

News Release

German and Singaporean experts hold joint research symposium on Neurosciences

09 November 2009, Singapore - Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, German Cluster of Excellence 'NeuroCure – Towards a better outcome of Neurological diseases', the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the National University of Singapore (NUS) are pleased to present the first joint symposium on Neurosciences on 9 November 2009 at Pixel Building (one-north), Singapore.

This first bilateral research symposium brings together experts from leading research institutions in Germany and Singapore who will share their findings on the diagnosis and treatment of neurological diseases, such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, focal epilepsies, and developmental disturbances, as well as on the use of disease models to study cellular mechanisms underlying diseases.

The research symposium provides a joint platform to explore possible research collaborations between Germany and Singapore. The event also promotes awareness of research opportunities related to neurosciences in both countries and to facilitate closer interaction between local and international researchers.

This meeting provides an exciting opportunity to build awareness of research opportunities in neurosciences within Singapore and with the NeuroCure team at the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

The programme sees lectures presented by invited speakers from Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, the National Neuroscience Institute Singapore, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

The German speakers are scientists at the Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure based at the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin. "We have two main goals within our cluster initiative. First, researchers in the basic science departments aim to acquire a better understanding of brain function. Second, basic researchers, in close collaboration with physicians from the respective departments, are investigating brain diseases such as multiple sclerosis and stroke. In addition, we have close collaborations with the department of paediatrics in order to examine developmental disorders of the brain." said Prof Dietmar Schmitz, Governing Director of the Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure.

"Strokes are among the most common causes for death and disability in modern societies. Neurological research can tell us why they occur and how to treat them. This is but one of the topics to be discussed during the forthcoming Singaporean-German Workshop on Neurosciences. I am delighted that a leading German research-consortium, the cluster of excellence "NeuroCure" from Berlin, will exchange its research-findings with its Singaporean counterparts. I am confident that a sustainable cooperation in neurosciences and biomedicine in general, can be built upon the results of this workshop." said H.E. Joerg Ranau, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Singapore.

"The need to find cures and treatments for neurological diseases is as important to Germany as it is to Singapore. The Charité Berlin is one of the leading university hospitals in Europe with a great track record in this field of medicine. This symposium is a fantastic opportunity for members of the research communities of both our countries to come together and to explore joint collaborations." said Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu, Director of the DAAD Information Centre Singapore.

"As one of the fastest growing areas in both industry and academia, the life sciences, including neurosciences, are rapidly spawning collaborations that transcend disciplines, geography and culture. We hope that this research symposium will provide a platform for meaningful collaborative relationships to be formed, both locally and internationally, between scientists and clinicians in the field of neurosciences." said Prof Peter Little, Research Director, Office of the Deputy President (Research & Technology), NUS.

Speakers from Germany and Singapore will share their research findings on various aspects of neurological disorders including epilepsy and Parkinson. The German experts will also visit the main stakeholders in Singapore's neurosciences research community including Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, the National Neuroscience Institute and NUS Centre for Life Sciences. The German-Singapore research symposium will be held on 9 November 2009 at Pixel Building (one-north), Singapore.

About the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is a German government ministry. It provides funding for research projects and institutions and regulates (together with the German states) the country's general educational policy.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.bmbf.de/en/index.php>

About the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is Germany's principal agency for the support of international academic cooperation and exchange. It supports the worldwide exchange of international students, graduates, academics and scientists within the framework of more than 200 different programmes.

For further information, please visit: www.daad.de or www.ic.daad/singapore

About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 14 faculties and schools across three campuses. Over 30,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence and 21 university-level research institutes and centres. It also shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-

known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit: www.nus.edu.sg

About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)

Temasek Life Science Laboratory (TLL) was established in August 2002 by the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Temasek Holdings to undertake cutting edge research in molecular biology and genetics in the broad field of life sciences. In addition, TLL has training programs for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, as well as students from the universities and junior colleges.

For more information, please visit: www.tll.org.sg

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