



## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR TAN SER KIAT**

### **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

Professor Tan Ser Kiat is held in high regard as an illustrious surgeon, academic, healthcare leader, and popular mentor. He is Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Emeritus Consultant at the Singapore General Hospital, and President of the Singapore Medical Council. He is perhaps most well-known for his dedication to and passion for healthcare in Singapore.

A public servant of great vision and commitment, Prof Tan has contributed tremendously to the development of the Singapore General Hospital. Driven by the belief that his students and juniors should eventually surpass him in both skill and knowledge, he has nurtured an entire generation of orthopaedic surgeons who are highly respected in their field.

Prof Tan is a champion of patient and staff welfare. His mantra: that a patient's interest should be the first consideration in clinical decision making.

Prof Tan has dedicated more than 40 years to public healthcare, and made significant contributions in various roles at SGH. With the restructuring of healthcare services in

2000, he was appointed Group CEO of Singapore Health Services. He provided the strong, decisive and yet compassionate leadership that successfully led the hospital and the cluster through the darkness and challenges of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS outbreak in 2003. Prof Tan was appointed CEO of SGH in September 2003, a position he held concurrently with the Group CEO post till 2008.

Apart from being a respected academic, Prof Tan is a passionate advocate of quality medical education and the mentoring of younger doctors. He played a key role as a pioneer governing board member for Duke-NUS Medical School when it started in 2005. He actively identified suitable SingHealth clinicians to champion Duke-NUS as a graduate medical school dedicated to producing highly-trained medical leaders in support of Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Initiative. In his capacity as chair of the Development Committee, Prof Tan successfully engaged and secured the support of stakeholders and donors to help the School meet its mission of transforming medicine and improving lives. He stepped down from the board in February 2016, having helped lay a strong foundation for the training of doctors who are exposed to clinically-related research, and facilitating the development of outstanding clinician scientists at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre.

Prof Tan's notable service to the nation and international community is well recognised. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 1986, the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1999 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2012. His concern for staff welfare has also been recognised nationally - he was awarded the Singapore HR Institute Leading CEO award in 2005. He was conferred the National Day Award (Public Service Medal) in 2006 and May Day Medal of Commendation (Gold) in

2010.

We are privileged this evening to be able to celebrate the immense contributions of our alumnus and a member of our faculty. Professor Tan Ser Kiat's dedicated service to Singapore and NUS is truly deserving of the Outstanding Service Award.