

ANNEX

Background to Singapore's new medical school

In May 2009, the Singapore government announced that it had approached Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to submit a proposal to set up the country's third medical school. Graduates from the new medical will add to the number of doctors produced locally to help Singapore cope with the greater medical needs of an ageing population.

In response, NTU formed an Advisory Panel, chaired by its President Dr Su Guaning and including experienced members of the medical fraternity and renowned scientists to advise on the medical school proposal.

In his National Day Rally speech in August 2010, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced that Singapore's third medical school will be a tie-up between NTU and one of the leading medical schools in Britain, Imperial College London. It will address Singapore's needs to train more doctors in dealing with a larger, ageing population. The new school will also create more places for those who wish to study medicine while attracting good international students who may wish to live and work here as doctors.

About the new undergraduate medicine course

The new medical school will matriculate its first batch of 50 students in 2013 and is expected to admit 150 new students a year when it reaches its steady state.

Successful candidates will be issued a joint MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) medical degree under the seal of Imperial College London and the seal of NTU.

ICNMS will work with healthcare institutions across Singapore's healthcare system to provide students with a strong foundation in clinical training across multiple healthcare settings. The new medical school's primary clinical partner will be the National Healthcare Group (NHG). With its integrated network of primary healthcare polyclinics, acute care hospitals, and national specialty centres, the NHG is well placed to provide good clinical training support to the new medical school. By offering students access to a wide range of facilities, services and patients, the partnership with NHG will give students a holistic learning experience in a diverse variety of healthcare situations.

The proposed site of the new medical school is near Tan Tock Seng Hospital, at the Novena Campus.

Apart from taking the lead in developing and designing the new undergraduate medical degree programme together with NTU, Imperial College London will also play a key role in assisting the recruitment of a core faculty team.

The Founding Dean of the medical school will be Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of Imperial's Faculty of Medicine and Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare National Health Service (NHS) Trust, the largest acute NHS Trust in the UK. Professor Martyn Partridge, who holds Imperial's Chair in Respiratory Medicine and Deputy Director of Education, Imperial's Faculty of Medicine, will be the Senior Vice Dean.

Imperial and NTU will work towards student exchange opportunities between London and Singapore. The partnership agreement between the two institutions covers an initial term of 18 years.

About Imperial's School of Medicine

Established in 1997, Imperial's Faculty of Medicine is one of the largest medical schools in the UK and Europe. It is known for its rigorous and innovative medical programme, as well as its ability to reap synergies between medicine and science and technology, resulting in innovations and inventions in bio-medical engineering, bio-surgery and technology.

Imperial College London merged with St Mary's Medical School in 1988. Subsequent mergers with Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, the Royal Postgraduate School and the National Heart and Lung Institute led to the foundation of the current School of Medicine in 1997.

In the academic year 2009-10, the School of Medicine taught 2,069 undergraduates and 541 postgraduates. Teaching takes place across several hospital campuses in west London, including the Chelsea and Westminster, Hammersmith and St Mary's campuses, where students gain clinical experience.

Notable medics from history associated with Imperial College London include Alexander Fleming who discovered penicillin in a laboratory at St Mary's Hospital, and Rodney Robert Porter who also worked at St Mary's Hospital and was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1972 for determining the exact chemical structure of an antibody.

Imperial's undergraduate medicine course was ranked third in the UK in The Good University Guide 2011.

Quote by His Excellency Mr Paul Madden, British High Commissioner for Singapore

On the Imperial College London – Nanyang Technological University (NTU) collaboration to set up Singapore's new medical school, Mr Paul Madden said:

"I congratulate Imperial College and NTU on this visionary joint project. The new Medical School will deliver outstanding quality doctors into the Singapore healthcare system, and stimulate exchange opportunities which improve training in both our countries. Hundreds of Singapore's best and brightest young people study at Imperial College and I am delighted to see this further strengthening of Singapore's ties with one of the top institutions in the world."

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