

SoM Update

November 2007 Issue, Volume 022

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am delighted to share with you that NUS was ranked number 12 in the world, and the leading institution in Asia, for Life Sciences and Biomedicine by the 2007 Times Higher Education Supplement. We should be proud of the synergies created with our colleagues in other Faculties and Schools across NUS, with NUH and other restructured hospitals, Duke-GMS, A*STAR, and other institutions in Singapore and internationally.

As announced by the Government, NUS SoM and NUH are taking our quest for excellence one step further by developing a unified governance structure to further develop this campus into one of the world's leading centers for academic health sciences, leveraging on the synergies generated by outstanding education, defining research, and sought-after clinical care. The planning process has started in earnest and we look forward to seeking your input on how we can accomplish these goals.

I would like to welcome our new Vice-Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Emeritus Professor Chan Soh Ha, who will also serve as Director of NUMI. I would also like to place on record our sincere appreciation to Professor Philip Keith Moore for his service, notably as Head of Department of Pharmacology, Vice-Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Director of NUMI, and Leader of the OLS Vascular Biology Program. His contributions to the School and the University have changed the landscape, both figuratively and in reality, and he has our deepest thanks.

I also welcome the 59th Medical Society, led by Mr Ng Chew Lip. I would like to place on record my appreciation to Mr Oh Han Boon and his colleagues of the 58th Exco, who did a wonderful job in shaping issues on behalf of the student population. The 2007 Playhouse was a great success, and the student musical, Operating Theater II, scheduled for January 2008, is an event which I greatly encourage all staff and students to support.

Sincerely yours,
John

STAFF PROMOTION

Congratulations!

Promotion to Professorship

A/P Adrian Francis Leong	Surgery	w.e.f. 1 Jul 2007
A/P Bay Boon Huat	Anatomy	w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008
A/P Ho Khek Yu	Medicine	w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008

Promotion to Associate Professorship

Dr Tan May Chin, Theresa	Biochemistry	w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008
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NEW APPOINTMENT

A/P Daniel Goh has been appointed as the Head of Paediatrics Department, NUS w.e.f. 1 October 2007. We would like to thank A/P Quak Seng Hock for his contribution and wish him well in his future endeavours

NEWLY JOINED STAFF

Welcome onboard!

Biochemistry	A/P Mridula Sharma	Associate Professor
COFM	Dr Sri Chander	Adjunct Associate Professor
CME	Dr Arief Gusnanto	Visiting Senior Fellow
	Professor Yudi Pawitan	Visiting Professor
Diagnostic Radiology	Dr Zhou Jiayin	Research Fellow (A)
Pharmacology	Mr Uzakov Shukhrat	Research Fellow (B)
Psychological Medicine	Dr. B.F.P. Broekman	Visiting Fellow
Joint appointment with Department of Surgery and Department of Pathology	Dr Robert Edwin Hewitt	Assistant Professor
	Dr Eng Chon Boon	Research Fellow
Surgery	Mr Tan Kee Peck	Adjunct Research Fellow
	Dr Rajeev Singh	Adjunct Research Fellow
	Dr Huang Hong Hong	Adjunct Research Fellow

AWARDS**Congratulations!****Psychological Medicine**

Professor Kua Ee Hock, A/P Ng Tze Pin, Professor Goh Lee Gan, Dr Yap Keng Bee, Dr Matthew Niti and A/P Tan Chay Hoon received the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) Awards for their research study entitled "Physical, Social & Productive Leisure Activities, Cognitive Decline & Interaction with APOE-ε4 genotype in Chinese Older Adults" on 15 October 2007, Osaka Japan

Oncology Research Institute

Jocelyn Teo (RGSS) and Dr Lim Yoon Pin received the Certification of Distinction on "Discovery of Novel Oncogenes in Breast Cancer" on 15 September 2007 from the Ministry of Education / A*STAR

Anatomy

Professor P Gopalakrishna received the Therapeutic Molecules Award on 29 June 2007 from the Registrar of Patents, Singapore

COFM

A/P Saw Seang Mei received the 2007 The Eye Institute-Pfizer Research Prize for Outstanding Original Paper on October 2007

Physiology

A/P Manoor Prakash Hande received the Outstanding Science Mentorship Programme Mentor Award from the Ministry of Education on 15 September 2007 at the Science Mentorship Programme 2007 (NUS-SMP), 13th Youth Science Conference (YCS)

Pathology

Dr Zhang Daohai received the Research Award 2007 from the Singapore Cancer Society on 13 October 2007 at the Charity Ball Hope 2007

GRANT RESULTS**Congratulations!****PI: Associate Professor Saw Seang Mei**

Department: COFM
 Grant Amount: S\$361,180
 Funding Agency: NMRC
 Period: 1 August 2007 to 31 August 2010
 Title: Retinal Vessel Caliber, Early Childhood Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Refractive Errors in Pre-School Children

PI: Assistant Professor Stephan Gasser

Department: Microbiology
 Grant Amount: S\$181,525
 Funding Agency: Ministry of Education
 Period: August 2007 to August 2010
 Title: The Role of p53 Family Members in Regulating the Expression of NKG2D Ligands

PI: Professor Sit Kim Ping

Department: Biochemistry
 Grant Amount: S\$180,000
 Funding Agency: Academic Research Fund (ARF) Tier 1
 Period: 3 years
 Title: Human Keloid Fibroblasts: A Potential Model for Study of Cancer Biology

PI: Professor Chua Kaw Yan

Department: Paediatrics
 Grant Amount: S\$102,746.75
 Funding Agency: GlaxoSmith Kline Biologicals, Belgium
 Period: 3 months
 Title: Screening of 10 Hypoallergenic GSKBio Pro-Derp-1 Rec Proteins

GRANT RESULTS

PI: **Dr Zhang Daohai**
Department: Pathology
Grant Amount: S\$98,600
Funding Agency: Singapore Cancer Society
Period: January to December 2008
Title: Oncogenic Role and Molecular Mechanism of Endoplasmic Reticulum Protein 29 (ERP 29) in Breast Cancer

PI: **Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee**
Department: Biochemistry
Grant Amount: S\$7,000
Funding Agency: CDTL, NUS
Period: 3 September 2007 to 31 August 2008
Title: The Implementation of Learning Activity Management Systems (LAMS) in NUS

PI: **Dr Stacey Tay / Professor Low Poh Sim**
Department: Paediatrics
Grant Amount: S\$7,000
Funding Agency: CDTL, NUS
Period: 3 September 2007 to 31 August 2008
Title: Clinical Teaching Videos in Paediatric Neurology Short Case Examination

TIER 1 JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Microbiology

Prof Ho Bow. Jiang N, NS Tan, B Ho* and JL Ding*. Respiratory proteins generate ROS as an antimicrobial strategy. *Nature Immunology*. 8 (10) : 1114 – 112 * denotes co-senior author

COFM

Merglen A, Schmidlin F, Fioretta G, Verkooijen HM, Rapiti E, Zanetti R, Miralbell R, Bouchardy C. Short- and Long-term Mortality With Localized Prostate Cancer. *Arch Intern Med*. 2007;167(18):1944-1950

Emmert M, Kofidis T, Didilis V, Haverich A, Klima U. Aortic Prosthesis Re-replacement due to Concealed Stenosing Subvalvular Pannus Ring. *Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2007 Aug;55(5):331-2

Cheung N, Shankar A, Klein R, Folsom AR, Couper DJ, Wong TY for the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study Investigators. Age-related macular degeneration and cancer mortality in the atherosclerosis risk in communities study. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2007 125(9):1241-7

Plenge RM, Seielstad M, Padyukov L, Lee AT, Remmers EF, Ding B, Liew A, Khalili H, Chandrasekaran A, Davies LR, Li W, Tan AK, Bonnard C, Ong RT, Thalamuthu A, Pettersson S, Liu C, Tian C, Chen WV, Carulli JP, Beckman EM, Altshuler D, Alfredsson L, Criswell LA, Amos CI, Seldin MF, Kastner DL, Klareskog L, Gregersen PK. TRAF1-C5 as a risk locus for rheumatoid arthritis--a genomewide study. *N Engl J Med*. 357(12):1199-209

Physiology

Chen, Y, WH Yuen, J Fu, G Huang, A Melendez, F Bte Mohod Ibrahim, H Lu and X Cao*. Mitochondrial Respiratory Chain Controls Intracellular Calcium Signaling and NFAT Activity Essential for Heart Formation in *Xenopus*. *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 27, no. 18 (2007): 6420-6432. (United States)

Ong, SM, L He, NT Linh, YH Tee, T Arooz, GP Tang, C H Tan* and H Yu*. Transient Inter-Cellular Polymeric Linker. *Biomaterials*, 28 (2007): 3656-3667. (United Kingdom)

Wang J, Liu YX, Hande MP, Wong AC, Jin YJ, Yin Y. TAp73 is a downstream target of p53 in controlling the cellular defense against stress. 2007 *J Biol Chem* 282 (40): 29152-29162

Pamidi A, Cardoso R, Hakem A, Matysiak. Functional interplay of p53 and Mus81 in DNA damage responses and cancer. 2007 *Cancer Res* 67 (18): 8527-8535

Ophthalmology

Tikellis G, Wang JJ, Tapp R, Simpson R, Mitchell P, Zimmet PZ, Shaw J, Wong TY. The relationship of retinal vascular calibre to diabetes and retinopathy: the Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle (AusDiab) study. *Diabetologia*. 2007 Nov; 50(11):2263-71. Epub 2007 Sep 22

Liew G, Wang JJ, Wong TY. Macular degeneration and heart disease. *Ophthalmology* 2007 Sep;114(9):1793

Su DH, Bacsal K, Chee SP, Flores JV, Lim WK, Chen BC, Jap AH: Dengue Maculopathy Study Group. Prevalence of dengue maculopathy in patients hospitalized for dengue fever. *Ophthalmology*. 2007 Sep; 114(9):1743-7. Epub 2007 Jun 11

TIER 1 JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Pharmacology

Zhang H, Hegde A, Ng SW, Adhikari S, Moochhala SM, and Bhatia M. Hydrogen sulfide up-regulates substance P in polymicrobial sepsis associated Lung Injury. *J Immunol.* 2007; 179: 4153-4160

Paediatrics

Lee Yung Seng, Poh Kok Seng Larry, Kek Lay Kek Betty, Loke Kah Yin. The role of melanocortin 3 receptor gene in childhood obesity. *Diabetes.* 2007 56(10):2622-30

Diagnostic Radiology

QL Fan, KG Neoh, ET Kang, B Shuter and SC Wang. Solvent-free atom transfer radical polymerization for the preparation of (poly(ethyleneglycol) monomethacrylate)-grafted Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles: Synthesis, characterization and cellular uptake. *Biomaterials, online 24 September 2007*, (doi:10.1016/j.biomaterials.2007.08.039)

Orthopaedic Surgery

Wu YN, Yang Z, Hui JH, Ouyang HW, Lee EH. Cartilaginous ECM component modification of the micro bead culture system for chondrogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells. *Biomaterials* 2007 Oct;28(2*):4056-67

EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS

COFM

Professor David Koh

WHO Temporary Advisor, National Workshop on Scientific Writing and Communication, Hanoi, Vietnam
24-26 September 2007

Visiting Professor, University of Occupational and Environmental Health in Kitakyushu, Japan
September 2007

A/P Annelies Wilder-Smith

WHO, Editor for International Travel & Health 2008
1 September 2007 to 31 January 2008

Editorial Consultant, The Lancet
2006 to 2008

Adjunct Associate Professor, James Cook University, Queensland, Australia
3 years (commencing 31 October 2007)

Pharmacology

Dr Bian Jinsong

Member of NMRC Scientific Review Panel, 11 September 2007

Paediatrics

A/P Loke Kah Yin

Member of the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), NMRC, September 2007

Professor Chua Kaw Yan

Member of the NMRC Scientific Review Panel
11 September 2007 to 11 September 2009

A/P Lynette Shek

Expert Committee on Immunisation (ECI), 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010

Professor Hugo Van Bever

Member of the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), NMRC, September 2007

Dr Allen Yeoh Eng Juh

Member, Member of the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), NMRC,
September 2007

Dr Lee Yung Seng

Member of the Scientific Review Panel (NMRC), September 2007

Orthopaedic Surgery

Assistant Professor Hee Hwan Tak

President, Singapore Back Society
2007 to 2009

Chairman, AO Spine Singapore
2007

Advisory Editorial Board, Spine Journal
2006 to 2008

Editorial Board Member, The Open Orthopaedics Journal
2007

EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS

Orthopaedic Surgery

A/P James Goh

Chairman, Organising Committee, WACBE World Congress on Bioengineering, Bangkok, Thailand
9 July 2007 to 11 July 2007

Oncology Research Institute

Assistant Professor Lim Yoon Pin

Re-appointed Adjunct Scientist at Bioinformatics Institute, A*STAR
15 September 2007

Member, Scientific Review Panel (SRP), National Medical Research Council (NMRC), appointed by the Ministry of Health
11 September 2007

Microbiology

Professor Chan Soh Ha

Member, Ministry of Health Advisory Group on Pre-Pandemic Influenza Vaccines
October 2007

NUMI

Dr Alan Prem Kumar

Co-Founder and Co-Chairman, Hands of Hope Programme
September 2007

COLLABORATION

NUMI

Collaboration Partners: Dr Alan Prem Kumar (NUMI), A/P Marie Veronique Clement (Biochemistry), Professor Shazib Pervaiz (Physiology) and Assistant Professor Robert Hewitt (Pathology)

Collaboration Title: A Study to show NHE1 gene as a novel expression signature-predictive of patients' responsiveness to chemotherapy

Date: September 2007

Collaboration Partners: Dr Alan Prem Kumar (NUMI), A/P Marie Veronique Clement (Biochemistry), Professor Shazib Pervaiz (Physiology), A/P Javi Piedrafita (San Diego, USA)

Collaboration Title: Synthesis of new derivatives of PPAR γ ligands

Date: September 2007

Objectives: To use these new ligands to demonstrate its effectiveness using cancer cell lines before moving on to mouse models

COFM

Collaboration Partners: COFM & Health Promotion Board

Date: 1 October 2007

Objectives:

- Development of Dietary Assessment Tools for the Singapore Consortium of Cohort Studies
- To update the HPBs food composition database

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Collaboration Partners: National University of Singapore and University of Auckland

Date: 9 October 2007

Objectives: To collaborate together on one or more research projects in the fields of perinatal epidemiology, developmental epigenetics and physiology

NUH-NUS Medical Publications Support Unit**Cochrane Workshop on Systematic Reviews**

Date: 3 to 4 December 2007
 Venue: Clinical Research Centre
 Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm
 Fee: S\$350 (excluding GST) Waived for registered Cochrane Reviewer
 Contact: Tan Shuyu / Charmian Choong / Jap Ren Fang
 Tel: 6516 5586 / 6516 3938 / 6516 1049
 Email: psu@nus.edu.sg

Pathology**Cytopathology Workshop**

Date: 30 May to 1 June 2008
 Venue: NUS / NUH
 Time: 8.00am to 5.00pm
 Fee:

Category	Before 15 March 2008	After 15 March 2008
Qualified Doctor	S\$ 535.00	S\$ 642.00
Medical Officer / Trainee	S\$ 481.50	S\$ 588.50
Cytotechnologist	S\$ 428.00	S\$ 535.00
Clinician	S\$ 107.00	S\$ 128.40

Contact: Adele Chiew/Kwan Mei Hou
 Tel: 6772 4019 / 6772 4303
 Email: patcmla@nus.edu.sg / patkmh@nus.edu.sg
 URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/path/teach/cytopath2008.htm

Orthopaedic Surgery**2007 VK Pillay Lectureship**

Date: 26 to 30 November 2007
 Venue: Seminar Room 5B, Level 5, NUH (main building)
 Fee: Nil
 Contact: Janet Han
 Tel: 6772 4340 / 6778 0720
 Email: dossec@nus.edu.sg
 URL: www.medicine.nus.edu.sg/os/calendarofevents/vkpillaylectureship/index.html

COFM & CME**Short Course on Medical and Humanitarian Emergencies**

Date: 3 to 7 December 2007
 Venue: COFM
 Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm
 Fee: S\$1,000 (Fees are subjected to 7% GST)
 Contact: Doris Chen
 Tel: 6516 4959 / 6779 1489 / cofcpj@nus.edu.sg
 URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/cof/sc_main.html

Short Course on Environmental Toxicology

Date: 10 to 14 December 2007
 Venue: COFM
 Time: 9.00am to 5.30pm
 Fee: S\$1,000 (Fees are subjected to 7% GST)
 Contact: Doris Chen
 Tel: 6516 4959 / 6779 1489 / cofcpj@nus.edu.sg
 URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/cof/sc_main.html

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

COFM & CME

Short Course on Planning Health Promotion Programme

Date: 10 to 14 December 2007
Venue: COFM
Time: 9.00am to 5.30pm
Fee: S\$1,000 (Fees are subjected to 7% GST)
Contact: Doris Chen
Tel: 6516 4959 / 6779 1489 / cofcpj@nus.edu.sg
URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/cof/sc_main.html

Short Course on Contemporary Global Health Issues-Challenges and Opportunities

Date: 7 to 11 January 2008
Venue: COFM
Time: 9.00am to 5.30pm
Fee: S\$1,000 (Fees are subjected to 7% GST)
Contact: Doris Chen
Tel: 6516 4959 / 6779 1489
Email: cofcpj@nus.edu.sg
URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/cof/sc_main.html

Short Course on Contemporary Global Health Issues-Programme Design and Implementation

Date: 14 to 18 January 2008
Venue: COFM
Time: 9.00am to 5.30pm
Fee: S\$1,000 (Fees are subjected to 7% GST)
Contact: Doris Chen
Tel: 6516 4959 / 6779 1489
Email: cofcpj@nus.edu.sg
URL: www.med.nus.edu.sg/cof/sc_main.html

Surgery

Annual Meeting of Asia Reproductive Biotechnology Society on the theme of "Reproductive Biotechnology, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine"

Date: 24 to 26 November 2007
Venue: NUS Clinical Research Centre (MD11) Auditorium
Time: Full day
Fee: General
Active Member: US\$250
Non-Member: US\$300

Student
Active Member: US\$100
Non-Member: US\$150
Contact: Ong Chee Tian
Tel: 6874 8515
Email: suroct@nus.edu.sg
URL: www.cdb.riken.jp/arb

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

MEU

5th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC)

Date: 24 & 25 January 2008 (Pre Conference Workshops)
26 & 27 January 2008 (Main Conference)
28 January 2008 (Post Conference Workshops)

Venue: **Pre-Conference Workshops:**
1) Seminar Rooms and Auditorium - Centre for Life Sciences (CeLS)
2) Symposium Rooms - Clinical Research Centre (CRC)
3) Advanced Surgical Training Centre - National University Hospital

Main Conference:

University Cultural Centre
National University of Singapore

Time: 8.30am to 6.00pm

Fee: Please visit the website for more details

Contact: Emily Loo / Nicholas Wong / Esther Tan / Lee Su Mei

Tel: 6516 1048 / 6516 8107 / 6516 2332 / 6516 3732

Email: medbox10@nus.edu.sg

URL: <http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/meu/apmec5/>