

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR TAN CHORH CHUAN, PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KHOO TECK PUAT ADVANCED SURGERY TRAINING CENTRE, 23 OCTOBER 2008, 3 PM.

NUS Chancellor, President S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore

Our special guests, Ms Mavis Khoo and Ms Elizabeth Khoo, trustees of the Estate of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat;

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to the Khoo Teck Puat Advanced Surgery Training Centre, or ASTC. I am delighted that you are able to join us for the opening of this very important facility.

The ASTC owes its existence to the very generous gift of \$7million from the Estate of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat. On behalf of the National University Health System, I would like to express our deep gratitude and thanks to Ms Mavis Khoo and Ms Elizabeth Khoo. I thank you also for your presence here today, which makes this occasion especially significant.

The National University Health System or NUHS was formed this year to bring the National University Hospital and the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry under a common

governance framework. The impetus is to achieve strong, reinforcing synergies between education, research and clinical care. This would help us attain even higher levels of excellence in all these 3 dimensions. Ultimately, this would benefit our patients through better and more advanced medical care. Our students and specialist trainees will gain from the stimulating intellectual environment and advanced educational programmes. Our basic research would be informed by clinical observations and findings, and hence achieve greater impact.

The ASTC is a wonderful exemplar of how this would work in practice.

The ASTC brings together the critical elements for world-class education in surgery. First, state-of-the-art technology for advanced surgical training. Second, specially developed and systematic educational programmes. Third, renowned surgeons, both local and international, as teachers and mentors. With these, the ASTC will fundamentally transform the teaching of surgery and training of surgeons, especially in complex procedures and the management of complications that can arise. This is of critical importance given the growing complexity of surgical procedures and the increasing demands on surgeons. The state-of-the-art training in the ASTC will enhance the capabilities of our surgeons who would in turn be able to serve our patients even better.

It is not an overstatement, therefore, when I say that the ASTC marks a very significant milestone in NUHS' goal to be a leader, and a point of reference, in Health Sciences Education internationally. It will allow us to provide the very best of advanced surgical education and training to practitioners here and internationally.

Shortly, my colleague, Associate Professor Davide Lomanto, will show us around the facility and you will be able to see the effort, attention and focus that have been dedicated to achieving its teaching objectives.

This Centre is the first of its kind in this part of the world. It is unique and critical for NUHS' mission. It will bring substantial benefits to our patients. May I therefore congratulate our colleagues at the Khoo Teck Puat Advanced Surgery Training Centre on this very important day and once again, thank President Nathan, Ms Mavis Khoo and Ms Elizabeth Khoo and distinguished guests for gracing this special occasion.

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