



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SMU and Duke-NUS launch new medicine pathway to nurture future leaders of healthcare**

**SINGAPORE, 28 February 2020 (Friday)** - Singapore Management University (SMU) and Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) are offering a new SMU-Duke-NUS Medicine Pathway for outstanding students across the six schools at SMU who plan to pursue a career in medicine. The pathway aims to nurture future clinicians who can help shape the healthcare ecosystem with their perspectives and knowledge of law, social sciences, business or computing. Students will pursue a four-year undergraduate programme at SMU and gain a conditional admission to Duke-NUS' Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme to train in medicine at Duke-NUS.

Professor Timothy Clark, Provost of SMU said, "SMU is delighted to partner with Duke-NUS to offer this medicine pathway to our students who aspire to become doctors of a different kind – those who are not only trained in medicine, but also in their chosen undergraduate discipline. Increasingly, societal challenges have become multi-dimensional, and solutions are often to be found at the intersections of different disciplines. We are confident that graduates of this pathway will be equipped with the skills to contribute meaningfully to tackle the healthcare challenges of today and in the future."

Professor Thomas Coffman, Dean of Duke-NUS said, "Duke-NUS is excited to offer this new pathway, which gives undergraduates of diverse disciplines access to our innovative MD programme. Here, they can become adept at channelling their varied interests towards shaping the future of healthcare with precision and agility. This is what underscores our Clinicians First, Clinicians Plus distinction, where Duke-NUS clinicians get the opportunity of becoming leaders, innovators, educators and more."

In addition to having a strong academic record, prospective students will be assessed on leadership experience and community service, strong communication skills, as well as a strong interest to pursue medicine. Students accepted on this pathway will take the required courses for their SMU undergraduate programmes. Other than the required SMU Core Curriculum and their specific Major courses, they are encouraged to take the second major in Health Economics and Management (HEM), which covers areas that are of increasing importance in the healthcare sector, including Health Economics, Health Systems and Policy, Introductory Data Analytics in Healthcare, and Healthcare Management. They will also have an opportunity to take Health Economics and Management Work-Study Elective, which enables students to have a first-hand experience in healthcare sector through a six-month internship.

The new SMU Core Curriculum, will initiate undergraduates into their journey to become well-rounded graduates who have an independent mind, are dependable in deeds, think deeply and broadly, and who act to create value at home and abroad.

Over at Duke-NUS, students will be mentored and involved in enrichment activities to prepare them for the MD programme, while still pursuing their undergraduate studies at SMU. A pre-medical course will provide students with the foundational knowledge, skills and attitudes to help them excel in their clinical and scientific training. Duke-NUS has designed a summer programme to provide insights into graduate entry medicine, roles of medical professionals and medical practice in Singapore. A shadowing programme pairs students with a Duke-NUS faculty and practising doctor who can provide insights into the medical profession; as well as medical specialities workshops, advising sessions with Duke-NUS faculty, and community projects. SMU students will also have the opportunity to observe how Duke-NUS students and faculty train within the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC), and how this infrastructure allows the development of outstanding clinical education and research collaborations that translate to better outcomes for patients.

Students who complete the pathway will graduate with a Bachelor degree from SMU, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Duke-NUS.

Maxine Hong, a first-year student at SMU School of Law who has been accepted by the SMU-Duke-NUS Medicine Pathway said, “The Law intertwines with and underlies all aspects of our lives, while Medicine cares and constantly searches for new and better ways of treating patients. Understanding the relationship between the two fields is crucial to building a healthcare ecosystem of the future that is able to meet the evolving needs of society. This pathway presents a valuable opportunity for me to pursue my interests in both fields, and will equip me with the knowledge, soft people skills and a deeper appreciation to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Geraldine Lee, a first-year student at SMU School of Information Systems who has also been accepted by the SMU-Duke-NUS Medicine Pathway said, “My interests in computing, learning about the human physiology and assisting others make this pathway an ideal choice for me. Technology permeates every aspect of our society, and contributes significantly to the advancement of medicine. With SMU’s holistic education to nurture enterprising individuals who are equipped with deep knowledge in selected domains and possess a passion to give back to society, as well as Duke-NUS’ innovative “Clinician First, Clinician Plus” curriculum, I look forward to blending and assimilating my knowledge in Computing and Medicine to contribute meaningfully to society.”

## END ##

Enclosures:

- Annex A – SMU Core Curriculum
- Annex B – Second Major in Health Economics and Management
- Annex C – Student profiles

### **About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning

Home to over 10,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU, is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community.  
[www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About Duke-NUS Medical School**

The Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS, 杜克 — 新加坡国立大学医学院) was established in 2005 as a strategic collaboration between the Duke University School of Medicine, located in North Carolina, USA, and the National University of Singapore (NUS). Duke-NUS offers a graduate-entry, 4-year MD (Doctor of Medicine) training programme based on the unique Duke model of education, with one year dedicated to independent study and research projects of a basic science or clinical nature. Duke-NUS also offers MD/PhD and PhD programmes. Duke-NUS has five Signature Research Programmes: Cancer and Stem Cell Biology, Neuroscience and Behavioural Disorders, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders, and Health Services and Systems Research.

Duke-NUS and SingHealth have established a strategic partnership in academic medicine that will guide and promote the future of medicine, tapping on and combining the collective strengths of SingHealth's clinical expertise and Duke-NUS' biomedical sciences research and medical education capabilities.

For more information, please visit [www.duke-nus.edu.sg](http://www.duke-nus.edu.sg)

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#### Duke-NUS Medical School

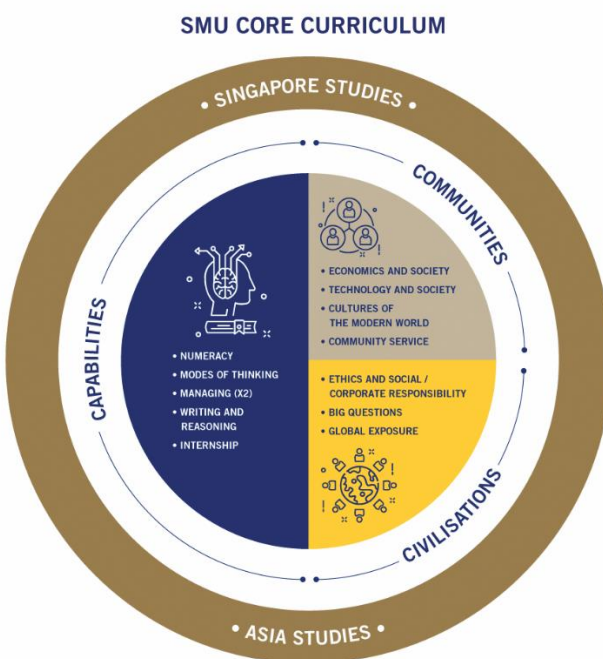
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## Annex A

## SMU Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is comprised of twelve carefully selected courses to initiate undergraduates into their journey to becoming well-rounded SMU graduates. It is undergirded by three pillars of inter-related paths of development – Capabilities, Communities, and Civilisation.

1. The Capabilities pillar aims to tool up students with specific competencies and skills necessary to operate dexterously in an increasingly complex, digitised and data-driven working environment.
2. The Communities pillar aims to help students understand the economic, technological and cultural systems that structure our interactions with our communities. It also examines more closely Singapore's society, as well as Asia, Singapore's continental context, so students can better appreciate the communities in which SMU is embedded.
3. The Civilisations pillar aims to immerse students in fundamental and perennial debates that cut across time and space, and to encourage a critical dialogue between multiple and competing traditions of thought and problem-solving.



The existing mandatory internship and community service components for undergraduates have been integrated into the redesigned Core Curriculum as credit-bearing programmes. Through this new Core Curriculum, SMU intends to nurture graduates who have an independent mind, are dependable in deeds, think deeply and broadly and act to create value at home and abroad.

**Annex B****Second Major in Health Economics and Management**

The second major in Health Economics and Management (HEM), offered by SMU School of Economics, is the first-of-its-kind in Singapore. The multidisciplinary curriculum, jointly curated by SMU and SingHealth, covers areas that are of increasing importance in the healthcare sector, including Health Economics, Health Systems and Policy, Introductory Data Analytics in Healthcare, Healthcare Management, and a range of other courses across all six schools in SMU. HEM students are also encouraged to take Health Economics and Management Work-Study Elective, which enables students to have a first-hand experience in healthcare sector through a six-month internship.

The objective of the second major is to produce work-ready graduates who are valuable for administration and management of the healthcare sector. Through the courses offered in the second major, the students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills that are necessary for identifying and solving the challenges that the sector is facing or is going to face. The knowledge and skills are reinforced by the first-hand experience in the healthcare sector through internships and experiential learning.

This second major will open the door to meaningful career paths in the healthcare industry and is suitable for those with a passion for promoting health and well-being, delivering quality healthcare, contributing to the saving of lives, and ensuring the graceful ageing of society.

Students in this major will gain essential knowledge and skills for high-level healthcare administration, hone them through experiential learning opportunities in solving real healthcare industry problems, and develop practical first-hand understanding of the healthcare environment through internship.

**Annex C****Student profiles**Maxine Hong, a first-year student at SMU School of Law

Since young, I have had a growing appreciation and interest in Law. The law intertwines with and underlies all aspects of our lives, and seeks to establish and bring to life the beliefs and goals of society by setting out fundamental rules and principles - This truly enthralled me. Prior to joining SMU, I delved deep into mathematics and the sciences and completed an internship at a medicolegal law firm. These, together with other life experiences, helped me realize that in addition to Law, I have a passion for Medicine as well.

Understanding the relationship between the two fields is crucial to ensure a healthcare ecosystem of the future that is able to meet the evolving needs of society. This pathway is thus a valuable opportunity for me to pursue both interests, each complementing the other. I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to study and work towards understanding this relationship and solving the problems of today and tomorrow.

SMU's distinct interactive pedagogy constantly challenges me to speak up and think critically. Every day, I find myself growing in different ways, asking new questions and thinking about new possibilities and what they mean for me and society. In line with Duke-NUS's vision of nurturing clinicians who contribute to medicine and humanity in new and innovative ways, I wish to graduate from the pathway and contribute to the society beyond the typical role of a clinician, possibly in ways that are beyond our imagination now. Some studies have reported that up to 85% of the jobs in 2030 have not even been invented yet. I look forward with excitement and wonder to all the new possibilities this pathway will prepare me for.

Geraldine Lee, a first-year student at SMU School of Information Systems

I decided to pursue the SMU-Duke-NUS Medicine Pathway as I was very interested in both Computing and Medicine, and found it difficult to decide between the two. I became interested in computing as I have observed that technology will continue to play a big role in our society, and would like to gain relevant skills in this field. As for Medicine, I have always enjoyed learning about the human physiology and assisting others. This pathway allows me to pursue my interests in both fields.

I feel that the SMU-Duke-NUS education would differentiate me from others. Firstly, SMU provides a holistic education, encompassing internships, global exposure and community service, allowing me to gain relevant "real world" experiences. Additionally, the seminar-style pedagogy, class participation and Finishing Touch Workshops help to build one's communication skills, which is vital in the working world. I believe these skills, in addition to the rigorous curriculum, would put me in good stead to become a better doctor.

After completing this Pathway, I hope to have built up significant competencies in both fields, such that I could use one to supplement the other. For example, perhaps I could help implement a new information system in hospitals to improve patient care; or I could use the management skills learnt from SMU to help improve the business processes in hospitals so as to make them more efficient, thereby providing patients with better quality of care. The possibilities are

endless. And I think that is the best thing about this pathway – it puts me in a great position to leverage my skills to better society.