

The power of partnership

Little more than eight decades ago, a new hospital, medical school, and nursing school opened in North Carolina, with simple but ambitious goals—to serve the community fully, to make scientific discoveries, and to provide outstanding education. In less than the span of a human lifetime, with a clear vision and hard work from many talented individuals, that fledgling entity grew into Duke Medicine, one of the world's leading academic medical institutions. In 2005, Duke helped to launch another young institution, born of equally outrageous ambition and with equally great promise: Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. A collaboration with the National University of Singapore, Duke-NUS was founded to develop a new generation of physician-scientists who could be true, transnational leaders in medical research, education, and patient care. This summer, the school graduates its first class of new physicians—and I see that class as the embodiment of an exciting new model of medical education, innovative research, and institutional partnership.

Duke-NUS shares many of the same ideals we count as essential to our own success here at Duke Medicine. The student body is wonderfully diverse—its 186 MD students hail from 21 countries. Its curriculum, while based on that of our own School of Medicine, has also introduced innovative and forward-thinking ideas, incorporating a unique team-based learning model designed to produce leaders. Its cross-continent collaborations with institutions both public and private are helping to accelerate discovery and to move it from theory into practice. You can read much more about Duke-NUS in the special report in this issue, beginning on page three.

Singapore is a crown jewel in Duke Medicine's collaborations, but it's not the only one that we have pursued. Our collaborations today range from global to local. Here at home, we have long worked hand in hand with hospitals and other providers who share our goal of improving care through collaborations such as the Duke Infection Control Outreach Network, the Duke Oncology Network, and the Duke Heart Network. We are continuing to forge new partnerships to strengthen health care delivery and quality in our local communities, such as our recent venture with LifePoint Hospitals (see page 16). On an international level, our partnerships extend across the globe; from Tanzania to China to India, Duke is making lasting connections and working to advance medicine for all people. The benefits of these partnerships

are manifold. As we share our strengths in research, education, care delivery, and service, we learn from our partners' unique innovations and efficiencies, and together we are able to better care for the members of our communities.

We can be proud of what we are accomplishing through all of these collaborations. At the same time, we must look forward to the next 80 years and ask ourselves how we can continue to thrive as an institution and to better the health of the world. We know that we are moving toward one global society, where communication is instantaneous and barriers between cultures and continents are dissolving. We know people and ideas are more mobile than ever before—and that no institution can afford to stagnate in isolation. Like Duke's

founders, we may not know the exact ways in which medicine will evolve in the future, but we can continue to pursue the possibilities—to be willing to take risks, to build upon the mission and entrepreneurial spirit that have made us the institution we are, and to join forces with others who share our values.

I myself have been a beneficiary of these values. Born in Shanghai, I was accepted to study at McGill University in Canada when I was 18; with hard work, a world of possibilities unfolded before me. I feel fortunate for the opportunities

I have had—but I also feel compelled to make sure that the same opportunities will be there for current and future generations of young students. As one of the world's leaders in academic medicine, we have the responsibility to pay these possibilities forward, to look for new ways in which Duke Medicine can serve the world, at home and abroad, today and for generations to come.

At this point in history—both the history of Duke Medicine and the history of humankind—we cannot afford to operate within the confines of our own backyard. We must come together as a society, both local and global, to surmount the challenges we all face and take the next step toward a better, brighter future. That is just what the Classes of 2011 are doing, both at Duke and at Duke-NUS, and I am immensely proud of the role we have played in giving them their start.



Victor J. Dzau, MD, talks with medical students at Duke-NUS in Singapore. The school is graduating its first class this summer.

DUKE-NUS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor J. Dzau'.

Victor J. Dzau, MD

Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University
President and CEO, Duke University Health System
James B. Duke Professor of Medicine