

30 October 2015

To: All Staff of SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre

Dear Colleagues,

### **KEY LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS IN SINGHEALTH DUKE-NUS ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE**

We are pleased to announce the following key leadership appointments that will further strengthen the growth of our Academic Medical Centre.

#### **Chairman, Division of Surgery, Singapore General Hospital and Academic Chair, SingHealth Duke-NUS Surgery Academic Clinical Program**



Dr Tan Hiang Khoo, current Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Head & Neck Centre and Senior Consultant, Division of Surgical Oncology, NCCS will take over Prof London Lucien Ooi Peng Jin as Chairman, Division of Surgery, Singapore General Hospital (SGH) with effect from 8 November 2015. Dr Tan will be concurrently appointed Academic Chair, SingHealth Duke-NUS Surgery Academic Clinical Program (SURG ACP). With this, Dr Tan will relinquish his current role as Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS

Head & Neck Centre with effect from 1 November 2015.

A specialist in complex head & neck surgery, Dr Tan was instrumental in pioneering the development of endoscopic and robotic head and neck surgery in Singapore. He also made significant contributions towards the setting up of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Head and Neck Centre. Under his leadership, the Head & Neck Centre successfully brought together the various stakeholders from General Surgery (GS), Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT), Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery (PRAS), Oral Maxillary Surgery (OMS), Nursing and Allied Health Professionals to provide integrated multi-specialty patient care for patients suffering from Head and Neck disease. Notably, within a relatively short period of 18 months, the Head & Neck Centre achieved significant reduction in wait time for appointments and surgeries, established multi-disciplinary ward rounds as standard of care,

initiated a combined fellowship training platform for Head and Neck surgeons and formalized a cluster-wide privileging framework for Head and Neck Surgery.

In the research arena, Dr Tan has keen interest in Head and Neck Cancer prognostication and Surgical Device Development. He is the Principal Investigator (PI) and co-PIs of a few ongoing clinical trials. He has also been holding the appointment of Academic Vice-Chair (Research) of SURG ACP since 1 April 2013 where he played a pivotal role in facilitating and enabling research initiatives amongst the surgical faculty. He established collaborations with tertiary institutions (NTU and SUTD) and other industry partners as well as the Office of Research mentorship, Office of Clinician Scientist Development and Office of Database Management. Under his leadership, SURG ACP has increased its national competitive grant and industrial sponsored grant.

In his new role as Chairman, Division of Surgery, SGH, and Academic Chair of SURG ACP, Dr Tan will provide leadership to the Division of Surgery in SGH and harness the synergies of research, scholarly work and education across the Cluster to improve patient care.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof Ooi for his committed leadership and sterling contributions over the past 9 years. Prof Ooi championed and introduced a range of initiatives that have put the Division of Surgery in a leading position. He also advanced the academic medicine agenda of SURG ACP.

Under Prof Ooi's stewardship, all SGH surgical departments were unified under the shared vision – "A Cut Above", which elevated their performance and standing. He streamlined and optimised resources by consolidating the departments' administrative functions and transforming the Division Office to fully support the Division's planning, administrative, as well as training and development activities. He introduced processes to enable robust oversight and governance in the areas of quality management, capital budgeting and equipment management.

Prof Ooi also undertook major reorganisation of the Major Operating Theatre (MOT), Ambulatory Surgery Centre (ASC) and Theatre Sterile Supplies Unit (TSSU), and spearheaded the development of new Operating Theatre (OT) facilities, such as an enhanced Recovery Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU), new OT reception as well as enhanced OT systems. He paid particular attention to the honing of professional skills by establishing the SGH Surgical Skills Centre as a Divisional asset, and successfully negotiated with Storz and Olympus to contribute and install fully functional OR and

EndoAlpha stations in Academia for surgical skills training. As the Academic Chair of SURG ACP, Prof Ooi set up the ACP structure and office, instituted supporting programmes at the Division level including seed grant funding and granted academic awards to support the academic medicine enterprise. He also engineered the establishment of the Biomechanics Lab in the Academia, and introduced processes and programmes to nurture young clinicians in the education and research domains. His visionary efforts and far-reaching contributions have set both the Division and SURG ACP on firm foundations to propel SingHealth surgery to greater heights. Prof Ooi will return to focus on his clinical practice when he completes his term as Chairman, Division of Surgery, SGH. He will continue to chair the SingHealth Infrastructure Advisory Group (SIAG) that provides valuable input to infrastructure development across the Cluster.

### **Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Head & Neck Centre**



Assoc Prof Gopal Iyer, currently Director (Research), SingHealth Duke-NUS Head & Neck Centre, will succeed Dr Tan Hiang Khoon as Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Head & Neck Centre with effect from 1 November 2015.

Assoc Prof Iyer is a highly respected clinician scientist and reputable Head & Neck surgeon who is well poised to assume this leadership role.

A renowned expert, he has extensive experience in the surgical management of cancers and benign diseases in the Head and Neck, and has more than 50 publications. In his new role, Assoc Prof Iyer will provide leadership and assume overall responsibility for the optimisation of cluster-wide resources to develop the multidisciplinary service line and ensure delivery of holistic patient-centric care.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Tan Hiang Khoon for his visionary leadership and able stewardship of the Head & Neck Centre since its establishment in March 2014. Dr Tan will continue to provide guidance to the Head & Neck Centre as he assumes the new role as Chairman, Division of Surgery, SGH.

## Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Blood Cancer Centre



Assoc Prof William Hwang will be appointed Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Blood Cancer Centre with effect from 1 November 2015. He will continue to hold the appointments of Head, Department of Haematology, SGH; Director, SingHealth Transplant, SingHealth and Medical Director, Singapore Cord Blood Bank.

The new Blood Cancer Centre will adopt a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional service line approach to deliver integrated and borderless treatment of Blood Cancer diseases. The Disease subgroups of the Blood Centre will include Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL), Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL), Myeloproliferative Neoplasm (MPN) and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL). The new establishment will be a strong boost to SingHealth's effort in pushing the frontier of clinical care, education and research for Blood Cancer diseases.

Assoc Prof Hwang has been actively involved in the planning and conceptualisation of the new Blood Cancer Centre. As Head, SingHealth Duke-NUS Blood Cancer Centre, Assoc Prof Hwang will provide strategic leadership to develop and expand Blood Cancer clinical programmes and drive the development of cluster-wide integrated practice by facilitating seamless collaboration among stakeholders.

Please join us in thanking Prof London Lucien Ooi for his invaluable contributions. We also congratulate Dr Tan Hiang Khoon, Assoc Prof Gopal Iyer and Assoc Prof William Hwang on their new appointments and look forward to their leadership to further our Academic Medicine Mission.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivy Ng', written over a horizontal line.

Professor Ivy Ng  
Group Chief Executive Officer  
SingHealth

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Coffman', written over a horizontal line.

Professor Thomas Coffman  
Dean  
Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS)