

# SoM Update

June 2007 Issue, Volume 017

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

## Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends

I am pleased to give you updates on three new initiatives which point toward the future of our Medical School.

First: I am delighted to announce a new gift for a new programme. The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine owes much of its success to our generous donors and close friends. In this regard, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Professor Saw Swee Hock for his ongoing support to the School. The proud recipient of Professor Saw Swee Hock's generosity this year is the School's COFM Department. Through this donation, the Department has been able to award a tuition scholarship to one of the pioneer students of the Department's inaugural Masters in Public Health (MPH) programme. Commencing this August, the COFM MPH programme will put an emphasis on identification of community health problems and the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies which are essential for the prevention and alleviation of ill health in our community.

Second, I am pleased to give you an update about the new buildings which will soon transform our School of Medicine. MD2 is undergoing extensive renovation to become the new Vivarium. The Library has already been vacated and the holdings have been transferred to their temporary home in the Faculty of Science. Re-building of MD6 will begin in October this year. When completed, it will be our flagship translational clinical medicine building. Together, these new buildings, along with the Center for Life Sciences (CeLS) building, will provide our staff and students with state-of-the-art, internationally competitive infrastructure.

Finally, we celebrate our new graduates and future colleagues. The Commencement Ceremony for the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine will be held on 5 July 2007. We will confer 454 degrees this year – 234 undergraduate and 220 graduate degrees. Let's extend our heartiest congratulations to all graduates, and especially acknowledge those who will be embarking on their careers as doctors. I hope they will experience not only a career but a calling, filled with unique challenges and rewards. On behalf of the faculty, I wish them every success in the future and welcome them warmly into our medical fraternity.

Sincerely yours  
John

## GRANT RESULTS

## Congratulations!

<b>PI:</b>	<b>Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan</b>
Department:	Medicine
Grant Amount:	\$25 million
Funding Agency:	National Medical Research Council (NMRC) -NRF funds
Period:	2007-2012
Title:	The Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium- - Improving Outcomes for Our Patients – TCR007
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Professor Shazib Pervaiz</b>
Department:	Physiology
Grant Amount:	\$645,000
Funding Agency:	ARC, MOE
Period:	1 June 2007 to 31 May 2010
Title:	Program to study the involvement of intracellular reactive oxygen species in genome instability, unfolded protein response, cell survival and death signaling in cancer cells
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Associate Professor Manoor Prakash Hande</b>
Department:	Physiology
Grant Amount:	\$623,034
Funding Agency:	ARC, MOE
Period:	1 June 2007 to 31 May 2010
Title:	Mechanism-based combination telomerase inhibition in human tumour cells: Implications for cancer therapy
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Professor Yong Eu Leong</b>
Department:	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Grant Amount:	\$575,700
Funding Agency:	Dr Willmar Schwabe GmbH & Co, KG
Period:	3 years
Title:	Development of Pharmaceutical Products from Plants of Genus Epimedium
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Dr Maung Maung Saw, Prof Wang Shih- chang, Assoc. Prof Go Mei Lin, Adj. Assist. Prof Yvonne Ho, Assoc. Prof Hong Minghui, Dr Borys Shuter, Dr Arvind Kumar Sinha</b>
Department:	Diagnostic Radiology
Grant Amount:	\$118,656
Funding Agency:	Academic Research Fund (ARF) Grant
Period:	3 years
Title:	Novel Isostructure 99mTc and Re Complexes for Dual Fluorescence and Radioimaging Bridging the Gap between in Vitro and in Vivo Imaging

## OTHER GRANT RESULTS

Congratulations!

**PI:** **Dr Barry Pereira**  
Department: Orthopaedic Surgery  
Grant Amount: \$35,000  
Funding Agency: Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology)  
Period: 1 year  
Title: Developing an organ bath experimental set-up for testing biological and mechanical properties of isolated rat skeletal muscles

**PI:** **Dr Sashi Kesavapany**  
Department: Biochemistry  
Grant Amount: \$35,000  
Funding Agency: Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology)  
Period: 1 year  
Title: Metabonomic fingerprinting of neurodegenerative diseases

**PI:** **Dr Chan Jerry K Y**  
Department: Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Grant Amount: \$10,000  
Funding Agency: Pitch for Fund (Clinician Scientist Unit, NLAM)  
Period: May 2007  
Title: Isolation of ovarian cancer stem cells

## AWARDS

**Diagnostic Radiology** Dr Sudhakar K Venkatesh received the William George Nagendank New Investigator Award in MR of Cancer, ISMRM on 19-25 May 2007 on a study "MR Elastography of Liver Tumors – Initial Experience."

**Medicine** Professor Clive Wilder-Smith (Visiting Professor with the Department of Medicine) has been awarded the distinctive award for the Best Clinical Research Work at the Second International Congress on Neuropathic Pain in Berlin. The paper is entitled "Prediction of Clinical Neuropathic Pain Responses Using Experimental Pain Measures in Postamputation Pain".

**Oncology** Dr Shirly Chong Poh Kuan has won the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2007. She will work together with Principal Investigator Dr Lim Yoon Pin on the discovery of biomarkers in breast cancer using xenograft model.

**Surgery** Rufaihah Binte Abdul Jalil is awarded the NUS-Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship 2007/2008 to pursue postdoctoral training in "Embryonic Stem Cells, Endothelial Regeneration" at the Stanford School of Medicine, USA, by the University's selection committee. The Fellowship award is subject to Ms Rufaihah's obtaining PhD degree from NUS, and her appointment to a Research Fellowship (A) under Assistant Professor Theo Kofidis's laboratory in the Department of Surgery, NUS.

## FORTHCOMING GRANT CALLS

<b>Forthcoming Grant Details</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1. Request for Proposals (June 07) - Research Centres of Excellence	9 July 2007

### **1. Request for Proposals (June 07) - Research Centres of Excellence** **Deadline: 9 July 2007**

MOE is currently inviting Request for Proposals (RFP) for Research Centres of Excellence (RCEs). RCEs are research centres that focus on world-class investigator-led research aligned with the long term strategic interests of Singapore. Each RCE will be hosted by a local autonomous university (AU) and should serve three main objectives:

- a. Attract, support and retain world-class investigators to conduct high quality and high impact research in Singapore;
- b. Enhance postgraduate research training and education in the local AUs; and
- c. Create new knowledge in selected areas of focus which are of academic significance and strategic relevance to Singapore.

The research agenda of the RCE should demonstrate the potential of being able to position Singapore and the host university at the forefront and leading edge of the specified research field globally. The assessment of such potential would be based on (i) whether Singapore has any intrinsic advantages in hosting such research and (ii) the existing or potential research capabilities of the host university.

#### **Award information**

Each approved RCE will be allocated a budget from MOE and NRF, comprising core funding (allocated over a period of 10 years) and a start up grant. The RCE may supplement this budget through competitive sources of funding made available by NRF and other funding agencies.

#### **White paper Preparation**

SoM is currently requesting for white paper proposals for critical evaluation and shortlisting in advance. Please do note carefully the stringent pre-requisites (see above) which will be enforced. The white paper should not be more than 7 pages (including figures, tables and charts) and should include the following information:

1. State the vision of the proposed RCE
2. Identities of the RCE Director and key PIs or a plan to recruit the potential Director and key PI
3. Long term strategic value to NUS and Singapore
4. Resources and budget required in sufficient details
5. Space and building infrastructure requirements of the RCE

#### **Timelines**

9 July 2007	Submission of proposal (in a form of white paper) to Dean's Office, SoM
15 July 2007	White papers (shortlisted) submitted to Office of Deputy President, Research and Technology
15 August 2007	Submission of approved whitepaper proposals to MOE
29 November 2007	Submission of RCE full proposals (by invitation only)

Kindly submit your proposals to Clarinda Lim/Poonam Rai, Dean's Office by 9 July 2007. For further information, please refer to their email dated 7 June 2007.

## TIER 1 JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

### COFM and CME

Chia, K S, "Risk of second malignant neoplasms after childhood leukemia and lymphoma: an international study". *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 99, no. 10 (2007). (United States).

Shankar, A, R Klein, BEK Klein and SE Moss, "Association between Glycosylated Hemoglobin Level and Cardiovascular and All-Cause Mortality in Type 1 Diabetes".

*American Journal of Epidemiology*, doi:10.1093/aje, no. 2007 May 25; [Epub ahead (2007)]. (United States).

Saw SM, Ooi PL, Tan DT, Khor WB, Fong CW, Lim J, Cajucom-Uy HY, Heng D, Chew SK, Aung T, Tan AL, Chan CL, Ting S, Tambyah PA, Wong TY, "Risk factors for contact lens-related fusarium keratitis: a case-control study in Singapore.". *Arch Ophthalmol*, 2007, 125(5):611-7

Low YL, Dunning AM, Dowsett M, Folkard E, Doody D, Taylor J, Bhaniani A, Luben R, Khaw KT, Wareham NJ, Bingham SA, "Phytoestrogen exposure is associated with circulating sex hormone levels in postmenopausal women and interact with ESR1 and NR1I2 gene variants.". *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*, 2007, 16(5):1009-16

Li Y, Sung WK, Liu JJ, "Association mapping via regularized regression analysis of single-nucleotide-polymorphism haplotypes in variable-sized sliding windows."

*Am J Hum Genet*, 2007, 80(4):705-15

Cheung N, Islam FM, Saw SM, Shankar A, de Haseth K, Mitchell P, Wong TY, "Distribution and associations of retinal vascular caliber with ethnicity, gender, and birth parameters in young children.". *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.*, 2007, 48(3):1018-2

Maule M, Scelo G, Pastore G, Brennan P, Hemminki K, Tracey E, Sankila R, Weiderpass E, Olsen JH, McBride ML, Brewster DH, Pompe-Kirn V, Kliewer EV, Chia KS, Tonita JM, Martos C, Jonasson JG, Merletti F, Boffetta P "Risk of second malignant neoplasms after childhood leukemia and lymphoma: an international study."

*J Natl Cancer Inst*, 2007, 99(10):790-800

### Diagnostic Radiology

Teo J, Wang SC and Teoh SH. Preliminary study on biomechanics of vertebroplasty: a computational fluid dynamics and solid mechanics combined approach. *Spine*. 2007 May 20;32(12):1320-8.

### Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Susana Aguilar, Emma Nye, Jerry Chan, Michael Loebinger, Bradley Spencer-Dene, Nick Fisk, Gordon Stamp, Dominique Bonnet, Sam M. Janes. Murine but Not Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells Generate Osteosarcoma-Like Lesions in the Lung . *Stem Cells* 25 (6). 2007

### Ophthalmology

\*\* Saw SM, Ooi PL, Tan DT, Khor WB, Fong CW, Lim J, Cajucom-Uy HY, Heng D, Chew SK, Aung T, Tan AL, Chan CL, Ting S, Tambyah PA, Wong TY. Risk factors for contact lens related fusarium keratitis: a case-control study in Singapore. *Archives of Ophthalmology*. 2007 May; 125 (5): 611-7.

Durkin SR, Casson RJ, Newland HS, Aung TH, Shein WK, Muecke JS, Selva D, Aung T. Prevalence of trachoma-related trichiasis and corneal opacity in rural Myanmar: the Meiktila Eye Study. *Ophthalmology*. 2007 May; 114 (5): e7-11.

Rose KM, Wong TY, Carson AP, Couper DJ, Klein R, Sharret AR. Migraine and retinal microvascular abnormalities: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study. *Neurology*. 2007 May 15;68 (20): 1694-700

### Orthopaedic Surgery

Jones AC, Arns CH, Sheppard AP, Hutmacher DW, Milthorpe BK, Knackstedt MA. Assessment of bone in growth into porous biomaterials using MICRO-CT. *Biomaterials* 2007 May; 28(15):2491-504

## APPOINTMENTS

### Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies

Professor David Arthur was appointed as a member of the International editorial board of the Journal of Mental Health Workforce Development on May 2007

### COFM & CME

Associate Professor Adeline Seow was elected to the Fellowship of the Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom on 27 April 2007.

### Orthopaedic Surgery

Associate Professor James Goh has been elected as a member of the Administrative Council of the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering. He has also been appointed as Chairperson of the Working Group on Asian Pacific Activities.

### Pathology

Assistant Professor Robert Hewitt has been appointed as the next President for the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) for the year starting May 2008.

### Pharmacology

Dr Christopher Chen, Senior Research Fellow has been appointed as the first Lilly-NUS/SICS-A\*STAR Fellow in Investigational Medicine on 4 June 2007.

## COLLABORATION

### Pathology and Oncology Research Institute

Collaboration: National University of Singapore and National University Hospital with Riken Institute Singapore  
Date: May 28, 2007  
Objective: To develop and validate a molecular diagnostic test that promises faster and cheaper diagnosis for effective administration of personalized therapy for lung cancer patients, translating into better quality patient care.

## NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

### Welcome onboard!

Department	Staff Name	Designation
COFM & CME	Dr Suchin Virabhak	Adjunct Assistant Professor
Medicine	A/P Lim Yean Teng	Adjunct Associate Professor
NUMI	Dr Marito Araki	Senior Research Scientist
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Ms Niraja M Dinghe	Research Fellow
Surgery	Dr So Bok Yan, Jimmy	Associate Professor

## OTHER UPDATES

### Physiology

The article "Bcl-2 induces pro-oxidant state by engaging mitochondrial respiration in tumor cells" by Z X Chen and Shazib Pervaiz was selected as a feature article for the Journal *Cell Death and Differentiation* under the Journals in the Cancer category of the Nature's Publishing Group on the Nature website in the week of 4-10 June 2007. <http://www.nature.com/cancer/index.html>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

### 1. Medical Education Unit

#### Research in Medical Education (RIME) Workshop

Dates: 5 & 6 July 2007 / Thursday & Friday  
Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall, Level 1, Centre of Life Sciences (CeLS), NUS  
Facilitators: Dr Sean McAleer, Senior Lecturer  
Centre of Medical Education, University of Dundee, UK  
Associate Professor Khoo Hoon Eng, Deputy Head (Preclinical)  
Medical Education Unit, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS  
Dr Dujeepa Samarasekera, Medical Educationalist  
Medical Education Unit, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS  
Contact: [medv1@nus.edu.sg](mailto:medv1@nus.edu.sg)

#### Lecture by Professor Edward Hundert (Former President, Case Western Reserve University, USA)

Date: 24 July 2007 / Tuesday  
Time: 5.30pm  
Venue: CRC Auditorium  
Contact: [nicholas\\_wong@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nicholas_wong@nus.edu.sg)

#### Medical Education Round

Speaker: Professor Daniel Lowenstein, Vice Chairman, Department of Neurology, School of Medicine, UCSF, USA  
Date: 31 July 2007 / Friday  
Time: 7.30am to 8.30am  
Venue: National University Hospital Auditorium, Level 3, Kent Ridge Wing  
Contact: [nicholas\\_wong@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nicholas_wong@nus.edu.sg)

#### Best Practices in Written Assessment Workshop

Dates: 2 & 3 August 2007 / Thursday & Friday  
Venue: CeLS Seminar Room 1, Level 1, Centre of Life Sciences (CeLS), NUS  
Facilitators: Dr Zubair Amin, Deputy Head (Clinical), Medical Education Unit  
Dr Marion Aw, Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics  
Dr Dujeepa Samarasekera, Medical Educationalist, Medical Education Unit  
Contact: [medv1@nus.edu.sg](mailto:medv1@nus.edu.sg)

### 2. NLAM Clinician Scientist Unit

#### Pitch for Funds' Round

Date: 24 July 2007 / Tuesday  
Abstract submission closing date: 2 July 2007  
Contact: Cindy Khoo  
Email: [cindykhoo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cindykhoo@nus.edu.sg)

## UPCOMING EVENTS, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

### 3. NUS Leadership in Academic Medicine NUH-NUS Medical Publications Support Unit

- **Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) Workshops**

#### a. Developing Clinical Practice Guidelines

Day 1: 23 July 2007, Monday, 9am-5pm  
Day 2: 24 July 2007, Tuesday, 9am-12.30pm  
Venue: CRC Symposium Rooms 2 & 3  
Registration Fee: \$700 per person (excluding prevailing GST)

#### b. Literature Search

Date: 24 July 2007, Tuesday, 1.30pm-5.30pm  
Venue: CRC Symposium Rooms 2 & 3  
Registration Fee: \$250 per person (excluding prevailing GST)

*Both workshops (a) and (b) are limited to 30 participants each*

- **Basic & Intermediate Biostatistics & SPSS Workshop**

Dates: 20-22 August 2007, Monday-Wednesday  
Venue: Centre for Development of Learning & Teaching (CDTL)  
Registration Fee: \$350 per person (excluding prevailing GST)

*Limited to 24 participants only*

Contact: Tan Shuyu / Jap Ren Fang  
Tel No: 6516 5586 / 6516 1049  
Email: [psu@nus.edu.sg](mailto:psu@nus.edu.sg)  
Fax: 6872 1454

### 4. 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Congress on Clinical Trials organized by the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore

Objective: The congress aims to provide a detailed analysis of the current situation of Clinical Trials in the Asia-Pacific region  
Date: Wednesday-Friday, 12 to 14 September 2007  
Venue: Clinical Research Centre Auditorium, Yong Loo Lin

#### Topics

Ethics, Regulatory requirements in Asia, Pharmacogenomics, Vaccines, Pharmacovigilance, Biosimilars, Biomarkers, Translational medicine, Legal and IP issues, The pharmaceutical industry in Asia, TCM and academic versus commercial CROs

#### Pre-Congress Workshops

Date: Tuesday, 11 September 2007  
Venue: Medical Library Block, Level 2, M4A and M4B  
Topics: Ethical Appraisal of Clinical Trials, Clinical Study Design, Intellectual Property, Basic Biostatistics for Clinical Trials  
Contact: Siti @ 6515 7919 / Eric @ 6516 6994

For more details on the congress, log on to

<http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/corporate/events/1stAPClinicalTrialsCongress/>