BETTER.
We believe that what is good enough for today will not do for tomorrow. That is why we strive to always do better. After all, why leave well enough alone when we can help to bring about a better tomorrow?

GOOD ENOUGH IS JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
LIKE TREATING CANCER...

OR SAVING MORE HEART ATTACK PATIENTS...
HELPING SOMEONE SMILE AGAIN...

OR JUST SIMPLY HELPING PEOPLE GET ON WITH LIFE.
That’s why we have formed the National University Health System (NUHS) by bringing together the National University Hospital (NUH), the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry under one common governance. We do this with a clear objective.

WE WANT LIFE TO GET BETTER.
One objective is to ride on the success of Singapore’s biomedical sciences sector by enhancing and enabling translational clinical research to deal effectively with diseases that affect Singaporeans. In helping to shape the future form and practice of medicine, the NUHS also augments Singapore’s growing reputation as a regional medical centre of excellence.

Then, in the area of effectiveness, the NUHS provides fertile ground for healthcare professionals, faculty and staff to work closely together. Drawing on the research and teaching strengths of the academic campus and merging these with the clinical capabilities of a teaching hospital, the NUHS stands out as an academic medical centre that is dedicated to bringing better healthcare to Singaporeans.

IN A NUTSHELL, THE ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE THAT IS THE NUHS IS DESIGNED TO BE BETTER. IT IS A SYSTEM THAT SYNERGISES THREE KEY FOCUS AREAS: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CLINICAL CARE.

WHY THE NUHS?
EVERY STORY HAS A GENESIS.
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NUS YONG LOO LIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND NUS FACULTY OF DENTISTRY CAME TOGETHER TO FORM THE NUHS FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST IS POTENTIAL. THE SECOND, EFFECTIVENESS.
A BETTER CURE CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND.

What’s ailing Singaporeans? What diseases threaten them? At the NUHS, research work carries clear goals: to establish proof of concept, investigate the Asian phenotype and ultimately, improve the health of Singaporeans. To date, results have been heartening. Progress is being made.
MAKING LIGHT WORK OF DENTAL TREATMENT.
Here is something to chew on: lasers to strengthen teeth. This is no science fiction. Associate Professor Stephen Hsu and his research team are doing just that. In welding lasers to strengthen the structure of teeth, they have found that these energy beams protect teeth enamel against the penetration of acid produced by bacteria in the mouth. They have also discovered that laser-treated teeth become less habitable for bacteria. These findings may bring A/Prof Hsu and his team one step closer to realising the clinical application of lasers in preventing tooth decays and perhaps also help to bring about in similarly dazzling fashion, the end of dental cavities.

THERE’S MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE.
The eyes are the windows to the soul, as the old saying goes. Those orbs are also mirrors of the state of our health. And in medical science's never-ending struggle against diseases and illnesses, the fight has opened a new front – to predict the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes by studying a person’s eyes. Precious insights are being gained by NUHS ophthalmologist Professor Wong Tien Yin and his team through their groundbreaking research, which may result in the human eye becoming a model to study early diseases for the discovery of new preventive strategies and treatment. In myopia-stricken Singapore, that is news to gladden the heart and light up one's eyes.

GRAPPLING WITH ‘ASIAN DISEASE’.
In a formative research thrust that may profoundly influence how metabolic diseases with Asian features are managed, prevented and treated, Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the National University Hospital has been awarded a Translational and Clinical Research grant of $25 million to investigate the growing epidemic of metabolic diseases in Singapore.

A BREAKTHROUGH THAT GROWS AND GROWS.
Researchers from A*STAR and the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine have scored a first in developing an unlimited number of pure insulin-producing cells from mouse embryonic stem cells. The team of researchers, jointly led by Research Associate Professor Lim Sai Kiang (left) at the Department of Surgery and Research Associate Professor Li Guodong at the National University Medical Institutes, found that these pure insulin-producing cells, which are molecularly and structurally similar to the insulin-producing cells found in the pancreas, are highly effective in treating diabetes. When transplanted into diabetic mice, the pure insulin-producing cells corrected high blood glucose levels in the animals. Subsequent removal of the transplanted cells from the animals restored their blood glucose to their original diabetic level.
A GATEKEEPER THAT SAVES LIVES.

Cancer, to many Singaporeans, is more than a word. It’s a drastic change to life as they know it. To many others, it’s also a death sentence. The solution is early detection and better therapies. Happily, this means better survival rates.

NUHS and NUS researchers have discovered RUNX3, a gatekeeper gene that plays a major role in preventing the onset of colon cancer – a crucial step to developing both an early diagnostic test as well as a therapeutic target.

In addition, the investigators also showed that RUNX3 plays a key role in breast cancer and bladder cancer, among others.

“My team and I have been working on our research for the past six years and we are extremely excited about how our research findings can be translated into practical clinical applications to help patients suffering from bladder, breast, colon and lung cancers,” said lead researcher Professor Yoshiaki Ito, the Yong Loo Lin Professor in Medical Oncology.

FINDING ANSWERS IN THE GENES.

To thin the blood and prevent blood clots forming, stroke and heart attack patients are given warfarin by doctors. The question is: how much to give? Too much may result in internal bleeding. NUHS researchers have come up with a formula that calculates precisely how much of the blood-thinning drug patients need – depending on their genetic makeup.

With a research team led by Adjunct Associate Professor Goh Boon Cher, Director of the NUHS Investigational Medicine Unit, path-finding work on warfarin spells hope for precise dosing of a difficult drug for Asian patients.

FINDING BETTER WAYS TO TREAT STROKE.

What are the new avenues, methods and drugs that can be mustered to treat stroke? This is the question that confronts Professor Peter Wong and members of the NUHS Stroke Research Group.

Working with a grant from the National Research Foundation, the group aims to better understand the mechanism of stroke, i.e. how the illness works its havoc amongst its victims. The group also wants to improve diagnostic and prognostic methods, patient care and treatment, including the use of cell therapy. In the struggle against a disease that at present offers little, if any, effective treatment, the efforts of the NUHS Stroke Research Group are noteworthy for the hope that they hold forth.

EYEBALLING A LEADING CAUSE OF BLINDNESS.

Few things dim the light in a person’s soul more than blindness. In Singapore, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness, with Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma causing the greatest damage, especially in Chinese and Indians.

But a research programme led by ophthalmologist Professor Donald Tan, Medical Director of the Singapore National Eye Centre and a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine offers hope. Together with Associate Professor Aung Tin and a team of researchers, Prof Tan is tackling the two major causes of blindness globally – glaucoma and corneal disorders.

They aim to develop novel anti-scarring or wound-healing treatments, as well as better and safer alternatives in new drug approaches, leading to better outcomes in corneal and glaucoma surgery and reduced incidence of blindness.

BEYOND BORDERS.

He is based in Singapore, but Associate Professor Markus Wenk’s research transcends geographical, cultural and disciplinary boundaries. He collaborates extensively with scientists from diverse fields in leading laboratories worldwide.

Based at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry, A/Prof Wenk’s research interests are the structure, function and metabolism of membrane lipids as well as applications for lipid analyses. He has achieved several research breakthroughs, including conceiving an innovative tool for identifying lipid-based biomarkers, for which a patent was filed and applicable to many diseases implicated with aberrant lipid metabolism.

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BETTER DOCTORS WILL COME FROM THE BEST TEACHERS.

How are our medical, dental and nursing students taught? From whom are they getting the knowledge to become better? In no particular order, the NUHS pays tribute to some extraordinary educators and mentors. Their work is a credit to their profession, their attitude an expression of the passion that drives them to give their best to their students and charges.
LIFELONG LEARNING AND TEACHING.
Associate Professor Lau Tang Ching is a great believer in lifelong learning, both for himself and the students that he teaches at the medical school. To the rheumatologist from the University Medicine Cluster at the NUHS, teaching and learning go hand in hand. The first requires team effort because, in his own words, “Effective teaching cannot be done by an individual. It requires a team of clinicians, scientists, researchers, teachers, educationists, administrators and so on, who share the same vision for medical education.”

The other half of the equation is learning, which flows both ways. While the students have to gather knowledge, their teachers too learn as they teach.

His vision of successful teaching? “To see the medical students become doctors who find security in lifelong learning, significance in the outcomes of patients and hope in the lofty call of our profession.”

SINGLE FOCUS, MULTIPLE ROLES.
NUHS takes pride in having educators of outstanding proficiency. One of them is Assistant Professor Siow Woei Yun, of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. She takes professional responsibility for the training of medical undergraduates in the skill of surgery and her innovative approach has earned her plaudits from her students. She is also the Undergraduate Education Director (Assessment) for the Department and has chaired the Problem-Based Learning Committee for the past two years.

In addition, Assistant Professor Siow is a medical advisor to the Handicaps Welfare Association, as well as president-elect of the Asian Society of Female Urology and the Secretary and Editor for the Society for Continence (Singapore).

A HEART FOR CHILDREN.
Ask Associate Professor Marion Aw and she will tell you that children are very close to her heart. A love for children and a dedicated drive to better their health was what made her choose paediatrics as a career. A/Prof Aw is also deeply involved in the teaching, training and assessment of medical undergraduates and postgraduate paediatrician trainees. As the Education Director for postgraduate paediatrician trainees, she strives to impart to them the skills and knowledge to be a good paediatrician and looks out for medical students with the right attributes to be one.

CAN DO, CAN TEACH.
The writer George Bernard Shaw is reputed to have dismissed teachers as people who can’t. He would have changed his view if he had met the teachers and mentors profiled here, for example Assistant Professor Gerald Koh. Having garnered various qualifications and awards in the course of his own education and professional training A/Prof Koh gladly shares what he knows with his students at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The clinician-teacher, who trained in family medicine and community geriatrics, is determined to help his students be the best doctors they can be and perhaps even find a few ready, willing and eager like himself to return one day to teach future generations of doctors-to-be. And in the process, continue to show the world that teachers can, and do teach superbly well.
ANATOMY OF A DEDICATED TEACHER.
Apart from exotic birds, motorcycles and vintage cars, the human body fascinates Associate Professor K Rajendran the most. This teacher in the Department of Anatomy, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine simply loves to nurture young doctors. Realising a passion for education, he focuses his energy on developing innovative methods in the teaching of Anatomy: exploring a multimedia teaching platform, for example. His immense interest in education also led him into curriculum review and development, where he has been active for more than ten years and is currently coordinator for the medical curriculum for students in Year One. Other than research and development in multimedia for education, A/Prof Rajendran has also worked and published in the field of joint mechanics.

THINKING MODEL.
Even educators look up to her, and that says everything. Presenting Assistant Professor Joanne Uy: model educator for the Dental Cluster, and winner of the NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award 2007/8, a prestigious accolade for teaching excellence. This award is the culmination of a consistent approach and refreshing attitude to training dental students, who in turn cheer and salute her dedication and commitment to their training. They respond positively because, among other things, she knows exactly what she’s doing. Assistant Professor Uy is dedicated to forging “thinking” students, trained and educated to the highest level of dental skills. That is the cornerstone of her teaching philosophy.

MORE THAN WORDS.
The word is, Isaac will get you talking better. But then he has a knack for making people around him perform better anyway. Isaac Sia, Head Of Speech Therapy at NUH’s Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, joined the Speech-Language and Hearing Association Singapore in 2002 and since 2006, has been serving as its President. Recognising the need for new professionals to receive adequate guidance, he implemented the framework for the Supervision and Mentoring of Newly Qualified Practitioners in Speech and Language Therapy, requiring all new therapists to undergo structured mentoring in their early professional career.

WINNING HEARTS, MOULDING MINDS.
“Teach with a willing heart, facilitate with an open mind.” That’s the winning philosophy of Senior Nurse Educator Sabrina Koh, a promising young nurse leader who joined the NUH in 2007. Her roles include providing training to the nurses in the areas of Critical Care and Cardiac Care, coordinating and training nurses under the Life Support Training Programmes, as well as overseeing the Rapid Escalation Criteria clinical simulation training programme and helping to establish the Mrs Lee Kong Chian Critical Care Nursing Simulation Laboratory.

But while she’s got a head for teaching, Sabrina’s heart lies with nursing. “Professional satisfaction comes from seeing my students apply what they have learned. But the greatest reward for me is seeing my patients get well.”
At the NUHS, we aim to bring the best of healthcare to Singaporeans. A major way to achieve this is to put the fruits of research into practical clinical solutions, for the benefit of patients. The National University Hospital is doing just that.
“Every case that comes into the Emergency Medicine Department is different and each one presents a fresh challenge. We work as a team to treat and care for our patients. It certainly keeps us on our toes as we do our best for them.”

Dr Malcolm Mahadevan, Senior Consultant, Emergency Medicine Department, NUH

Dr Malcom Mahadevan

The NUH, a member of the NUHS, is a tertiary specialist hospital providing advanced medical care and services. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and well-trained staff, the NUH is a major referral centre that handles a wide range of medical and dental specialties. It is the principal teaching hospital of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry.

Based on its substantive expertise, the NUH was chosen by the Ministry of Health to develop two new national specialist centres – the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) and the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) to meet the growing needs for heart and cancer treatments respectively.

Because heart disease affects other bodily functions, patients at the Centre receive integrated care from multi-disciplinary teams. The NUHCS brings affairs of the heart together under one roof, with the combined capabilities of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery to better serve the growing number of heart patients. A key centre for complex cardiovascular diseases, its core clinical programmes include heart failure, congenital heart disease, acute coronary syndrome and vascular disease.

The Centre’s professionals include heart failure physicians, case managers, advanced practice nurses, dietitians, medical social workers, pharmacists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

The staff at the Institute have one thing in mind – to do their best to help their patients survive and cope with their illnesses. NCIS offers a broad spectrum of cancer care and management, covering paediatric and adult cancers. The Institute has expertise in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care and takes a multi-disciplinary approach to develop a comprehensive and personalised plan for each cancer patient and his or her family. With several award-winning clinician-scientists and clinician-investigators on staff and an international reputation in translational research and clinical trials, NCIS provides patients with access to promising breakthroughs in cancer diagnostics, technology and therapies.

Public education and awareness of cancer helps in early detection of the disease and this aspect is done through a Cancer Genetic Clinic as well as prevention and screening services to reduce cancer mortality and to diagnose the disease at its most treatable stage.

The two national specialist centres, the clinical clusters and departments – all tap on the NUHS’ wider clinical, research and educational expertise to offer patients cutting-edge healthcare.

Clinical Clusters:
University Children’s Medical Institute (UCMI)
Kids with acute and chronic childhood illnesses receive special attention at the UCMi. The Institute is a tertiary paediatric facility that provides comprehensive, specialised medical and surgical care.

National University Heart Centre, Singapore

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surgical services for newborns, children and adolescents. Its services include a 24-hour Children’s Emergency, General & Ambulatory Paediatrics, Paediatric Intensive Care, Cardiology, Neurology and Developmental Paediatrics, Endocrinology & Diabetes, Allergies, Immunology & Rheumatology, Genetics, Metabolic Diseases, Oncology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology and Organ Transplantation, to name a few.

University Medicine Cluster (UMC)
This is a grown-up medicine at its best. The UMC aims to achieve excellent clinical outcomes while continuing its mission of serving the public’s healthcare needs. The UMC team is dedicated to providing a comprehensive range of services, while concurrently actively engaged in research. This is done through fostering collaboration and synergies between staff and scientists as well as clinicians from across Singapore with a focus on common diseases.

University Surgical Cluster (USC)
The push for surgical excellence drives the USC, which is home to a group of highly specialised surgeons and staff. The Centre is a one-stop hub for all comprehensive surgical treatments. It is also where research and training are on-going endeavours, all towards one end – to find even better and more ways to help patients recover quickly and safely.

University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery Cluster (UOHC)
The bare bones truth about the UOHC is that they are Singapore’s first Orthopaedic Department. Since 1952, the team has been serving the needs of our population in the musculoskeletal systems of children and adults. Today, the team is a tertiary level referral centre serving regional and global needs, taking care of spinal, upper and lower limb disorders and deformities, hand and adult reconstructive surgery for osteoarthritides and osteoporosis, sports and trauma. Throughout the years, the Department has gained recognition as an international centre for graduate education and training. It has also built a reputation for quality research, especially in tissue engineering, spinal surgery, adult reconstruction and microvascular and hand surgery.

Specialist Clinical Departments:
Emergency Medicine Department (A&E and Children’s Emergency)
Fast medicine may not be a bad way of describing the work of the emergency team at NUH. These are medicine’s frontline troops, ready and available 24/7, 365 days a year. Whether it’s a road accident, an industrial disaster, a civil emergency, H1N1 or a domestic incident, the doctors and nurses are there to attend to patients quickly and calmly.

Adult Emergency
For emergency care requiring specialist attention, the 24-hour Emergency Medicine Department at the NUH is always on standby. Treatment and care services include Heart Attack, Stroke, Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases, Trauma, Tertiary Emergency Medicine Conditions, Extended Diagnostic Treatment Unit (Observational Unit).

Children’s Emergency
Children receive specialised acute care in a caring and friendly environment at the Children’s Emergency Service, which caters to little ones suffering from trauma, medical and surgical conditions. This service is an important part of the University Children’s Medical Institute’s mission to provide seamless quality care to our young patients.

Department of Anaesthesia
One could say this is one team that delivers a knockout performance, from general and regional anaesthesia for all surgical specialities, to anaesthetic care for critically ill patients in the surgical and cardiothoracic intensive care units, acute post-operative pain relief service, as well as pain management clinic for chronic non-malignant pain and cancer pain, among others.

Department of Diagnostic Imaging
This may not be the place for Kodak moments, but the Department is the place to capture – in living colour if need be – images that help doctors find out what goes on anywhere in a patient’s body, through the use of a sophisticated array of imaging and detection equipment that would intrigue the keenest computer and photography buffs. By providing various imaging services, which include breast imaging, 3D and whole body imaging, or ultrasound, vascular imaging, angiography, bone mass densitometry, and computed tomography, the Department makes sure doctors are never left in the dark about their patients’ ailments.

Department of Laboratory Medicine
Laboratory medicine is the art and science of looking at things up close, as well as conducting testing and analysis to gain a better understanding of infectious diseases, through methods such as qualitative and quantitative molecular testing on organisms. The science bits are in the core laboratory, which has a fully automated line system, comprising sample manager and a centrifuge/decapper attached by sophisticated tracking and robotics to automated analytical modules for chemistry, haematology, immunoassay and coagulation testing. Its range of services for tests, tools and evaluations
includes those for Clinical Chemistry, Haematology and Microbiology. The artistry comes in through the dedicated
team of men and women who bring their genius and talent
to the task at hand.

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
In medicine, it is often said that "the Baby Department"
is the happiest place in a hospital. But women are also
very much in focus here for the OB&G team, which provides
a comprehensive range of healthcare services for female
patients – from conception to the delivery of their babies.
In addition, its oncology services are expanding into areas like
ovarian cancer screening and molecular bases for treatment
of female malignancies.

Department of Ophthalmology
Of the five senses, perhaps sight is to be the most treasured.
This is where a team of skilled and experienced eye surgeons
aim to provide excellent and cost-effective care and services
including Cataract, Glaucoma, LASIK, Medical and Surgical
Retina Service, Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive,
Cornea, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Paediatric Ophthalmology,
and Ocular Inflammation and Immunology.

Department of Otolaryngology
(ENT) – Head & Neck Surgery
To hear, speak, smell, taste, breathe – we take these
abilities for granted. Not so the patients, their doctors and
nurses at the ENT Department. The specialists here provide
a comprehensive range of diagnostic Ear, Nose, Throat
and Head & Neck services for both adults and children.
In addition, a team of qualified audiologists, auditory verbal
therapists, speech and language therapists and nurses also
provides care and support for patients.

Department of Pathology
A proud historical legacy underwrites the work of the
Department of Pathology, which had its early beginnings
with its headquarters at the then General Hospital in
Singapore. Its work then included routine clinical pathology,
much of which in the early days consisted mainly of blood
films for malarial parasites. But things have come a long way.
Today, the department provides comprehensive diagnostic
services such as histopathology and cytopathology to the
National University Hospital.

AS THE NUHS DRIVES TOWARDS CLINICAL EXCELLENCE, THE NUH IS HELPING TO LEAD THE CHARGE.

The evidence lies in initiatives undertaken by the Clinical,
Allied Health and Nursing Departments to improve patient care.
For instance, the search for lumps or growths, also
called polyps, has become less traumatic for patients.
The Department of Diagnostic Imaging has introduced a
new and non-invasive procedure called CTVirtual Colonography for the detection of polyps. A small rectal
catheter is placed in the rectum and air is pumped in to
ensure adequate expansion of the colon before the CT scan is performed. Using advanced technologies such as 3D simulation and Fly Through, the colorectal mucosa obtained from the colonography can be evaluated to
detect the presence of polyps.

Another pace setting initiative: the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the NUH conducted the first robotic surgery for gynaecological cancer in South-East Asia and Singapore. The new surgical procedure offers an option that is less painful, results in less scarring, and allows patients to get back on their feet faster while also being effective in removing cancerous growths.
The Department then worked with the Department of Psychological Medicine to start the NUH Women’s Emotional Health Service programme, which provides personalised and comprehensive emotional care for gynaecological-cancer and pregnant patients. While the human touch is irreplaceable in patient care, technology is never far behind.
The NUH is the first hospital in the Asia-Pacific region to implement an end-to-end or close-loop inpatient medication management system. Leveraging on automation, an intelligent system ensures that the right medication is given to the right patient, at the right time, in the right dosage.
The system begins with the prescribing, preparing, dispensing, and ends with the serving of medication to the patients.
With more time on hand, nurses can now focus more on direct patient care, and pharmacists on monitoring and counselling of patients and performing medication reconciliation and related functions.
While the medical woes of patients are addressed by their doctors and nurses, the medical social work professionals at the Department of Medical Social Work attend to patients’ psycho-emotional, social-economic issues. Its Enhanced Case Management and Medifund Approval System, introduced in February 2009, is the first

“My team and I are committed to delivering innovative, personalised, cost-effective and safe clinical pharmacy services. Great joy and satisfaction come from knowing that we have made a positive impact on the lives of our patients.”

Ms Lim Siew Woon,
Principal Clinical Pharmacist, NUH
I enjoy the meaningful work of a Palliative Care Advanced Practice Nurse. I work closely with doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals in providing competent and compassionate care to patients with life-limiting illnesses.”

Ms Catherine Teo, Advanced Practice Nurse, NUH

AT NUH, COMPETENT NURSING IS THE BACKBONE OF QUALITY CLINICAL CARE.

Because we want to provide the best standard of healthcare to our patients, we need our nurses to be trained to the highest professional skill and knowledge levels.

In nursing, the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) is the pinnacle of the clinical nursing track. APNs are registered nurses who have acquired expert knowledge in subject areas that require complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for extended practice through formal training. Nurses with excellent clinical leadership potential with a Masters in Nursing can be groomed to become APNs, but only after rigorous clinical preparation, mentorship and fulfilling certain practice professional requirements.

The certified APNs in the NUH provide care in a variety of healthcare settings including Coronary Care Unit, Psychiatry, Palliative care and Haematology-Oncology. The APNs in the respective specialties have led to improved patient outcomes, such as reduced waiting time to be seen at outpatient clinics and a better patient satisfaction index.

DOING IT BETTER THE NUHS WAY: CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING MEDICAL CARE DELIVERY.

The NUH’s Way was introduced in 2007 to support the development of the NUH into a world-class model for patient care delivery and clinical excellence. For that to happen, the NUH needs to continuously improve the way the hospital functions. To that end, several Rapid Improvement Events resulting in faster response times to patients and boosts productivity, leading to reduced costs and wastage. One of its key functions is the automated Medifund function, which takes over the heavy paper work of more than $5 million of applications, enabling the Medical Social Work team to focus on counselling and therapeutic work for patients and their families.

Some examples include:

A Boon for Cancer Patients

In the past, cancer patients endured long waiting periods for blood-taking and transportation of blood samples, which were required before the initiation of their chemotherapy treatment. As a result of these delays, staff were also required to stay back late frequently to attend to patients’ chemotherapy treatments.

In November 2008, a cross-functional team including nurses, patient service associates and operations staff came together to find a solution. The team successfully reduced the time between patient registration to obtaining blood test results from two hours to one. This reduction in pre-chemotherapy delays was combined with a new staggered scheduling method, thus reducing patients’ waiting time and reducing staff working beyond normal operating hours to less than once per week.

Timely Cardiac Investigations

In the past, patients arriving at the Emergency Medicine Department (EMD) with chest pain and angina pectoris were either admitted as inpatients for cardiac stress tests, or given appointments at the outpatient clinic for later dates, where the attending cardiologists would usually order cardiac stress tests.

All that changed after June 2008, with a one-stop service centre providing upfront stress tests and EMD doctors empowered to order such tests using a standard protocol.

The result? A reduction of 33% in inpatient admissions from EMD for chest pain and angina pectoris, saving approximately 670 bed days per year. Weekly visits to the specialist outpatient clinic were also reduced by 38%, saving approximately 624 visits per year. Most importantly, patients benefit from a cost-effective, timely diagnosis of whether their chest pains are cardiac-related, thus alleviating their concerns.

Race Against Time

Our Emergency Medicine Department (EMD) now operates much like a F1 race team. Like an F1 car that races against time, the EMD is constantly striving to shorten a patient’s “journey” from his arrival to his admission.

The NUH EMD receives about 150 patients every day who arrive by ambulance, and do not exhibit critical conditions. The biggest challenge faced by EMD is the bottleneck queue that quickly causes overcrowding.

Stationing a “pit stop crew” of doctors and nurses at the EMD where patients can be attended to immediately thus enables a smoother and quicker patient flow. An immediate quick assessment is followed by preliminary investigations such as blood tests and X-rays, all of which help to speed up care. The result – consultation waiting time was reduced by almost half.
ANATOMY OF A SMILE.

University Dental Cluster:
There’s a lot that goes on behind a patient’s smile. While nature equips us with a full set of teeth and a jaw to hold them, it takes a lifetime of diligent dental care to get the teeth and jaws to stay healthy and intact.

So while our patients do the best they can, the dentists and Dental Surgery Assistants at University Dental Cluster (comprising the Dental Centre and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry) are the healthcare professionals who ensure they keep their grins bright and toothy for as long as their teeth are needed.

They do this in an ultra-modern dental facility that is fully equipped and ergonomically designed for dental surgeries. Highly motivated and qualified professional staff provide general, specialised as well as emergency dental care.

In addition to basic dental procedures, patients who require more complex and tertiary level care can be referred to a full complement of dental specialists ranging from Paediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics, Endodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics to Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

In other words, patients benefit from a multi-disciplinary consultation in one sitting. For complex cases, the Special Clinics of the Dental Centre include Dental Oral Cancer Clinic and the Temporomandibular Disorders and Maxillofacial Prosthetics Clinic.

In addition, three departments – Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Preventive Dentistry and Restorative Dentistry as well as the Division of Graduate Dental Studies provide clinical support for the Dental Centre and also conduct Research and Education. The latter oversees undergraduate and postgraduate programmes leading to degrees in Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Master of Dental Surgery, Master of Science as well as a PhD by research and a continuing education curriculum for dental professionals, which includes postgraduate diploma programmes within the Division of Graduate Studies.

And that’s what’s needed to keep our patients smiling.

“By integrating techniques from engineering, mathematics and computer science, we can build a 3D model of a patient’s facial and oral tissues to aid dental clinicians in decision-making, learning and treatment. Patients will be able to make better and informed choices through treatment discussions using these highly visual models. This is a tangible example of how the partnership of engineering sciences and clinical care enhances the clinician-patient relationship.”

Associate Professor Kelvin Foong,
Senior Consultant, University Dental Cluster,
NUH, NUHS
At NUHS, more than 110 research studies have been made possible through funding in the last year. An example of breakthrough research is the work led by Professor Yoshiaki Ito, from the Department of Medicine, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. He is also the Yong Loo Lin Professor in Medical Oncology and the Deputy Director of the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore. Professor Ito and his research team discovered RUNX3, a gatekeeper gene which prevents the uncontrolled growth of cells leading to colorectal cancers, thus opening a new front in cancer research.

Donations help to fund several levels of healthcare training, from endowed professorships, bursaries, scholarships, and medals and prizes at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (including the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies) and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry to sponsorship of healthcare staff to attend conferences.

At the NUHS, we believe that cost should not be an obstacle to deserving students pursuing a good education. For example, for the past year, bursaries and scholarships have lightened the financial burden for 62 medical undergraduates. More than S$700,000 was disbursed to help medical students. In addition, S$45,900 has been distributed to 30 deserving NUS Faculty of Dentistry students through bursaries to ease the financial burden of their school fees.

One beneficiary is Dr Pang Ningyi, a recent graduate of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. “One very good example of how the Toh Kian Chui Travel Bursary made a difference would be how it made it possible for me to take up my overseas elective in Uganda, Africa at the end of my fourth year. Without the bursary, my expenses over two months to a faraway land would have wiped out my entire savings,” says Ningyi.

Donations towards NUHS’ research facilities allow researchers to translate their research findings into treatments and applications.

To the organisations and individuals who share our vision, we are much obliged. We fully understand the importance of wisely using every dollar, whether in clinical care, research or education.
A BETTER SYSTEM.

"Visionary leadership saw to the creation of the NUHS. A team unified by common purpose to lead the way, backed by talented staff committed to bringing the best of clinical care, teaching and research to Singaporeans is what the country’s first academic medical centre is all about."

It’s been a year and a half since the NUH, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry were brought together to form Singapore’s first academic medical centre. The Ministers for Health and Education, the Permanent Secretary for Health and the leadership at the National University of Singapore made this farsighted decision.

We have made good progress and our staff are gelling well as a team. It is progress that would not have been possible without a shared vision by the leadership team at NUHS. We can expect to see more significant progress and results when additional space for patient care, education and research becomes available in the three new buildings under construction, as well as a fourth that is currently being designed.

In the field of medical research, there have been encouraging results and some of these are highlighted in this report.

This inaugural yearbook presents to you some of our award winners, vital contributions by individuals, and breakthroughs made at the NUHS. Our brief history has already yielded research discoveries, introduced better clinical care practices and lined up some of the best teachers and mentors that medical, dental and nursing students can learn from, or model themselves after. These successes augur well as we continue with our mission to bring the best of medicine to Singaporeans.

LIM YONG WAH
Chairman, NUHS Board
A BETTER FUTURE.

At the National University Health System, our fundamental aim is to bring the very best of healthcare to Singaporeans and residents. We do this by harvesting the fruits of our research efforts, conducted by respected clinician-scientists, and turning these discoveries into useful, beneficial treatments for our patients. At the same time, we are also training and moulding future generations of Singapore’s doctors, dentists and nurses and preparing them for the healthcare challenges of tomorrow.

In the area of medical research, encouraging breakthroughs have already occurred.

From the point of immediate impact, NUHS researchers led by Adjunct Associate Professor Goh Boon Cher have developed a formula to calculate precisely how much blood-thinning medication should be given to stroke patients based on his pivotal finding about genes. We all know that the best solution for cancer is early detection. Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan and his team from the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium was awarded the inaugural Translational and Clinical Research Flagship grant by the National Medical Research Council in July 2007 to find new and more effective ways of stopping the disease, which is the fifth most common cancer in Singapore men and accounting for 250 deaths every year. Stomach cancer is usually picked up at a late stage and existing treatments are far from satisfactory.

One of the key projects in this programme is the clinical trial focusing on early diagnosis through screening. Since the start of the grant in 2007, 2,300 people have been screened and 10 people were found with silent cancers so early that they would not have been detected on routine care. These patients would not have been diagnosed and effectively cured, if not for this research programme. An average of one early cancer was found per 160 tests.

Next, consider the exciting discovery of the RUNX3 gene by Professor Yoshiaki Ito at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. He and his team have determined that RUNX3 is a gatekeeper gene that determines whether or not colorectal cancer begins in the human body. Then there are examples of research initiatives in other fields: Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng and his multi-disciplinary, multi-national team of physicians and researchers are investigating the growing epidemic of metabolic disease in a unique fashion, i.e. diabetes in Singapore, with the ultimate objective of finding a solution. Yet others from the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine have found ways to generate pure insulin producing cells which may prove the key to not just treating diabetes but potentially reversing the effect of the disease.

Good news also emanated from the Clinical Care and Education spheres at NUHS; important awards and achievements have been secured. In 2008 and 2009, half of the National Medical Excellence Awards went to clinicians and researchers at the NUHS. The National Medical Excellence Awards is the most prestigious award in medicine – the medical equivalent of the Oscars.

A substantial proportion of National Healthcare Group grants were awarded to the National University Hospital in 2008, namely the Small Innovative Grant and the Researcher-Investor-Scientist-Enabler Grant. Our nurses have also done us proud too, with four of them winning Healthcare Humanity awards for their courage, dedication, and compassion.

Three of our outstanding doctors won the coveted Clinician-Scientist award, which enables them to carry out internationally competitive translational and clinical research.

Here, in these few examples describing the work of our dedicated healthcare professionals, is a snapshot of the NUHS. We believe that committed people, convicted by the power of ideas and given the space to bring them to life, can engender significant and positive improvements to the quality of healthcare. It has been an exciting year and a half since our inception: we look forward to shaping and bringing the best of healthcare to Singaporeans.
THE MANAGEMENT TEAM.

From Left Seated:
A medical oncologist-haematologist, Professor John Eu-Li Wong serves as the Deputy Chief Executive of the NUH, Dean of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Director of the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore. He jointly founded the Cancer Therapeutics Research Group, a multi-national consortium of nine institutions. Prof Wong is a member of the International Education Council for Molecular Targeted Therapy for Cancer and has served on the American Society of Clinical Oncology International Affairs Committee and has been a faculty member of the International Oncology Foundation Advisory Board. Prof Wong’s research interests lie in the development of new drugs, and new treatment strategies, as well as the differences between Asian and Caucasian cancer.

Joe Sim is the CEO of the NUH. He is responsible for running the 960-bed tertiary hospital to fulfill its public sector mission in providing cost-effective and accessible care with excellent outcomes. He is also responsible for setting the strategic direction and overseeing the development of the academic mission in NUH.

For the Dean of the NUS Faculty of Dentistry, Associate Professor Keson Tan, teaching and research have become his passions and callings. The avid teacher’s commitments include the Undergraduate Fixed Prosthodontic and Occlusion programs and he also serves as the Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics Program at NUS. Research-wise, he has a natural inclination for dental implant biomimetics and IT applications in dentistry. A/Prof Tan is also the Chair of the University Dental Cluster.

2008:

FEBRUARY

FORMATION OF THE NUHS — The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health announces the formation of the NUH and appoints Professor Tan Chorh Chuan as Chief Executive. A Board is appointed to guide the strategic directions, chaired by Mr Lim Yong Wah. Members include Ms Yong Yingyi, Permanent Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health as well as members with extensive expertise in law, finance and human resource.

MARCH

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2008 — Professor Lee Eng Hin receives the National Outstanding Clinician Mentor Award. He is the Director of Division of Graduate Medical Studies at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and a Senior Consultant with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery Cluster at NUH.

Professor Yap Hui Kim, a Senior Consultant with the Department of Paediatrics, University Children’s Medical Institute, NUH, wins the National Outstanding Clinician Award for her exceptional contributions to clinical work.

Professor Donald Tan from the Department of Ophthalmology at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine wins the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Award for his work in clinical and translational medicine.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE GROUP GRANTS — In Financial Year 2008, the NUH achieves almost half of National Healthcare Group’s Small Innovative Grant; and Research Investigator-Scientist-Enabler Grant. The former is a short-term grant designed to support clinical research that answers specific, targeted research questions or to perform pilot or feasibility studies. The latter provides funding for a portion of the clinician’s salary commensurating with higher time spent in research.

LAUNCH OF VIVA-UNIVERSITY CHILDREN’S CANCER CENTRE — NUH’s children’s cancer facilities, previously located at two different wards, come under one roof at the Viva-University Children’s Cancer Centre in NUH.

Equipped with facilities to better care for young cancer patients, it is also the headquarters for the St. Jude-Singapore International Outreach programme and centre for clinical and translational research work.

APRIL

CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE — Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong officiates the groundbreaking ceremony for this new flagship building, which will house some of the world’s most talented researchers and educators to provide solutions to Asia’s medical challenges. Expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2010, this Centre will stand proud at 15 storeys high and provide space for teaching, learning, training, and research. Some of the nation’s key biomedical and medical education resources will be situated here, including a state of the art Clinical Imaging and Research Centre and digital media classrooms for teaching medical and nursing students.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AWARD — NUH’s Dr Kao Shih Ling — Registrar, University Medicine Cluster — is honoured with the above mentioned award for raising the alert (and patient management) for the use of the illegal product, Power 1 Walnut.

THE WORLD DENTAL EDUCATION SOCIETY — FDI World Dental Federation donates $250,000 for establishment of awards for undergraduate dental students to embark on overseas attachments.

MAY

PS21 STAR SERVICE AWARD — NUH’s Dr Low How Cheng — Associate Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University Medicine Cluster — wins the national award for consistently high standards of service excellence.

HEALTHCARE HUMANITY AWARDS — Four NUH nurses — Senior Nurse Managers Zaajah Bte Sanif and Senior Nurse Manager Ong Hwee Sen; Nurse Clinician Tai Sook Ping; and Staff Nurse Chen Xiao Juan — receive the prize award for their courage, extraordinary dedication, selflessness and compassion.

SINGAPORE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR AWARD — Professor Daniel Tenen and Professor Wong Tien Yen from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine receive the Singapore Translational Research Investigator Awards in recognition of their outstanding qualifications in translational and clinical research.

CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD — Associate Professor Allen Yeoh Eng Juh — Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatrics, University Children’s Medical Institute, the NUH and NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine — wins the Clinician Scientist Award. Associate Professor Cheng Wei Joo — Consultant, Department of Haematology-Oncology, National University Hospital, Singapore, is also a member of the Asian-Pacifc region. He has actively led the application of state-of-the-art technology for process improvement in NUH.

The Chief Executive of the NUHS, Associate Professor Benjamin Ong has practiced as a senior neurologist for more than 10 years and has been an academic staff member of the NUS since 1986. He has held portfolios as Chair of Medicine and the Chairman of the Medical Board at the NUH. His research efforts have been in neuroepidemiology and the Chairman of the Medical Board of Dentistry, Associate Professor Keson Tan, teaching and research have become his passions and callings. The avid teacher’s commitments include the Undergraduate Fixed Prosthodontic and Occlusion programs and he also serves as the Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics Program at NUS. Research-wise, he has a natural inclination for dental implant biomimetics and IT applications in dentistry. A/Prof Tan is also the Chair of the University Dental Cluster.

A GOOD YEAR.
University Cancer Institute, Singapore and Department of Medicine, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine – is given the Clinician Scientist Award. The awards enable the doctors to carry out internationally competitive translational and clinical research. Associate Professor Aung Tin from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine also receives this award.

JUNE

SWISSCO PRESENTS CASH GIFT OF S$200,000 TO NEEDY MEDICAL STUDENTS – The cash gift will award two bursaries valued at S$20,000 each and it is named the Swissco International Bursary.

CANCER RESEARCHER HONOURED – Professor Daniel Tenen is appointed as the inaugural Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor in Medical Sciences. The Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professorship in Medical Sciences was made possible by a generous S$2.6 million gift from Professor Saw Swee Hock to enable world-renowned professors to teach and conduct research at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine for two years.

MEDICAL SCIENCE EDUCATOR HONOURED – Professorial Fellow Matthew Gwee from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is the first Asian to be elected to the International Association of Medical Science Educators Board.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE – NUH Staff Nurse Chua Chue Teng is awarded MOH Gold Medal for Outstanding Performance in the Diploma in Nursing course. This course is part of the Strategic Manpower Conversion Programme, a joint initiative supported by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency and the Ministry of Health.

CRYOSURGERY GIVES HOPE TO BONE CANCER AND TUMOUR PATIENTS – Assistant Professor Sainathan Suresh Nathan (Consultant, Adult Reconstructive Surgery – Assistant Professor Saminathan – Professor Daniel Tenen) from the Division, University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Medicine is the first Asian to be elected to the International Association of Medical Science Educators Board.


MANPOWER AWARDS – 53 NUH staff – 23 doctors, 18 nurses, nine health sciences professionals and three administrators – receive the NHG Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) Fellowship Awards 2008.

MERIT AWARD – Six NUH nurses receive Ministry of Health Nurses Day Merit Award for their dedication to the nursing profession and their patients.

SUPPORT FOR TOTAL DEFENCE – The NUH clinches the Distinguished Defence Partner Award for its support for Total Defence.

AUGUST

NUS AMERICA FOUNDATION RECEIVES A CASH GIFT OF US$500,000 FOR NEEDY MEDICAL STUDENTS – Named the Seybold and Suen Lin Jia Scholarship, the cash gift will award four scholarships valued at US$12,500 each.

NUS YONG LOO LIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ROLLS OUT PHASE I OF ITS REVISED MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM – The medical school embarks on a new phase of its curriculum review in 2006 with the aim of devising an outcome-focused curriculum and implemented interventional treatment, physiotherapy and x-ray), and post-surgery counselling.

JULY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR CLASS OF 2008 – In 2008, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine confers 221 Bachelor’s Degrees, 220 Master of Medicine Degrees and 50 Master of Science Degrees. In addition, 120 Graduate Diplomas and 78 Doctoral Degrees (including one M.D.) are awarded. Dr Tan Chia Hsin is the Valedictorian who graduates with honours as well as six faculty medals, and gets on the Dean’s List in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008. The NUS Faculty of Dentistry confers 33 Bachelor’s Degrees, 16 Master’s Degrees and two Doctoral Degrees. In addition, six Graduate Diplomas are awarded and Dr Hu Shijia is the Valedictorian graduate with nine medals and one book prize. He was on the Dean’s List in 2005, 2006 and 2007.


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Phase I of this curriculum in the 2008-09 academic year. This curriculum will lay a firm foundation in the basic medical sciences while providing students with high quality clinical experiences. The curriculum content emphasizes clinical relevance of the basic sciences and early patient exposure from the beginning of the course. For the holistic development of our future doctors, four longitudinal tracks, like the Health Ethics, Law and Professionalism track, which span all five years of the medical curriculum, were also integrated into the curriculum.

NATIONAL DAY AWARDS – Five NUH staff receive the National Day Awards 2008 (One Commendation Medal and four Efficiency Medals. The awards acknowledge NUH staff for their commitment to patient care and to Singapore.

THE NUH & NATIONAL HEALTHCARE GROUP SIGN A MOU WITH ASTRazeneca TO DEVELOP ANTI-CANCER COMPOUNDS – The NUH and NHG sign a MOU with AstraZeneca to develop anti-cancer compounds for inoperable liver cancer. Adjunct Associate Professor Goh Boon Cher, from the Department of Haematology-Oncology, National University Cancer Institute, Singapore, is involved in the clinical testing of AstraZeneca compounds on inoperable liver cancer, 2008. This collaboration also includes a training programme placement with the Manchester Cancer Research Centre.

SEPTEMBER

A GATEKEEPER GENE – Professor Yushikai Ito, the Yong Loo Lin Professor in Medical Oncology, discovers a gatekeeper gene, its absence would lead to the growth and development of colon cancer.

TIE-UP WITH BAYER SCHERING PHARMA – NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Bayer Schering Pharma will jointly embark on three translational cancer research projects in a research agreement worth S$3.5 million.

RADIOGRAPHER’S AWARD – Two Radiation Therapists – Mary Chan, Chief Radiation Therapist and Tan Chee Siong, Senior Radiation Therapist – are appointed as the Singapore Society of Radiographers Gold Award.

HANDPICKED BY MOH – Mr Wu Tuck Seng, Senior Manager, Pharmacy Department, NUH is appointed Senior Manager, Pharmacy Department, NUH, is appointed President of the inaugural Singapore Pharmacy Council.

PRESTIGIOUS APPOINTMENT – Mr Chew Lip Teck, Senior Radiation Physicist, Radiotherapy Centre, NUH, is appointed President of the Society of Medical Physicists.

WINNING POSTERS – NUH’s poster win four awards (One second runner-up and four merit prizes) at the Fifth Ministry of Health Clinical Quality Improvement Poster Competition.

FIRST ROBOTIC SURGERY FOR GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER IN SE ASIA AND SINGAPORE – The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, NUH, conducts the first robotic surgery for gynaecological cancer in South East Asia and Singapore. The new surgical option is less painful, results in lesser scarring, allows patients to get back on their feet faster while being effective in removing cancer. The NUH team comprises Dr Jeffrey Low, Prof Iancheran (both Senior Consultants), Dr Joseph Ng (Consultant), Dr Fong Yoke Fai (Consultant) and Dr Suresh Nair (Visiting Consultant).

NUH DOCTOR DEVELOPS SCORECARD TO PREDICT ASIANS’ RISK OF COLORECTAL CANCER – Associate Professor Yeah Khay Guan (Senior Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, NUH), who works as a Senior Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, NUH, led a project which develops a scorecard to help predict Asians’ risk for colorectal cancer, the most common cancer in Singapore. It is the first study to calculate colorectal cancer risk among Asians.

NOVEMBER

RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS – Dr Lim Sai Kiang and Dr Li Guodong, both research associate professors at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, score a breakthrough in developing an unlimited number of pure insulin-producing cells.
BETTER CLINICAL PROCESS – NUH Teams win Awards (Best Sustainability Award 2008 & Best Project 2008) at Sixth Clinical Practice Improvement Programme Convention and Graduation Ceremony. The teams are rewarded for improving clinical processes.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS – A glittering night for 12 NUH staff at the National Healthcare Group Annual Scientific Congress. The accolades include NHG Doctor Award, NHG Young Investigator Awards, Best Oral, Best posters, and others.

EXCELLENT SERVICE AWARDS – 665 NUH staff receive the Excellent Service Awards, which recognise individuals or organisations who have delivered outstanding service. This award serves as a blueprint for developing service champions.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION – NUH’s Dr Sophia Ang (Vice Chairman, Medical Board and Senior Consultant, Anaesthesia) is honoured with the National Healthcare Group Outstanding Citizenship Award for helping National Healthcare Group achieve its strategic organisational goals to improve healthcare delivery.

NURSING AWARDS – Principal Assistant Nurse Sumaryuni Binte Ismail (Ward 96) and Senior Assistant Nurse Salmah Binte Subtu (Ward 44) receive the Merit Awards given during the 3rd Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award for Enrolled Nurses Presentation Ceremony. They receive the award from Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan. Founded by the D.S. Lee Foundation, this award aims to recognise promising and talented enrolled nurses dedicated to advancing the nursing profession locally.

DECEMBER

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HEART CENTRE, SINGAPORE – NUHS sets up the National University Heart Centre, Singapore, which brings together cardiac specialists and experts from a multitude of medical and surgical disciplines.

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP AT THE NUHS – Professor Tan Chorh Chuan steps down as NUHS Chief Executive as he assumes the appointment of NUS President. Associate Professor Benjamin Ong succeeds Professor Tan as NUHS Chief Executive, while Professor John Wong, Dean of NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, takes on the role of Deputy Chief Executive.

NEW NUH CHAIRMAN, MEDICAL BOARD – Associate Professor Aymeric Lim, Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery, University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery Cluster, succeeds Associate Professor Benjamin Ng as NUH Chairman, Medical Board.

DOUBLE-AWARD WINNER – NUH’s Dr Ng Ying Woon (Associate Consultant) from the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology clinches two awards (Best Oral Presentation and Asia Pacific Council On Contraception (APCOC) Talent Encouragement Award) at the Second Congress of APCOC.

2009

FEBRUARY

MEDICAL EDUCATOR HONOURED – Associate Professor Koh Dow Rhoon is presented with the Mentorship Innovation and Leadership in Educational Scholarship (MILES) Award at the 6th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) for his significant contributions to medical education and the APMEC series.

MARCH

NEW CEO FOR THE NUH – Mr Joe Sim, then Chief Operating Officer succeeds Mr Chua Song Khim as the Chief Executive Officer, while Mr Noel Cheah takes on the role of Chief Operating Officer.

GOH FOUNDATION GIVES S$12 MILLION TO ADVANCE PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY – NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine receives a S$12 million gift from the Goh Foundation to advance knowledge in the treatment of childhood cancer under the Viva Children’s Cancer Program, established by the Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer. These funds will be used to establish the Viva-Goh Foundation Professorship in Paediatric Oncology, as well as to embark on four research programmes for Bone Marrow Transplant, Childhood Leukemias, Bone Cancer and After Completion of Therapy.

A FIRST FOR THE NUHS – Professor Lee Chuen Neng (Deputy Director, National University Heart Centre, Singapore and Chair, University Surgical Cluster) is the first Singaporean president for the Asian Society for Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery.

GOING FORWARD, SINGAPORE’S FIRST ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE AIMS TO DO BETTER.

Whether it’s in pursuit of meaningful research that will lead to life-saving and life-changing treatments and cures, or turning out better-informed and motivated doctors, dentists and nurses, we believe in doing things well for our patients, so that they in turn can get better.