examines the reasons why preventing disease can seem so difficult to accomplish and includes twelve tips intended to help an individual protect his or her own health.

Dr Harvey V. Fineberg is President of the Institute of Medicine. He served as Provost of Harvard University from 1997 to 2001, following thirteen years as Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health. He has devoted most of his academic career to the fields of health policy and medical decision making. His past research has focused on the process of policy development and implementation, assessment of medical technology, evaluation and use of vaccines, and dissemination of medical innovations.

Dr Fineberg helped found and served as president of the Society for Medical Decision Making and also served as consultant to the World Health Organization. At the Institute of Medicine, he has chaired and served on a number of panels dealing with health policy issues, ranging from AIDS to new medical technology. He also served as a member of the Public Health Council of Massachusetts (1976-1979), as chairman of the Health Care Technology Study Section of the National Center for Health Services Research (1982-1985), and as president of the Association of Schools of Public Health (1995-1996).

Dr Fineberg is co-author of the books Clinical Decision Analysis, Innovators in Physician Education, and The Epidemic that Never Was, an analysis of the controversial federal immunisation programme against swine flu in 1976. He has co-edited several books on such diverse topics as AIDS prevention, vaccine safety, and understanding risk in society. He has also authored numerous articles published in professional journals and is the recipient of five honorary degrees. Dr Fineberg earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from Harvard University.

26 February 2008
6.00 – 7.30 pm
University Cultural Centre Theatre,
National University of Singapore

29 February 2008
4.00 – 5.30 pm
Lecture Theatre 2A
Nanyang Technological University