



#AccelerateAction

International Women in STEM & Medicine Symposium 2025

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium | Academia, Singapore
Monday 24 March 2025 | 9.00am - 5.30pm

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

Symposium Co-Chairs

Asst Prof Ann-Marie Chacko

Lead, SingHealth Duke-NUS Women in Science (WinS)
Assistant Professor
Cancer and Stem Cell Biology
Duke-NUS Medical School

Asst Prof Mara McAdams

Assistant Professor
Learning Environment Lead
Duke-NUS Medical School

A/Prof Valerie Chew

Principle Investigator
Translational Immunology Institute
SingHealth Duke-NUS

9:10 AM - 9:20 AM

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Ng Yeow Boon

Deputy Chief Executive for Development
Home Team Science & Technology Agency (HTX)

9:20 AM - 9:45 AM

OPENING KEYNOTE

Dr. Kanwaljit Soin

Orthopaedic and Hand Surgeon
Founding member of the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE)
First female Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) (1992-1996)

Introduction by Dr Maleena Suppiah Cavert

Chief, Learning & Culture, Tsao Foundation

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

TEA BREAK & NETWORKING

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Breakout Session 1

Mentorship: Navigating Career Pathways for Early-Career Scientists in Academic/Clinical and Industry/Biotech Sectors

This session is designed for junior attendees seeking guidance in shaping their career trajectories and making informed decisions about their professional future. In an interactive format, you'll participate in rotating roundtable discussions with mentors from diverse backgrounds, allowing you to ask questions, explore career options, and gain insights into the day-to-day realities, challenges, and rewards of each sector.

Moderator: *A/Prof Valerie Chew (Duke-NUS)*

Mentors: *A/Prof Valerie Chew (Duke-NUS)*

Dr Sven Peterson (Duke-NUS)

Asst Prof Yeo Joo Guan (KKH)

Asst Prof Sabriana Wong (NTU/TTSH)

Ms Enny Kiesworo (SingHealth)

*Dr Jingmei Li (A*STAR)*

Dr Vanessa Ding (SGInnovate)

Prof Shazib Pervaiz (NUS)

A/Prof Marie-Veronique Clement (NUS)

Asst Prof Raihan Jumat (Duke-NUS)

*Prof Chandra Verma (A*STAR)*

Dr Debleena Ray (2Strands)

Asst Prof Lynn Yap (NTU)

Breakout Session 2

Stepping Up: Leadership and Board Readiness (for mid-career research/clinician/manager/administrator/entrepreneur)

With a panel of inspiring panel of women leaders in non-profit, academic medicine, and startups, this session is focused on empowering mid-career women in research, clinical, management, and administrative roles to step into leadership positions. The discussion will include strategies and practical advice for developing board-level skills, overcoming barriers specific to women in leadership, and gaining experience in governance and decision-making.

Moderator: Ms Natasha Raina (Founder, LegalEase)
Panelists: Dr. Kanwaljit Soin (Founder of AWARE & WINGS)
Dr Deidre De Silva (Head of Neurology, NNI, SingHealth)
Ms Lindsay Davis (Founder, FemTech Association Asia)

Breakout Session 3

Resource-Up: Thriving in the Face of Challenges

In this breakout, participants will 'resource up' in community and connection (through small, psychologically safe coaching groups) and in emotional intelligence skills (developing self-awareness and self-management skills) to manage challenges, setbacks, difficult conversations and failures.

Facilitators: Asst Prof Mara McAdams (Duke-NUS)
Asst Prof Sarada Bulchand (Lead, Career Development Programme(CDeP), Duke-NUS)
Dr Maleena Suppiah Calvert (Tsao Foundation)
Dr Claire Bellis (A*STAR Diversity Group)

Breakout Session 4

Building your Professional/Personal Brand: How to Enhance Visibility in a Competitive World

In this session, participants will explore strategies to build and enhance their professional and personal brand. Gain practical insights on boosting visibility, distinguishing themselves in a competitive environment, and creating a compelling presence that unlocks new opportunities.

Moderators: Prof Sofia Archuleta (NUS/NUHS)
A/Prof Shefaly Shorey (NUS/NUHS)
Mr Ani Sharma (Director, Communications & Strategic Relations, Duke-NUS)
Facilitator: Shaub Faujdar (Managing Director, JobS-ME Singapore)

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM PANEL DISCUSSION 1 : SUSTAINING WOMEN IN ACADEMIA

Moderator: A/Prof Shefaly Shorey
Vice-Dean (Administration), NUS Medicine

Panelists: Asst Prof Rukie De Alwis
Deputy Director, Center for Outbreak Preparedness (COP), Duke-NUS Global Health
Prof Shazib Pervaiz
NUS Medicine
A/Prof Christine Cheung
Assistant Dean (PhD Studies and Professional Development), LKCMedicine, NTU
A/Prof Joanne Ngeow
NCCS and LKCMedicine, NTU

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM LUNCH & NETWORKING

1:45 PM - 1:50 PM WELCOME BACK BY EMCEE

1:50 PM - 2:35 PM

TRAINEE DEBATE: "To DEI or not DEI"

DEI: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Moderator: Prof Toh Han Chong
Deputy Director, NCCS, SingHealth

Judge: Prof Shiva Sarraf-Yazdi
Vice-Dean Education, Duke-NUS

Debaters: Jasmine Sk
PhD Candidate, Duke-NUS
Dr Antoni Olona
Research Fellow, Duke-NUS
Kunal Mishra
PhD Candidate, Duke-NUS
More debators coming up!

Faculty Advisors: Dr Sven Petersen
Duke-NUS
Asst Prof Ann-Marie Chacko
Duke-NUS

2:35 PM - 2:40 PM

WELCOME REMARKS FROM Duke-NUS & INTRODUCTION to GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof Patrick Tan
Senior Vice Dean (Research)
Professor, Cancer & Stem Cell Biology
Duke-NUS Medical School

2:40 PM - 3:00 PM

GUEST OF HONOUR SPEECH

Prof Tan Chorh Chuan
Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development)
Permanent Secretary (Public Sector Science and Technology Policy and Plans Office),
Prime Minister's Office
Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research
Chairman, MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation

3:00 PM - 3:10 PM

PHOTO TAKING

3:10 PM - 4:10 PM

**PANEL DISCUSSION 2 :
ACCELERATE ACTION: BUILDING PATHWAYS TO A DIVERSE
& THRIVING WORKFORCE**

Moderator: Asst Prof Ann-Marie Chacko
Duke-NUS

Panelists: Prof Sophia Archuleta
Asst Dean, Equal Opportunities and Career Development (OECD), NUS/NUHS
Prof Kenneth Kwek
Deputy Group Chief CEO (Digital Health), Immediate past-CEO, SGH
Ms Karen Chang
Senior Vice-Dean (Corporate Services), Duke-NUS
Ms May Ong
Director, CBRNE Centre of Expertise (CoE), HTX

4:10 PM - 4:40 PM

TEA BREAK

4:40 PM - 5:05 PM

CLOSING FIRESIDE CHAT

Ms Georgette Tan

Board Member and Immediate Past President, United Women Singapore
Board Member, SG Her Empowerment
Co-Chair, BoardAgender

Introduction & Moderation by Asst Prof Mara McAdams (Duke-NUS)

5:05 PM - 5:30 PM

**CLOSE OF MEETING and
TRANSFER OF IWSMS STEWARDSHIP**

Asst Prof Ann-Marie Chacko

Duke-NUS Medical School

Asst Prof Mara McAdams

Duke-NUS Medical School

A/Prof Valerie Chew

SingHealth Duke-NUS

Asst Prof Lynn Yap

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Nanyang Technological University

A/Prof Christine Cheung

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Nanyang Technological University

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