

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**13 July 2010**

### **A\*STAR NURTURES A PIPELINE OF 1,000 SCHOLARS**

***240 A\*STAR scholars and fellows are already deployed in various R&D sectors in Singapore***

***A\*STAR also launches a new scholarship programme for undergraduate studies in local universities***

1. The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) announced at its 2010 A\*STAR Scholarship Awards Ceremony that its 10-year scholarship drive has been successful in nurturing a pipeline of 1,000 scholars who will contribute to the Singapore R&D scene. This number includes the 136 scholars who received their scholarships and fellowships from Guest-of-Honour, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, at the ceremony today.

2. Of the 1000 A\*STAR scholars, 240 have already completed their PhD studies or fellowships. They are currently pursuing R&D careers in Singapore across various sectors, namely in A\*STAR research institutes, universities, hospitals and industry. Multinational companies such as Abbott, Genentech, and Lilly, as well as local enterprises such as SPN International and Nanyang Optical, are among the growing pool of companies to tap the expertise of A\*STAR scholars.

3. Said Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of A\*STAR, "Even though these are early days yet for our returned scholars, many of them have distinguished themselves by having first author publications in prestigious journals or patents to their names. A number of them are already crossing over to industry. Over time, they will develop and grow with some of them becoming leaders in both public and private sector research and contribute to the vibrancy of Singapore's R&D."

4. Agreeing with Mr Lim, Prof Sir David Lane, A\*STAR Chief Scientist, who has mentored nine scholars during their undergraduate and postgraduate studies and many others on their research attachments during his six-year stint here, said, "The A\*STAR scholars whom I have had interactions with have displayed exceptional drive and eagerness to learn. With their calibre and the excellent opportunities available here, they are poised to make great contributions to science and to Singapore."

5. Leaders from industry such as Pradip Mukerji, Center Director, Asia-Pacific R&D, Abbott, have similarly been impressed by A\*STAR's returned scholars. He said, "... Abbott is privileged to include among its many talented scientists Dr Low Yen Ling who earned her PhD under an A\*STAR scholarship. The effort that A\*STAR puts forth in attracting talented students to science-based careers provides companies such as Abbott with a pool of young scientific leaders, who can continue to fulfill Abbott's pursuit of providing innovative healthcare solutions for people in every stage of life."

### **A\*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship**

6. Seven young scientific talent were awarded the inaugural A\*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship (AUS) at the ceremony today. The AUS, the eighth scholarship programme to be launched by A\*STAR since 2001, will support young talent with a keen interest in research to pursue a Bachelor's degree in science or engineering at local universities. Information on the different A\*STAR scholarship programmes are at [Annex C](#). A\*STAR offers a range of scholarship programmes to provide young talent with the opportunity to pursue a career in R&D at various stages of their education career, be it at undergraduate, postgraduate or postdoctoral level.

7. Sir Keith Peters, Chairman of the International Advisory Panel for A\*STAR Graduate Academy, who noted that A\*STAR's scholarship programmes was an excellent way to attract and develop scientific talent, commented, "The scholarship schemes have been a resounding success and are a testimony to A\*STAR's far-sighted approach to talent. It is hard to envisage a more worthwhile investment in Singapore's future in R&D."

8. Agreeing, Mrs Lim Lai Cheng of Raffles Institution (JC) added, "The A\*STAR scholarships signal to educators, students and parents the diverse and exciting opportunities in R&D. In the last ten years, they have played a pivotal role in stimulating young people to contribute as pioneers, thinkers and leaders in Science."

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## **AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**

Annex A: A\*STAR's Returning Scholars

Annex B: A\*STAR's New Scholars

Annex C: A\*STAR's Suite of Scholarship Programmes

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**About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)**

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) is the lead agency for fostering world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based and innovation-driven Singapore. A\*STAR oversees 14 biomedical sciences, and physical sciences and engineering research institutes, and seven consortia & centres, which are located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis, as well as their immediate vicinity.

A\*STAR supports Singapore's key economic clusters by providing intellectual, human and industrial capital to its partners in industry. It also supports extramural research in the universities, hospitals, research centres, and with other local and international partners.

For more information about A\*STAR, please visit [www.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.a-star.edu.sg).

**A\*STAR's Returned Scholars**



Dr Joel Yang, NSS (PhD) scholar, returned from his PhD studies to win the coveted A\*STAR Investigatorship in 2009. This has allowed him to set up a laboratory at A\*STAR's **Institute of Materials Research and Engineering**, where he spearheads research in nanoscale lithography – a crucial research area in the race to make high capacity data storage smaller.



Dr Zhang Rui, NSS (PhD) scholar, took up the A\*STAR-NUS Joint Appointment Scheme in early 2010. He is now leading research projects as a Senior Research Engineer at A\*STAR's **Institute for Infocomm Research** and an Assistant Professor in the **NUS Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering**.



Dr Low Yen Ling, NSS (PhD) scholar, worked in A\*STAR's **Singapore Institute of Clinical Sciences** on a major research collaboration with **Abbott Nutrition R&D Asia-Pacific Centre** and is now full-time on the MNC's research team.



Dr Chow Keat Theng, AGS scholar, is seconded to local company **SPN International** to head a collaborative project with A\*STAR's **Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences** to develop manufacturing and scale-up processes for a chemical product.



Dr Su Xinyi, NSS (MBBS-PhD) scholar, is currently a House Officer at the **National University Hospital**. Dr Su continues to pursue her research interest in DNA repair and cell cycles as she looks to develop clinical breakthroughs in cancer.

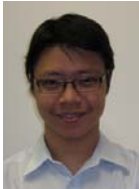
**A\*STAR's New Scholars**



Mr Zhuang Furen, NSS(BS) scholar, has always found that scientific concepts come naturally to him, and sees a career in scientific research as a way to challenge himself daily to ask the questions that matter. He will be reading Natural Sciences at the **University of Cambridge**.



Ms Joey Lim, AUS scholar, was inspired to venture further into the life sciences when under her IB research programme. Armed with the degree she is about to embark on (this part reads oddly – need rephrasing) from the **National University of Singapore**, she aspires to pursue a career in stem cell research.



Mr Desmond Cai, NSS (PhD) scholar, will be beginning his PhD studies in Electrical Engineering at the **California Institute of Technology** (Caltech). His interest is in the optimisation of computer networking for energy-efficient and cost-effective power systems.



Ms Lim Su Hui, AGS scholar, first developed an interest in nanotechnology during her Ngee Ann Polytechnic days. Having graduated with a BSc in Material Science and Engineering from Nanyang Technological University, she will continue on to her PhD at the **National University of Singapore**.



Dr Lim Liting, AIF recipient, completed her PhD in malaria biology at the University of Melbourne. She will pursue her postdoctoral training under the AIF at Paris' **Pasteur Institute** before joining the Institute of Medical Biology to advance research in infectious diseases.

## A\*STAR's Suite of Scholarship Programmes

### FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

#### National Science Scholarships (NSS) (BS)

The NSS (BS) supports promising young talents in their undergraduate studies at top overseas universities in Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering disciplines. Candidates who do well will be further supported for a PhD scholarship by A\*STAR. The scholarship provides opportunities to train in some of the world's best research institutes and learn from the best scientific talent in a stimulating and nurturing environment.

#### National Science Scholarship (MBBS - PhD)

The MBBS-PhD scholarship was established to train clinician scientists who will be able to apply their clinical knowledge and skills in carrying out world-class translational research. The scholarship supports three years of undergraduate studies, followed by five to six years of MBBS and PhD or intercalated MBBS-PhD in the UK.

#### A\*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship (AUS – *previously known as PGS*)

AUS supports bright individuals with a keen interest in research for a Bachelor's degree in science or engineering at local universities. Upon graduation, scholars have the flexibility to pursue their PhD studies locally or abroad on A\*STAR or other university scholarships.

### FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

#### National Science Scholarship (NSS) (PhD)

The NSS (PhD) prepares promising graduates for a key leadership role in Singapore's science and technology future. The programme funds PhD studies at top overseas universities in Biomedical Science, Physical Sciences and Engineering disciplines.

#### National Science Scholarship (NSS) (MD-PhD)

The NSS (MD-PhD) scholarship is tenable for PhD training under the MD-PhD programme at Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS). It complements the NSS (MBBS-PhD) scholarship in the training of clinician-scientists to undertake world-class translational research in Singapore. Scholars will be allowed to proceed to clinical specialist training in Singapore, subject to their academic performance, aptitude and the research needs of A\*STAR.

#### A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship (AGS)

This four-year scholarship comprises two years of PhD studies at an A\*STAR Research Institute and another two years at a select top overseas university to enrich students' academic experience. Students will be mentored by a Professor from the selected university and a senior member of an A\*STAR Research Institute. Successful students will be conferred a PhD degree by the select university. Students may be required to undergo a one-year research attachment at an A\*STAR research institute prior to their PhD studies.

Current partner universities include:

**Singapore** – Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore

**Europe** – Imperial College London, Karolinska Institutet, University of Cambridge, University of Dundee, University of Oxford

**United States** – Carnegie Mellon, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **FOR POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES**

### A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship Post-Doctoral Fellowship (AGS PDF)

AGS (NTU/NUS) scholars who have completed their PhD training are eligible for the AGS PDF. It provides support for up to 2 years of post-doctoral training at top overseas universities/laboratories and aims to provide these students with exposure overseas.

### A\*STAR International Fellowship (AIF)

The A\*STAR International Fellowship provides PhD graduates with two years of fully funded post-doctoral training at top overseas laboratories to expand their research experience and learn new skills to advance their scientific careers. This international exposure will enable PhD graduates to connect with the global research community and build international networks. Upon completion of the post-doctorate training, students can look forward to embarking on an exciting career at A\*STAR's Research Institutes.