

A Minute with Assoc Prof Tan Say Beng

Research Leadership in SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC



Assoc Prof Tan Say Beng
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(GCRSO), SingHealth;
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Q1) Which aspects of SingHealth and Duke-NUS partnership do you think we have done well?

A/Prof Tan: Overall, SingHealth and Duke-NUS have done very well in research over the years. Together as an Academic Medical Centre (AMC), we have a clear research masterplan and strategy which sets the direction of where we want to go and how we can get there.

We have a good balance between having a fair amount of central coordination at the AMC level, while at the same time, recognising the distinct strengths of individual institutions and the value of them driving their own research agendas and plans, while taking reference from the AMC strategies.

Q2) Are there areas that we could have done better?

A/Prof Tan: One area that I feel we could have done better is in the translation of research into practice. There is recognition of the importance of doing this and the potential health outcomes that it can bring. However, while we have shown much improvement in this

area over the years, there is much more that can be done. We need to continue to remind and seek to change the mindset of our researchers, to encourage them to think beyond shorter term goals such as getting a grant, finishing the recruitment of their study, or even getting a good paper published. We want them to consider how they can translate their research ideas and results into practice, to eventually scale them up for use in practice here in Singapore and elsewhere in the world.

Within our AMC, we have the infrastructure in place to facilitate this translation process and we need everyone to work closely together to support this very important aspect of research and innovation. We want to realise both the health and economic benefits from our research, whether that is through drug development, ideas that become new policies and change the way we practice medicine in Singapore, or changing the lifestyle of the population so as to better prevent and control diseases.

Q3) Please share with us your favourite memory during your time with AMRI so far.

A/Prof Tan: I have many good memories working with colleagues in our AMC. From engaging in interesting discussions individually and in small groups, to participating in larger meetings where I can meet many different people across a wide range of backgrounds, skill sets and experience. It is also always a delight celebrating each success that we have, whether it is in the form of a successful grant application, an important publication or even when we do a good job organising an event or running a successful grant review panel

meeting. More generally, I feel a sense of satisfaction whenever we have managed to solve particular problems and have been able to be helpful to others.

We are honoured to interview Assoc Prof Tan and share his message with our research community in commemoration of AMRI's 10th Anniversary. For more commemorative content or to learn more about AMRI, please visit <https://www.singhealthdukenus.com.sg/research>