

2014 PSTA WINNER CITATIONS

PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEDAL 2014



Professor John Eu-Li Wong

**Isabel Chan Professor in Medical Sciences
Chief Executive, National University Health System
Senior Vice President (Health Affairs), National University of Singapore**

“For his outstanding contributions to the scientific research and biomedical science communities, and his visionary leadership in healthcare and medical sciences in Singapore”

Professor John Eu-Li Wong is widely regarded as a visionary leader in healthcare, a key contributor to the development of biomedical sciences and a champion of multidisciplinary and translational research.

His stellar career is distinguished by his deep passion as a physician, and his ability as a leader to inspire teams dedicated to developing multidisciplinary and translational solutions for improved patient care. Prof Wong is a renowned medical oncologist-haematologist, a master strategist and a respected administrator who has a strong focus on talent and the nurturing of young doctors, researchers and clinician-scientists.

In the area of biomedical sciences and research, Prof Wong made distinguished contributions as a key member of the team to establish Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Initiative in 2000 led by then A*STAR Chairman Mr Philip Yeo. He has served on the Biomedical Sciences Executive Committee from its inception, including chairing the Human Capital Working Group, and also served on the Translational Clinical Research Committee and the Industry Partnership Oversight Committee. He also contributed to mentoring bright young local clinicians and clinician-scientists, as well as recruiting top talent to Singapore from overseas.

A keen champion of translational clinical research, Prof Wong drew on his extensive clinical experience to establish the Cancer Therapeutics Research Group in 1997. The group brought together academic cancer centres in Singapore, Australia and across Asia to develop better treatments for cancers which predominantly affected Asian populations. Prof Wong currently serves on the National Medical Research Council and was the Founding Chair of the Board of the Singapore Clinical Research Institute.

Prof Wong's keen insights as a master physician and academic and research leader have contributed greatly to the development of Academic Medicine in Singapore. He played a key role in establishing

the National University Health System (NUHS), and currently serves as its Chief Executive. He was also the Founding Director of the National University Cancer Institute Singapore (NCIS). Under his leadership, NCIS has grown into a highly respected institution which provides outstanding clinical care and high quality training for cancer care specialists, professionals and researchers, as well as conducting high-impact and relevant research.

Prof Wong, who was Dean of Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at NUS from 2003 to 2011, led the revamp of the curriculum into integrated tracks, emphasising the clinical relevance of basic science and early exposure of medical students to patients. He also pushed for improved patient care through multidisciplinary teams of healthcare professionals and scientists.

He was instrumental in the formation of the first undergraduate nursing degree programme at the medical school, and raised the global profile of Singapore medicine through institutional partnerships with some of the world's leading medical institutions, including Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Prof Wong helped to steer developments in key multidisciplinary programmes that involved Medicine, Science, Computer Science, Dentistry, Engineering, Business, Arts and Social Sciences, and Public Policy. These programmes stretched across areas that include bioethics, health service research, epidemiology, genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, imaging, immunology, experimental therapeutics, tissue and bioengineering, molecular pathology, as well as medical and bioinformatics.

As the Founding Chair of the Board of the NUS Graduate School of Integrative Sciences and Engineering (NGS), Prof Wong led efforts to enable top graduate students to work with some of NUS' best faculty in the physical, engineering, and biomedical sciences. Integrative approaches were introduced at NGS to address challenges in medicine, engineering and the life, physical, and computer sciences.

Prof Wong obtained his MBBS from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and served his residency and fellowship at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he was the Chief Resident in Medicine, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Among many notable achievements, he represents Singapore in the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Association of Academic Health Centers – International. He is a member of the Global Genomic Medicine Collaboration (G2MC) Steering Committee, the Nature Index Panel of Senior Medical Advisors, the International Editorial Board of the American Journal of Medicine, and the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Prof Wong was also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Personalized and Precision Medicine.

For his outstanding contributions to the scientific research and biomedical science communities, and his visionary leadership in healthcare and medical sciences in Singapore, Professor John Eu-Li Wong has been awarded the 2014 President's Science and Technology Medal.