Singapore’s Natural History Museum opens
Precious Raffles Collection on show

The Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM), Singapore's first and only natural history museum, was officially opened by Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Singapore President and NUS Chancellor on 18 April. The Museum traces its roots to the original Raffles Museum set up in 1878, which is the oldest such institution in the region.

Dr Tan graced the special occasion with more than 250 guests in attendance. They included Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; NUS' National Heritage Board and Honorary Chairman of the Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; 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NUS NEWS

Changes on NUS Board of Trustees

NUS has appointed three new members to its Board of Trustees effective 1 April.

They are: Mr Goh Choon Phong, CEO of Singapore Airlines (SIA); Mr Chaly Mah Chee Kheong, CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific; and Mr Ng Wei King, Joint Managing Partner of WongPartnership LLP.

Three Board members stepped down on 31 March: Professor Saw Swee Hock, Professorial Fellow of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; Mr Paul Ma, Chairman of Mapletree Logistics Trust Management Ltd; and Mr Daudinver Singh, Senior Counsel and CEO of Drew & Napier LLC.

Mr Goh has been with SIA since 1990, working in various senior positions in Singapore and overseas. He serves on the Boards of several organisations including Mount Alvernia Hospital, International Air Transport Association and Virgin Australia Holdings Limited.

Mr Mah holds numerous senior management positions in Deloitte Asia Pacific, Deloitte Singapore and Deloitte Southeast Asia. He has rich experience serving multinational and local companies across industries, with strong expertise in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, as well as corporate finance.

Mr Ng heads the Corporate Group of WongPartnership LLP where he oversees mergers and acquisitions as well as private equity transactions. He graduated from the NUS Faculty of Law where he was awarded the Justice A V Winslow Prize. He sits on the Advisory Panel of the Centre for Banking & Finance Law at NUS. Mr Wong Ng Ng Lioi, Chairman of the NUS Board, said: “We welcome Choon Phong, Chaly and Wei King to our Board. They are prominent leaders in their respective fields and bring with them diverse perspectives and a wealth of knowledge that will help to raise the global reputation and standing of NUS and also to further advance its position as a leading global university centred in Asia.”

He thanked Prof Saw, Mr Ma and Mr Singh for their dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the University which have greatly benefitted the NUS community.

Open Day draws record crowds

NUS Open Day 2015 on 14 March attracted more than 25,000 visitors – the largest crowd ever in recent years – to both Kent Ridge and Blk Timah campuses.

Prospective students and their parents throned information from programme talks and various booths manned by faculty and staff, as well as taking campus-wide tours.

Many queues patiently in snaking lines outside venues at University Town (UTown) while checking their phones and Open Day guides while waiting to attend one of the almost 90 talks.

Among the plethora of Open Day booths, was the Centre for Future-ready Graduates (CFG), formerly known as the NUS Career Centre, which debuted this year. CFG staff were on hand to answer questions about how they could help NUS students develop their potential and take charge of their personal and career development.

Another first-time participant was Residential College 4, which will be a full-fledged residential college in Academic Year 2015/2016.

James Ong, who will be matriculating into the NUS Faculty of Law, was checking out housing options at Open Day. His first-hand experience reinforced what he had heard from his friends on campus. “NUS is more holistic. There’s everything that a university campus can offer – from curriculum, accommodation and excellent activities,” he said.

Ho Teck Hua to helm NUS research

Professor Ho Teck Hua, an award-winning Singaporean behavioural scientist and chairman professor from the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), will succeed Professor Barry Halliwell as UC Berkeley when he becomes Asia Institute. He will relinquish Professor Barry Halliwell’s leadership, transformative contributions to NUS as a top research-intensive university. Under Professor Halliwell’s leadership, the quarterly of competitive research grants secured by the University between 2007 and 2014 more than doubled. He was also instrumental in NUS’ successful bids for three Research Centres of Excellence in Singapore and the new Centre for Advanced 2D Materials. He also helped recruit and nurture top faculty and researchers.

The William Hallock Jr Family Professor of Marketing has been the Director of the Asia Business Center at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley since 2007 and is a recipient of the prestigious Williamson Award, the School’s highest faculty honour.

Professor Tan also paid tribute to Professor Halliwell’s leadership, the quarterly of competitive research grants secured by the University between 2007 and 2014 more than doubled. He was also instrumental in NUS’ successful bids for three Research Centres of Excellence in Singapore and the new Centre for Advanced 2D Materials. He also helped recruit and nurture top faculty and researchers.

NUS’ contribution to nation-building through innovative research was showcased in an exhibition at the University Cultural Centre in April. Highlighting the University’s emphasis on transformative education and high-impact research, the projects addressed key challenges faced by society. Mr Wong Ng Ng Lioi, Chairman of NUS Board of Trustees, grace the event as Guest-of-Honour.

Speaking at the launch, NUS President Professor Tan Chor Chuan underscored the relevance of the exhibition, noting that “science, and the importance of its application, was identified as an important comparative advantage for Singapore”. The event epitomised the myriad ways in which the University’s research contributed to national development.

NUS NEWS

Nation-building through science and technology

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“This exhibition also reflects our strong desire to bring the ground-breaking research out of our labs, and to showcase the thrills and value of their commercialisation to the public,” he added.

Themed “Building Our Nation through Science & Technology”, the exhibits were grouped in five categories – Digital Nation, Healthy Nation, Multimodal Nation, Smart Nation and Sustainable Nation. The exhibition marked the inaugural collaboration between three schools – Engineering, Science and Computing.

Robotic systems could potentially assist with tele-operated and minimally invasive procedures such as brain tumour removal. The semi-automatic flexible device also offers intelligent navigation capabilities, a first for the region. The innovative e-Bike, converted from petrol to electric drive with a low-cost conversion process which is swift and convenient, paves the way for quieter and cleaner transportation.

In an effort to share the University’s research with the wider community, selected exhibits will be featured in a roving exhibition at two shopping malls – VivoCity from 27 April to 3 May and Great World City from 27 May to 2 June. Admission is free.

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Ho Teck Hua, a world-renowned biochemist specialising in free radicals in biology and medicine, will become Senior Advisor to the President at the University of Hawaii. He will continue to run his highly ranked research laboratory as well as existing and new research programmes.

Both professors hold prestigious Tan Chin Tuan Centennial professorships at NUS.

Prof Ho has assumed the role of Deputy President (Research and Technology) designate since January 2015, while concurrently serving as Director of NUS’ Global Asia Institute. He will relinquish his tenured appointment at UC Berkeley when he becomes Deputy President (Research and Technology) at NUS.

NUS President Professor Tan Chor Chuan pointed out that Prof Ho began his academic career at NUS in 1988, and went on to achieve outstanding success in the behavioural, economic and management sciences, winning multiple accolades for his teaching and research. He added “In his capacity as NUS Vice President (Research) Strategy over the past two years, Teck Hua has already made many impressive and important contributions to the quality, impact and application of NUS research.”

Prof Tan also paid tribute to Prof Halliwell for his leadership, the quarterly of competitive research grants secured by the University between 2007 and 2014 more than doubled. He was also instrumental in NUS’ successful bids for three Research Centres of Excellence in Singapore and the new Centre for Advanced 2D Materials. He also helped recruit and nurture top faculty and researchers.

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Mr Nathan received the Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award (Lifetime Achievement) at the ceremony, 124 FASS STARS were honoured with the inaugural Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award (Lifetime Achievement) in recognition of their exceptional contributions. He is among the first batch of recipients representing FASS alumni, have played a critical role in Singapore’s nation-building. SGO is an appropriate moment to recognise them. I am truly honoured to be included in the inaugural list.”

At the ceremony, 124 FASS STARS (Service, Teaching, Alumni, Research and Long Service) Awards were also presented to faculty and staff.

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Former Singapore President Mr S R Nathan and seven eminent alumni from the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) were honoured with the inaugural Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Awards for their outstanding contributions towards nation-building, growth of the University and promotion of the arts and social sciences. Their work has wide-ranging impact in Singapore and beyond.

“As we celebrate Singapore’s 50th birthday alongside NUS’ 110th anniversary, it is fitting to honour the achievements of our alumni,” said Professor Brenda Yeoh, Dean of FASS.

“The Distinguished Alumni Award recipients have contributed with valor, energy and creativity to the nation, the University, the Faculty and Singapore society in various ways – be it in education and research, public service, the corporate world and volunteerism. Many of them were pioneering figures in the development of Singapore, without whom, our country would not be what it is today,” she highlighted.

Mr S R Nathan (Class of ‘54), the sixth and longest-serving Singapore President, was conferred the Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award (Lifetime Achievement) in recognition of his exceptional contributions. His 50-year civil service career spanned various ministries where he held key leadership positions. The previous Chancellor of NUS was conferred the Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University in 2012.

The other alumni, who have set themselves apart with their brilliant scholarship and notable service, receive the Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Awards. They are:

• Professor Maurice Baker (Class of ‘41, ‘42)
• Mr Herman Ronald Hochstadt (Class of ‘58)
• Mrs Tan Suan Imm (Class of ‘61)
• Prof Lily Kong, Vice-Provost (Academic Personnel) (fourth from left) posing with the recipients of the Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Awards, including (from left) Prof Mahbubani, Prof Wang, Mr Tan, Mr Edmund Baker (who received the award on behalf of his father Prof Baker), Prof Yeoh, Prof Guan, Mr Vishwanath and Mr Yap

Membrane researcher bestowed inaugural chemistry award

The Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) in the UK has awarded Professor Naïel Chung from the NUS Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering the inaugural IChemE Underwood Medal for Exceptional Research in Separations.

The international award, introduced in 2014 by the global chemical engineering organisation, recognises individuals who have made a significant, sustained and recent contribution to research in the area of separations, and generated impact within and outside their specialised field. The judges commended Prof Chung on his work which addresses a broad range of applications in areas of global importance such as water purification and carbon dioxide capture. Prof Chung has previously received numerous accolades, including two IChemE (Highly Recommended) Awards in Energy and Water, and the Research Leadership Award at NUS and the TechConnect Global Innovation Award. He was cited by Lux Research as one of the leading water researchers in the world.

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Honouring our eminent alumnus the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew (1923 – 2015)

There are many things for which we thank Mr Lee, including his unwavering focus on building an outstanding educational system in Singapore.

– Prof Tan Chorh Chuan,
NUS President

Said NUS Chairman Mr Wong Ngit Liong: “Mr Lee was a globally respected statesman, a visionary leader, and a much admired alumnus of the National University of Singapore. He was a giant of a man who was passionate about education, and a fearless pioneer who made it possible for Singaporeans to have a standard of living today that is admired by many. NUS mourns the loss of one of our own.”

To remember Mr Lee, a Memorial Ceremony was held on 24 March at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School). More than 1,000 attendees comprising the University’s Board Members, senior management, students, faculty, staff and alumni congregated for the special service. Another 2,500 of the campus community watched the live webcast of the event.

In his eulogy, NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan highlighted that Mr Lee had always been a strong proponent of education, and pushed for developing every child’s full potential.

In a touching tribute to Mr Lee, Year 3 Science undergraduate Tan Xin Ru handcrafted 50 white and red roses as a show of eternal love, with white signifying respect and red symbolising vitality and the wish for Singapore to progress on.

NUS students, staff, faculty and alumni mourned the loss of the country’s founding Prime Minister and NUS eminent alumnus Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who passed away on 23 March 2015 in Singapore at the age of 91.

A widely respected leader, Mr Lee successfully transformed Singapore from a British dependency to a thriving nation successfully transformed Singapore from a British dependency to a thriving nation.

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Prime Minister and NUS eminent alumnus Mr Lee Kuan Yew studied at NUS’ predecessor institution Raffles College between 1940 and 1941, where he took Economics, English and Mathematics.

He played a critical role in the shaping and development of higher education in Singapore, particularly the university sector.

Many prizes and awards at NUS were established in Mr Lee’s name to assist students, including the Lee Kuan Yew Distinguished Visitors Programme, Lee Kuan Yew Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, Lee Kuan Yew Scholarships, and the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medals for 18 programmes.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s legacy in education

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Mr Lee generously donated the sale of his memoirs and books to create two Lee Kuan Yew Prizes and the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship To Encourage Upgrading Award.

To honour his significant contributions to education in Singapore, NUS named its School of Public Policy after Mr Lee in 2004. He joined the LKY School as a Distinguished Fellow seven years later.

Mr Lee received NUS’ inaugural Eminent Alumni Award in 2005 and an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2013, in recognition of his excellent and sustained contributions in public and community service, both nationally and internationally.

![Photo: Suhaida binte Shahril](https://example.com/photos/suhaida_shahril.jpg)

Suhaida binte Shahril, Year 4 FASS student

As part of an ethnic minority and coming from a middle class background, it was Mr Lee’s policies that paved the way for us to gain a top quality education which includes being a proud student of NUS on our own merit regardless of economic background, race or religion.

– Suhaida binte Shahril,
Year 4 FASS student

The University community overseas also remembered Mr Lee. A memorial service was held at Block 71 San Francisco, a co-working space run by NUS Enterprise that fosters ties between start-ups in Singapore and the US.

Mr Christopher Cheang, Consul-General of Singapore’s Consulate-General in San Francisco, shared with over 100 attendees from the tech community about his days working with Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

As students and future leaders of our country, we are thankful for Mr Lee’s dedicated leadership and engagement with various stakeholders which helped build the strong foundations of Singapore today.

– Lim Kok Seng,
NUS Students’ Union President

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WHO head underscores evolving public health risks

Dr Chan identified the widespread misuse and overuse of anti-microbials as another health concern. With increasing drug resistance for a growing range of pathogens, but fewer alternative treatments in the pipeline, the world is moving towards a post-antibiotic era in which common infections will once again kill. Climate change too furnishes conditions feeding the resurgence of diseases such as dengue and malaria, she said. The rise of social media also poses a concern as “personal views on scientific issues get taken as facts and widely propagated, while traditional safeguards like peer review and precise scientific and statistical methodologies fly out the windows,” she noted. However, Dr Chan believes these daunting challenges can be overcome. “Based on public health track record, we have optimism, ingenuity, evidence and ethics on our side. The negative forces have always been confronted and overcome.”

Saw See Hock School moves to new premises

NUS Saw See Hock School of Public Health has relocated to its new home at the Tahir Foundation Building, NUS Kent Ridge Campus.

Guest-of-Honour Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, praised the occasion, together with Dr Amy Khor, Singapore’s Senior Minister of State, Ministries of Health and Manpower, who officiated at the opening of the premises on 12 February. NUS and National University Health System (NUHS) board members, senior management staff and faculty members attended the momentous occasion.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President and Chairman of NUHS Board, noted that the special event marked “a very important milestone for public health in our University, Singapore and our part of the world.”

The occasion also celebrated philanthropy to NUS, and the unstinting support from alumni benefactors and donors. Prof Tan pointed out in particular Professor Saw See Hock – alumnus and philanthropist – and prominent businessmen Dato’ Sri Dr Tahir who have contributed generously to the University in the areas of health and medicine.

From left: Prof Tan, Dr Amy Khor, NUS Chancellor and NUHS Chair Mr Wong Ngot Liong at the event.

Reflections on Singapore’s social innovations

How did Singapore, a tiny vulnerable island with a largely migrant population and little resources, attain its first-world status within 50 years of independence?

Social innovations contributed to the remarkable achievement, pointed out Professor Michael Sherraden. A social development expert cited by Time magazine as among the world’s 100 most influential people, he has been a keen observer of the country’s progress.

The 5 R Nathan Professor, NUS Department of Social Work, who is also with the Washington University in St. Louis, shared his insight during the 5 R Nathan Professorship in Social Work Public lecture on “Fifty Years of Social Innovation: Reflections on Singaporean Social Policy” on 11 March.

Prof Sherraden suggested that these innovations have been possible in Singapore by “a well-defined and purposeful sense of the social potential of the state”, where the government actively engaged in shaping social institutions and practices. The pragmatic leadership, highly attuned to the country’s conditions, creates solutions by inventing, implementing, assessing and expanding entirely new strategies.

He highlighted the Central Provident Fund (CPF) as one social innovation with the biggest impact. First established during the British rule of the strait, the provident fund was tailored into a comprehensive asset-building social policy. The mandatory savings contributed by both employee and employer can only be withdrawn later in life.

During the early days of nation-building when housing and healthcare presented the most immediate needs, the CPF was made available for home ownership. This was followed by various aspects of healthcare, education, insurance and investments. These aspects continue to comprise Singapore’s policies for household protection and economic development.

Another forward-looking socio-economic policy was the strong investment in human capital, and the continuous training and upgrading to prepare a skilled workforce for growing global competition, he said.

Given Singapore’s innovative social policy, he felt that such useful knowledge could be shared with the rest of the world, especially through partnerships with universities and social science researchers.

Prof Sherraden is the Director of the Next Age Institute, a new research institute jointly set up by the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Washington University in St. Louis. It tackles social issues arising from an ageing population, as well as addresses challenges presented by trends such as globalisation and rising inequality.

Chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes have overtaken infectious diseases as the leading cause of mortality worldwide. This worrying shift could be attributed to changing lifestyle and habits, propelled by modernisation and rising income. Aggressive marketing of unhealthy products further fuels the trend.

Dr Margaret Chan, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, did not mince her words when she highlighted these challenges at the NUS Saw See Hock School of Public Health’s Public Health Thought Leadership Dialogue Series in February.

Speaking on the topic “Facing Public Health Challenges in the Post-2015 Era: Need for a New Paradigm”, the prominent NUS medical alumnus noted that technology advances have made nourishment more secure and safe, but the initial purpose altered when she highlighted these challenges at the NUS Saw See Hock School of Public Health’s Public Health Thought Leadership Dialogue Series in February. The root causes of such diseases fall beyond the health sector and public health agencies’ control because these are linked to trades and other issues. “Very few governments prioritise health over big businesses,” she lamented.

“We have to recognise that we are one human family and that none of us is going to prevail alone.”

Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, Nobel Laureate for Peace, emphasised the need for cooperation, inclusiveness and the prioritisation of human dignity as part of his speech titled “Global Equity and Security” in February.

The event held at NUS was part of the “Bridges – Dialogues Towards a Culture of Peace” speaker series, jointly hosted by NUS and Yale-NUS College, and facilitated by the International Peace Foundation.

Dr ElBaradei pointed out that in bringing goods and people closer through globalisation and technological advances, security threats such as climate change, communicable diseases and human trafficking are no longer confined geographically.

Poverty, another major issue requiring global attention, is the “most lethal weapon of mass destruction”, according to the Nobel Laureate. He illustrated how a mere one percent of government spending on education, as well as investments in healthcare, insurance and economic development, can be shared with the rest of the world, leading to social innovations.

The lecture ended on the note that it is now up to the younger generation to lead the change and make a difference, lest the human race sleepwalk into self-destruction.

Nobel Laureate calls for bridge to peace

Dr ElBaradei highlighted the need for the world to pursue peace.

“The lecture ended on the note that it is now up to the younger generation to lead the change and make a difference, lest the human race sleepwalk into self-destruction.”

“I’m quite hopeful that we can go to an era of non-violence,” he said.

We have to recognise that we are one human family and that none of us is going to prevail alone.”

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Robotic sock lowers deep vein thrombosis risk

Bedridden patients or those unable to move their legs may develop deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a condition caused by blood clots along the lower veins of the leg. Death can occur if a clot reaches the heart or lungs – the risk is such that patients ranges from 13 to 18 per cent.

To reduce the danger, researchers from the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Faculty of Engineering have joined forces to create a sock that can help prevent DVT.

Department of Medicine Assistant Professor Lim Jeong Hoon, together with Department of Biomedical Engineering Assistant Professor Raye Yeow Chen Hua and PhD student Low Fanzhe, designed a wearable robotic sock that promotes blood circulation. Based on a “push-and-pull” mechanism, it mimics the extension-contraction movements of corals.

The device uses a cotton sock linked to soft lightweight silicon rubber actuators, to create a sock that can help prevent DVT.

Waste grease gets new lease of life

NUS engineers from the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering have a set of environmental-friendly techniques to produce biodiesel from waste grease more cheaply and efficiently.

About 30,000 tonnes of waste grease – which includes used greases, vegetable oils and possibly also animal fats – are generated every year in Singapore. The waste products are collected from grease interceptors in the sewage system.

Due to the high content of free fatty acid in waste grease, existing catalysis cannot process the waste grease in a simple step until the recent NUS discovery, which has been published in prestigious journals such as Green Chemistry and Bioresource Technology.

A patent has been filed and published internationally.

Powerful dengue antibody raises hope for treatment

Dengue has been making a worrying resurgence, with half the world at risk from the disease. In Singapore alone, the number of reported dengue cases as of April this year has hit more than 2,400.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease caused by flavivirus, which is spread through the bites of infected Aedes mosquitoes. It infects 390 million people each year, and can cause serious illness such as dengue shock syndrome, hepatitis, and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).

She said: “We are optimistic that we will be able to develop a cure for dengue。”

Dengue is a viral disease caused by flavivirus, which is spread through the bites of infected Aedes mosquitoes. It infects 390 million people each year, and can cause serious illness such as dengue shock syndrome, hepatitis, and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).

The presence of four circulating virus serotypes (DENV-1 to 4) makes the development of a cure extremely difficult.

Despite producing antibodies towards a particular infecting serotype and getting lifelong immunity against that particular serotype, a patient, when exposed to the other three serotypes, faces greater risk from a more severe form of the disease.

Senior author of the study Associate Professor Lok Shiee Mei, who is with the Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme at Duke-NUS, has been looking at the pathology and structure of the dengue virus to develop effective treatments.

She and her team have successfully determined antibodies against DENV-1.

Their strategy for a safe therapy combines four antibodies, each binding and inhibiting infection of the respective dengue virus serotypes.

She said: “We are optimistic that we will be able to develop a cure for dengue. However, the development of a cure is extremely difficult.”

The team, including first author Research Fellow Guntur Fibriansah and other researchers from Duke-NUS, collaborated with the University of North Carolina and Vanderbilt University in the US on the study.

Present treatments for DVT are not very effective. Doctors currently use anticoagulation drugs to treat the condition but these drugs may give rise to side effects such as an increased likelihood of excessive bleeding, which can prove fatal for haemorrhagic stroke patients. Existing mechanical compression products and compression stockings also show no significant reduction in DVT risk. The innovative sock will thus help address these problems.

The team is conducting pilot tests on about 30 patients at the National University Hospital between March and August. Similar trials will be carried out later in other local hospitals.

The research published recently in the journal Nature Communications identified a newly discovered antibody 5J7 that kills a serotype or variant of the dengue virus efficiently. Just 10⁹ of the antibody can stop the infection of dengue serotype 3 virus (DENV-3).

The study involved the isolation of 5J7 from 200 different candidate human antibody molecules of a patient’s dengue-infected blood samples. Under very high magnification, the virus–antibody complex structure demonstrated that each arm of the antibody strongly grabs three surface proteins on the surface of the virus simultaneously. Furthermore, the antibody binds to the sites on the virus critical for its invasion of cells, thus blocking the virus’ activity.

Currently, no licensed dengue vaccine or therapeutic agent exists because the presence of four circulating virus serotypes (DENV-1 to 4) makes the development of a cure extremely difficult.

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Financially disadvantaged students staying at Raffles Hall will be able to tap into a newly established bursary from Academic Year 2017/2018.

The Hall has raised close to half a million dollars from its inaugural fundraiser to set up the Raffles Hall Alumni Bursary Fund. More than 20 bursary awards valued at $2,000 each will be disbursed to deserving students.

Over 120 alumni spanning the 1960s to recent years, as well as organisations such as the Tote Board and DBS Bank, donated a total of $468,675. The amount will exceed $1 million with a matching government grant.

Guest-of-Honour Supreme Court senior judge Justice Tan Lee Meng, who was Master of Raffles Hall from 1980 to 1997, graced the fundraising event on 27 March.

For Mr Yeo, the financial support he received during his university days changed his life. He said: “Even though most people think Singapore is rich, there are still students who come from humble backgrounds who could benefit from financial support.”

Dr Mdm Kong agreed. “With this Fund, we hope we can raise money to help needy students.”

The fundraiser was a meaningful way to celebrate our long-cherished ties with Raffles Hall, and to contribute to a worthy cause to enable future students to similarly enjoy a fulfilling Raffles Hall experience as we had.”

Raffles Hall Master Associate Professor Ho Chee Kong was heartened to see that Raffles Hall meant so much to its alumni. “The new Raffles Hall Alumni Bursary Fund gives a strong boost to existing efforts to extend help to more NUS students at Raffles Hall so that they can benefit from a life-changing experience living and learning at NUS,” he said.

The Raffles Hall Alumni Bursary Fund welcomes contributions. Interested donors can call Dr Randy Tan at +65 6601 2438 or email him at rendytan@nus.edu.sg.

**TAN CHIN TUAN BURSARY RECIPIENT RECIPROCATES 50 YEARS LATER**

“I was touched and inspired by Tan Sri Dr Tan Chin Tuan’s generosity. He taught me the value of hard work. His philosophy was if I give one dollar to someone who does not need it, it is not as impactful as giving to someone who is in desperate need. I told myself that one day I would reciprocate and help low-income families whose children qualify for university.”

Mr Lee Kew Wah ’69 (Arts and Social Sciences)

Mr Lee Kew Wah (69) was one of nine children whose parents could not afford to pay for his school books, nor provide him with tiffin money. His life changed dramatically 50 years ago when he received a bursary and then a scholarship at Tan Sri Dr Tan.

Today, Mr Lee has established the Mr and Mrs Lee Wai Kin Bursary at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, in memory of his parents.

**The POWER OF POTENTIAL**

To find out more about making a gift to NUS, call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567), email askdvo@nus.edu.sg or visit www.giving.nus.edu.sg.

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Campus couples celebrate love through giving

NUS alumni who found their significant others on campus celebrated their love in a memorable yet meaningful way this year.

They gave to the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund, officially launched at the NUS Campus Couples Valentine’s Dinner on 13 February by Guest-of-Honour Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

The fund was the brainchild of Mr Yeo Keng Joon, who met his wife Mdm Kong on campus.

For Mr Yeo, the financial support he received during his university days changed his life. He said: “Even though most people think Singapore is rich, there are still students who come from humble backgrounds who could benefit from financial support.”

Mdm Kong agreed. “With this Fund, we hope we can raise money to help needy students.”

Open to all eligible needy Singaporean NUS undergraduates, the Fund is expected to disburse up to five inaugural bursary awards, valued at up to $2,500 each, in the new Academic Year 2015/2016. In line with Singapore’s 50th anniversary celebrations, it aims to attract gifts totalling $1.25 million to offer 50 bursaries annually.

The bursary was initiated by Mr Yeo who met his wife Mdm Kong on campus.

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OncoCare bursary supports medical students

A new bursary will be available from August 2015 for financially needy medical students at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine).

Set up by medical oncologist Dr Tay Min Hui, the OncoCare Medical Bursary is Dr Tay’s way of giving back to the University while celebrating Singapore’s 50th anniversary.

Dr Tay, the founding Director of OncoCare Cancer Centre, was himself an undergraduate bursary recipient at NUS. He thus appreciates the value of such assistance for those in need.

“We hope the students who are helped by this will in turn be inspired and encouraged, and remember to keep forward to help those less fortunate one day,” he said.

The undergraduate bursary will help many of the 300 students admitted annually to the medical school. It would free them from fiscal worries to concentrate on their studies and pursue their dreams, said Associate Professor Yeoh Kian Guan, Dean of NUS Medicine.

The Centre has pledged a sum of $750,000 over five years.

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