

DEAN'S MESSAGE BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE

Ranga Krishnan
Dean, Duke-NUS Graduate
Medical School Singapore

I am fortunate to be receiving the baton from Professor R. Sanders Williams, our founding dean, who played a major role in the development of Duke-NUS. He recruited Dr. Patrick Casey and Dr. Robert Kamei, our true pioneers, who have set the stage and built the foundation for the development of our school.

I am committed to building on this foundation and on our tradition of excellence. I am also committed to spurring the next phase of growth in Duke-NUS' exciting journey.

Our building is taking shape

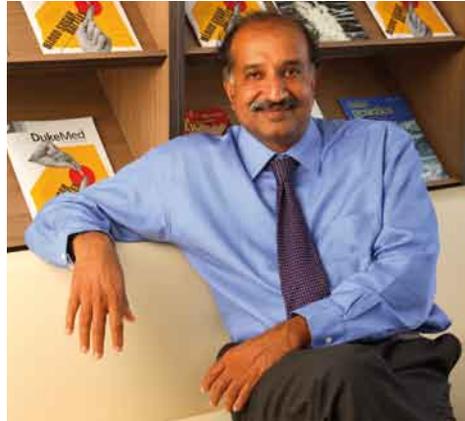
We recently commemorated a key construction milestone on July 22. We held a Topping Up Ceremony to mark the completion of structural works. The ceremony was graced by Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health. More than 150 guests took the time to be with us. The Duke-NUS school building is named after the late philanthropist, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, who envisioned Singapore to be a center for excellence in medicine, research and education.

We are slated to move into our spanking, new school facilities in the Khoo Teck Puat Building by mid-2009. This is ahead of schedule. It will have some 24,000 square metres of office, lab and education space. Three collaboration pods have been built within the building's atrium. These are meant to encourage



The Khoo Teck Puat Building will be ready by early next year.

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team bonding, with the hope of providing 'inspiration' for students and researchers.

We are growing

Our temporary space is fully occupied. Our family comprises 256 talents, of whom 82 are regular-rank faculty (as at July 2008). We are eagerly waiting to move into our new facility. Our family will continue to grow in the coming months. We will continue to place emphasis on talent attraction and the development of intellectual capital as this brings value to Singapore and to our mission, which is to produce a future generation of physician-scientists.

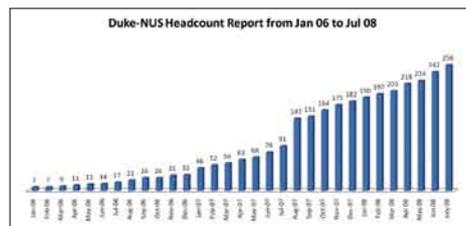


Chart 1: Duke-NUS headcount from 2006-2008

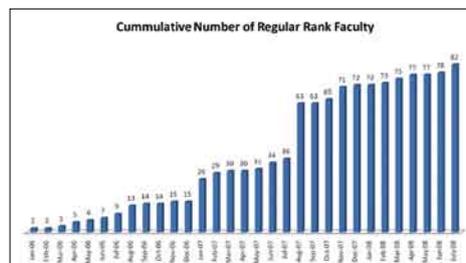


Chart 2: Growth in Regular-rank Faculty

Our students are doing well

We have completed the first academic year on a very bright note. Our inaugural class has passed all courses with flying colours. They have performed

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exceptionally well in the Practice Board examination given by the National Board of Medical Examiners. Both our students and those at Duke take the examination a year earlier than most medical schools. Our students are performing well on par with their cohort at the Duke University School of Medicine, Durham.

Despite their hectic schedules, the Duke-NUS inaugural class has also carved out time to lead and support various charitable causes during the year. The students have raised funds for the families of needy hospital patients, provided basic oral hygiene classes and kits to children in Rempang, Indonesia, as well as worked with patients on Arts for Health programs at the Singapore General Hospital. (see photo story on pg 6)

The pioneering class has now entered their clinical rotations at the hospitals, working very closely with the medical teams there. Duke-NUS is grateful to the clinical leaders, senior clinicians, the nurses and other members of the allied health team, who have prepared and developed an outstanding plan for our students' clinical rotations.

Our new entering class of students looks just as promising as our inaugural class; if not better. A class of almost 50 students has started their first-year M.D. studies on August 1. The students come from 13 countries around the world; with a broad base of undergraduate degrees that range from anthropology, the humanities, engineering to the sciences, from universities around the world.

Added shine on our research

The Young Scientist Award 2008

Dr. Wang Hongyan, an Assistant Professor with the Neuroscience and Behavioural Disorders Research Program, has been conferred The Young Scientist Award (YSA). The award recognizes young researchers who are actively engaged in R&D



Assistant Prof. Wang Hongyan

in Singapore, and who have shown great potential to be world-class researchers in their field of expertise. This award is organized by the Singapore National Academy of Science and is supported by A*STAR.

STaR & CSA Awards 2008

Three of our research faculty, Prof. David Virshup, Prof. Michael Chee, and Associate Prof. Ong Sin Tiong, have earlier garnered the nation's highest awards given out by the Ministry of Health and A*STAR for clinical and translational research. These awards will enable our researchers to concentrate more on their research projects on cancer (Prof. Virshup and Associate Prof. Ong) and sleep deprivation and decision-making (Prof. Chee), in the hope of unlocking discoveries that will benefit Singapore patients.

Key appointments



Prof. John Rush

team in research affairs and our signature research programs.

Prof. John Rush is an internationally-renowned clinician researcher and mentor who has developed innovative programs for clinical research and training. We are indeed delighted that he has moved to Singapore from the U.S. to join us as Vice Dean, Clinical Sciences. Prof. Rush was previously at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he was Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Prof. David Matchar joined us from Duke, where he heads the center for health policy and research at Duke University Medical Center. At Duke-NUS, Prof. Matchar will be the inaugural Director of the Program in

Health Services Research and will be recruiting outstanding investigators in this area. Prof. Matchar is internationally renowned for his research on clinical policy development and implementation, and health practice improvement.



Prof. David Matchar

We have also welcomed Prof. Shirish Shenolikar who joined us as Associate Dean, Research, from Pfizer Global Research & Development where he was Senior Director for Cardiovascular Molecular Sciences. Prof. Shenolikar was a key member in the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University from 1991 to 2004, serving as Vice Chair of that Department from 2001 - 2004. Dr. Shenolikar is a leading authority in the area of protein phosphorylation and its impact on cell physiology and neuronal signaling.



Prof. Shirish Shenolikar

Thanks to our leaders

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to Mr Tony Chew, Chairman of our Governing Board and Professor R. Sanders Williams. Duke-NUS has been able to meet its milestones, and in some cases, to surpass expectations, as a direct result of their visionary leadership. I am pleased Professor Williams will remain a member of the Duke-NUS Governing Board, and that we will continue to benefit from his guidance.

I also wish to record our gratitude to Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Deputy Chairman of the Governing Board and Chairman of the Academic and Research

V-PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT ON DR. NANCY ANDREWS



Duke University School of Medicine is proud to be led by the first woman to have ever been appointed as Dean of a Top Ten US medical school. Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD, a renowned researcher and Dean for basic sciences and graduate studies at Harvard Medical School, took on her challenging role on Oct 1, 2007.

Nancy came to medicine by an indirect route. She grew up in a family that highly values service to society but did not consist of any physicians, so medicine wasn't top of her mind. However, her interest in science was triggered at high school and she went to college planning to be a scientist. She began to work in the research lab of Joan Steitz, a leader in RNA biology, during her third year at Yale. She discovered how rewarding it was to pursue a career as a

physician-scientist and immediately signed up for medical school under the Harvard/MIT MD-PhD program.

"Research has always been my first interest, though I love working with patients too," she says.

Nancy was a pediatric hematologist/oncologist by training and completed her residency at Children's Hospital, Boston, and a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at Children's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston.

She chose Pediatrics because she enjoys working with children and young families. "They are our future," she says. She also has always been interested in genetics and biological mechanisms, particularly the serious diseases of childhood as they are more interesting than adult diseases, from a clinical and research perspective. On the whole, she loves being around pediatricians as they are wonderful people.

"I am reluctant to generalize too much but I think women are, on average, well suited for medical specialties that require a brilliant and inquisitive intellect, deep compassion, outstanding technical skills and leadership ability. At Duke University School of Medicine, women students are attracted to the full range of opportunities for practice and clinical care," she says.

She feels that women may be more likely to put others before themselves – something that is very valuable in medicine. "Intuition is important in both science and

medicine, and women may be more willing to listen to their intuition than men are."

The domination of women in medicine is evident at Duke-NUS in Singapore. 70 percent of Duke-NUS' first class in Aug 2007 were women, and will make up about 63 percent of the Aug 2008 intake. In Singapore, the medical profession has – until very recently – been dominated by men.

In Nancy's opinion, women today feel they have more career options than they did several decades ago. It also appears that men are choosing business and other fields instead of medicine these days.

She sees the future of medicine for women to be exciting since advancements in technology have availed more information about patients and their health than we can handle. "It will be fascinating to see how great minds in medicine and in the social sciences help us deal with these dilemmas," she adds.

Her personal advice to all individuals aspiring to be physician-scientists: "Be brave and adventurous. Don't be afraid to venture into uncharted territory in biomedical science – that's where the fun is. Be certain of your own values and let them be your compass. Use the many gifts you have to make a real difference in the world."

Thank you Nancy for inspiring us on this medical journey!

DEAN'S MESSAGE

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Committee, for his astute oversight of Duke-NUS. His skilful leadership and guidance in both capacities, has enabled senior Duke-NUS management, to springboard from small steps to large strides.

Professor Tan has stepped down from the Duke-NUS Governing Board with effect from July 1, to fully concentrate on his new role as NUS' Acting President.

I am pleased to welcome NUS Provost, Professor Tan Eng Chye. He succeeds Professor Tan Chorh Chuan on the Governing Board as well as the chairmanship of the Academic and Research Committee.

I also wish to thank former Governing Board members, Ms Chang Hwee Nee

and Mrs Danielle Heng, for their valuable contributions to the Governing Board. We welcome two new Board members, Mr Loh Ngai Seng (Ministry of Education) and Mr Lew Chuen Hong (Ministry of Trade and Industry).

Mr Tony Chew, Professor Sanders Williams, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and our stakeholders, are the unique factors that have shaped Duke-NUS into the model of success it is today. We have grown in local and international recognition. We have also created a unique brand in medical education and research that is growing in acceptance and acclaim in a matter of three short years. I thank each and every one of you for being a part of Duke-NUS and for being so instrumental in its success. I look

forward to your continued guidance and support for the school.

Heartiest congratulations

As I final note, I am pleased to share that Mr Tony Chew has been conferred the Public Service Star Award 2008. The Award recognizes Mr Chew's significant milestone contributions to Singapore and his inspirational Chairmanship of the Duke-NUS Governing Board. It also celebrates his many years of outstanding public service contributions. The Governing Board, Duke-NUS leadership, faculty and staff, offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr Chew on this occasion.

V-EVENTS

THE BUILDING BRICKS OF SUCCESS



Our Guest of Honor and Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan addressing the crowd

July 22, 2008 was a clear day with just enough sunshine for some 180 people to come together at the new Duke-NUS campus to have a first glance at our new building. More importantly, it was a joyous celebration of another significant milestone – that of the completion of structural works in the building. The event highlighted the school's excellent progress on several fronts, and Duke-NUS faculty, staff and students are looking forward to operating from the new premises by academic year 2009/2010.

"Duke-NUS indeed has lofty aspirations, but we are confident of meeting them," said Dr Ranga Krishnan in his speech. "Duke-NUS hopes one day to be an enduring icon of Singapore's future in the biomedical sciences; just as much as Outram Campus is an icon for Singapore's historical link to medical education and training. We are working closely and in tandem with Singapore General Hospital and SingHealth, to leverage on our vision

and synergies, to promote academic medical excellence."

In his speech, Mr Tony Chew, Chairman of the Duke-NUS Governing Board said the school building has been named the Khoo Teck Puat Building, in honour of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, a philanthropist who believed that medicine and education are important to Singapore's growth. His Estate had generously donated \$80 million last January to boost Duke-NUS' biomedical research programs and initiatives. He also thanked the stakeholders for their leadership and support, which have been key to Duke-NUS' success.

Ms Mavis Khoo said that the Trustees



Setup of the marquee at the construction site

are sure that the students will benefit from the opportunity to be involved in some of the world's most innovative and ground-breaking medical research programs during their study here at Duke-NUS. "We believe that through our gesture, we can help alleviate the suffering of patients in Singapore and around the world. This is what my late father would have wanted," she said.

In his speech, Guest Of Honor, Health Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan, he remarked that Duke-NUS' progress over the last two years had exceeded his expectations and that our presence has helped the SingHealth community sharpen its clinical and translational research strategy. He also added that the Government was keen to explore a longer term engagement with Duke University. An inter-agency committee has been formed to develop ideas for a deeper collaboration.

The Topping Up Ceremony brought smiles to everyone's faces as the VVIPs and officials were called to the stage and given a brick each to complete the word 'Duke-NUS' on a huge plaque. The ceremony symbolized the structural completion of the Khoo Teck Puat Building and the success that Duke-NUS has achieved because of the collaborative efforts of its partners. The event ended with a scrumptious buffet lunch and each guest departing with a laser-etched crystal paperweight of the new campus.



Her Excellency Ambassador Patricia L. Herbold, American Ambassador to Singapore, being greeted by Dr Ranga Krishnan



The VVIPs participating in the significant Topping Up activity

V-STUDENTS

THE SECOND CLASS GETS OFF ON A HIGH NOTE



The Duke University student leaders meet the new students over breakfast

On July 30, 2008, the social area outside the Large Teaching Hall was once again abuzz with excitement, cheerful chatter



The new students listen attentively as Dr Kamei briefs them about the Foundations Course

and the aroma of a hearty breakfast. It was the first day of school for our new batch of Year One medical students.

Despite some initial nervousness, the students were keen to acquaint themselves quickly over breakfast as this was the first time that the whole class was assembling. Also amongst them were some visiting professors and four Duke University School of Medicine student leaders, who flew in specially to offer their support and encouragement. This was an initiative taken to build relationships and strengthen ties with our counterparts in Duke, Durham.

The students were welcomed by the Vice Dean for Education, Dr Bob Kamei, Dean Ranga Krishnan and other professors. As the students introduced themselves one by one, the ethnic diversity of the 48 new students from 13 different countries was immediately apparent. Three of the pioneer Duke-NUS students were also present to share some advice.

Over the next 2.5 weeks, the students participated in an intense Foundations Course that armed them with basic skills to undertake the challenges ahead. The course included a retreat led by Duke Corporate Education focusing on working in teams, a leadership academy developed by Dr. Jean Spaulding, the beginning of the practice course, an introduction to the unique TeamGMS method of learning, and a session held by the senior students on adapting to life in Duke-NUS.

For most students, TeamGMS is an innovative experience. Said new Singaporean student Daniel He, "Having been used to a more conventional mode of learning, TeamGMS was a real eye

opener for me. It quickly became apparent that the interactive dynamics of a team sharing information, supporting each other and working towards a common goal made the monumental

workload seem surmountable." The students learnt a lot during the intensive 2.5 weeks, which culminated in the donning of white coats at the traditional White Coat Ceremony on August 15, 2008.

The White Coat Ceremony is a remarkable and personal milestone that marks the new medical student's transition from being a general member of the community into the calling of practitioners of medicine. Donning the white coat symbolizes both the societal role and responsibilities bestowed upon a physician.

The Ceremony, held at the College of Medicine Building, saw 220 attendees,

including the Guest of Honor, Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan, Acting President, National University of Singapore. Other guests included the students' family, faculty members and the Year Two Duke-NUS students.

This year, two special guests from Duke University participated in the event – Dr Nancy Andrews, Dean of Duke University School of Medicine & Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and Dr Jean Spaulding, Trustee of the Duke Endowment and Consultant at Duke University Medical Center and Health System.



The Class of 2012 in their new white coats



The Guest of Honor Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan addressing the guests at the White Coat Ceremony

V-STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH HEART... OUR CLASS OF 2011

Visiting the children in Rempang



Over a weekend in May 2008, nine students from the Class of 2011 made a quick trip to Rempang, Indonesia to visit the underprivileged children at the Asrama Santa Theresia School.

Despite their heavy academic schedule, the students

boarded a ferry headed for Indonesia right after that Friday's End-of-Module review test, armed with posters and educational material, prepared by the class. They shared tips on dental hygiene and showed the children the correct way to brush their teeth. Imparting good hygiene and basic healthcare advice, it was a truly meaningful experience for the students, the children and their families. The attentive looks of the children and smiles on everyone's faces captured the spirit of this trip.



Art Therapy Sessions

Before the end of their academic year, 13 students from the Class of 2011 and Dr Ooi Choon Jin worked with Singapore General Hospital's patients from the Eating Disorders Clinic to conduct art therapy sessions under the hospital's Arts for Health program. It was a double celebration as the launch of this exhibition also coincided with Duke-NUS' first anniversary. From July 22 till the end of August 2008, the wall was adorned with artwork created by the patients during the students' art therapy sessions.



DUKE SCHOLARS IN SINGAPORE

From September 2007 till June 2008, two students from Duke University (Durham) spent about nine months in Duke-NUS laboratories for their 3rd year research. Misha Mutizwa and Brett Coolman were recipients of the Duke-Singapore Student Scholar Fellowship and mentored by Dr David Virshup and Dr Patrick Casey respectively. During their Singapore stint, they also acted as mentors to the 1st year Duke-NUS students.

Before they returned to the U.S, we asked them to share some of their thoughts and experiences with Vital Science. Both of them found the heat and humidity immediately striking and overbearing at times, but this is what they had to say:

VS: Was this your first time in Singapore? What was your first impression of the country?

Misha: I'd never been to Asia before but it was also immediately apparent that it's ethnically an incredibly diverse place.

Brett: This was my first trip to Singapore. It is a lovely city the people are very friendly, the public transport is excellent, and the local food is very tasty (I'm not a fan of the durian fruit though).

VS: Is the laboratory equipment on par

in terms of quality and level of technology?

Misha: Definitely. And I think that funding for research is generally much better in Singapore than it is in the US right now, so it's a great place to be if you're set on a career in science.

Brett: I imagine that varies on a lab to lab basis but I believe we had access to the same level of technology as available in the States.

VS: Did you get to interact with the first year students much?

Misha: Yes, but I would have liked to spend more time with them. I went to some of their advising lunches and attended certain events with them. But scheduling was always a problem -- it was a busy year for them and for me as well.

Brett: Yes, I attended weekly "college" meetings to discuss how things were going and share my experience and occasionally advice on having been through a very similar curriculum.

VS: What is one thing about Singapore or one thing that happened here that you'll never forget?

Misha: Coming from the US, being able to see wild monkeys at the MacRitchie Reservoir was pretty incredible.

Brett: I certainly won't forget the friendships I made with colleagues and students. I plan to keep in touch and maybe even collaborate on a project some day.



Brett cools off in our hot weather



Misha in Malaysia. He had a great time exploring Asia during his stint in Singapore.