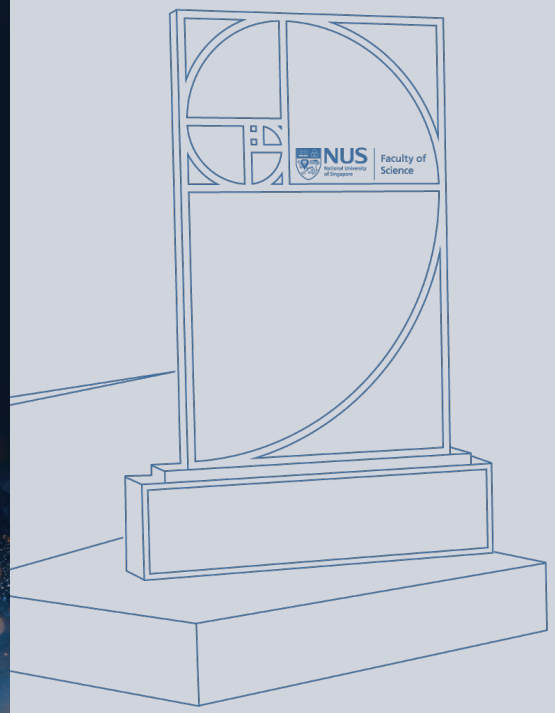
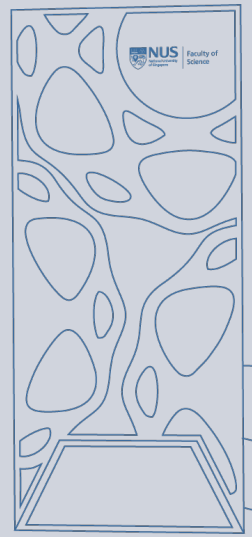
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

ALUMNI AWARDS 2024

DISTINGUISHED SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

This award recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves in national leadership, service, research excellence, or betterment and promotion of science.





OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

This award recognises alumni for their leadership / contributions to their profession / industry / discipline, service to the nation or community, entrepreneurship, research or any other area of human endeavour deemed worthy.

DISTINGUISHED SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Dr Chong Yoke Sin first joined IBM with a vision to make a transformative impact through computers. Four decades later, she has achieved this, and more.

Yoke Sin brings with her the singular honour of founding and transforming two major organisations in technology - National Computer Systems (NCS) and Integrated Health Information Systems (IHiS) (now Synapxe)

Yoke Sin was part of the team leading NCS' corporatisation in 1996, successfully pivoting it into a major systems integrator for the government and commercial sectors. Under her leadership, NCS also expanded its footprint internationally to Asia, the Middle East, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

She went on to make her mark in IHiS, architecting a highly integrated and automated clinical and patient-administration system for the Singapore public healthcare system. She also led the implementation of the Health Hub portal that is now widely used by Singaporeans.

Yoke Sin now sits on the boards of multiple organisations, including the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Mount Alvernia Hospital.

For her seminal contributions in shaping digital adoption in Singapore, Yoke Sin was named to the Hall of Fame of the United States Healthcare Information and Management Systems (2016) and the Singapore Computer Society (SCS) (2023). She also received the ASEAN Top CIO Award (2013).

As SCS President (2019 to 2022), she pioneered the Ethics in AI initiative, set up SCS' 100 Women in Tech Awards and was a contributing author to the AI Ethics and Governance Body of Knowledge.

Yoke Sin is an active community volunteer and youth mentor. She also contributes to a bursary to support women pursuing degrees in science and technology.

"Life is about learning and learning is living."

DR CHONG YOKE SIN
(Chemistry 1979, PhD 1984)

“天行健，君子以自强不息
地势坤，君子以厚德载物”

EMERITUS PROFESSOR
HEW CHOY LEONG
(Chemistry 1964)

DISTINGUISHED SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Emeritus Professor Hew Choy Leong is renowned internationally for his pioneering research on fish genetic engineering breeding. His groundbreaking work on fish antifreeze proteins and the development of transgenic fish technology is behind the first genetically modified (GM) salmon approved for human consumption.

He went on to become one of the founding scientists of United States-based AquaBounty Technologies, which commercialises GM fish. He now uses the latest land-based recirculated aquaculture technology for salmon farming to promote food and environmental sustainability in Asia.

Choy Leong has made his mark as a scientific leader, entrepreneur and administrator in a career spanning over 40 years

As Head of NUS' Department of Biological Sciences (1999 to 2008), he elevated the department's stature internationally in research excellence, staff quality and funding support.

As Director of the former NUS Office of Life Sciences (2006 to 2007), Choy Leong planned and developed many new interfaculty research programmes, with several of these eventually leading to the establishment of some of NUS' Research Centres of Excellence such as the Mechanobiology Institute.

Under his leadership, the department built academic ties with universities in China and India. Choy Leong initiated the Trilateral Research Partnership with Tsinghua and Xiamen Universities which eventually led to a 14 Chinese university-SIngapore alliance and the formation of the Xiamen Winter Symposium, as well as the ASEAN Universities Network in Biology.

In recognition of his work, Choy Leong has received awards in Canada, Singapore and China. These include the APICS-Fraser Award (1980) and the Outstanding Alumni Award by Simon Fraser University (2019), amongst many.

Choy Leong has held numerous international appointments and affiliations and continues to promote international university alliances and scientific and technological collaboration. He also trains teachers and students in Malaysian high schools in support of STEM outreach efforts.

DISTINGUISHED SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Emeritus Professor Lim Hock has the unique distinction of being the founding director of three national research and technological institutes in Singapore - the Centre for Remote Sensing, Imaging and Processing (CRISP), Temasek Laboratories (T-Lab) at NUS and the Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiative (SNRSI)

He built up CRISP's foundational reputation for technical excellence and under his leadership, CRISP quickly established itself as a globally respected authority in satellite remote sensing. His work earned CRISP the Excellence for Singapore Award (1999).

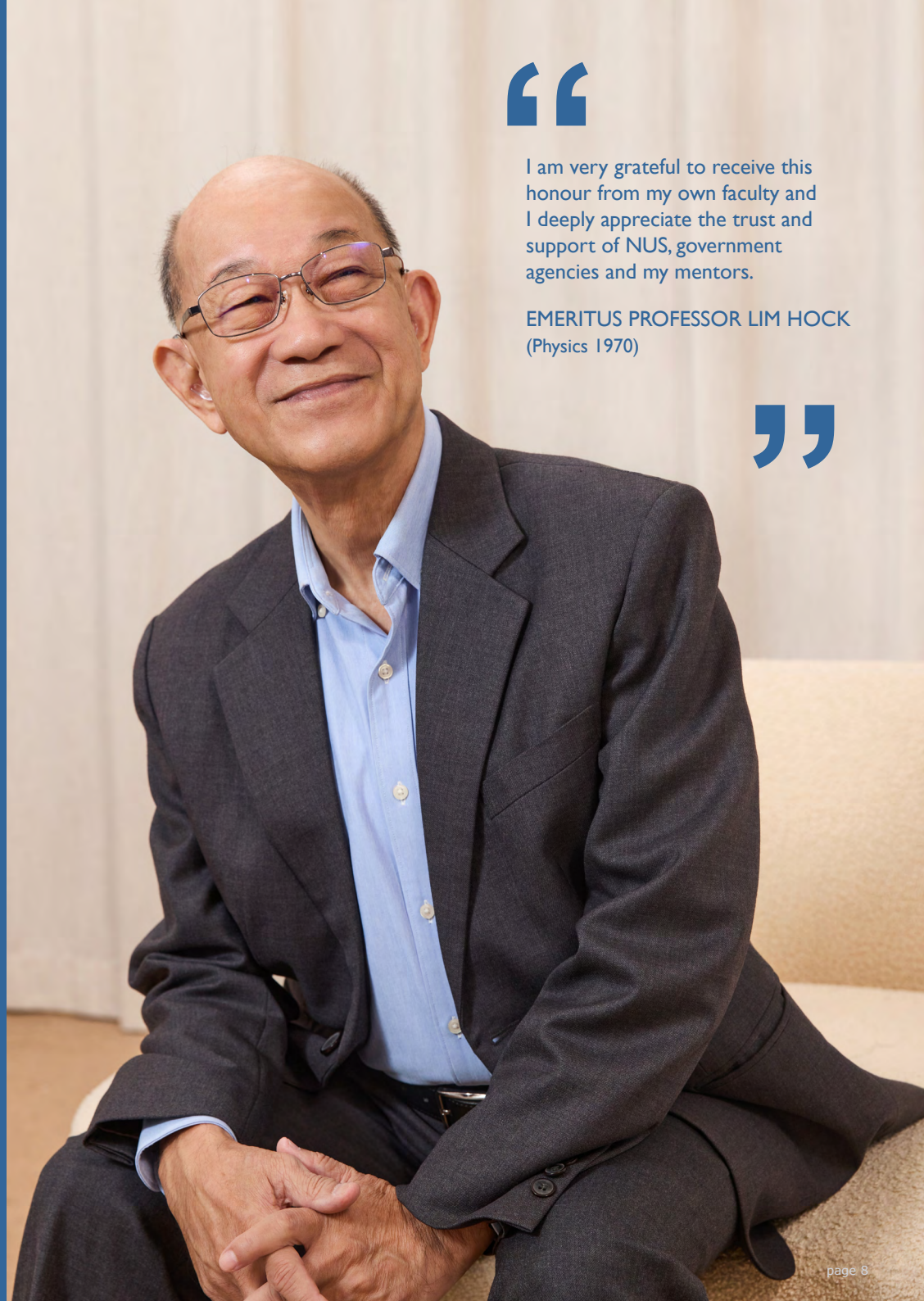
He was next invited by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) to establish the T-Lab in NUS. As its first director in 2000, Hock built it up into a leading research centre making significant contributions in scientific research critical to Singapore's defence and security. In recognition of his work, MINDEF awarded him the Defence Technology Prize (2003).

Hock subsequently lent his expertise to lead the SNRSI, which was set up to focus on research and capabilities building in nuclear safety, science and engineering in Singapore.

Recognising the growing importance of computational modelling and simulation in scientific research, Hock initiated the Computational Science Programme in 1990. He contributed significantly to the programme's success, leading to its subsequent elevation to become a full-fledged Department of Computational Science in 1996.

He has received multiple accolades, including two National Day Awards.

Hock continues to teach at NUS' Physics Department, his alma mater, and is currently busy developing the contents for a new course in meteorology and climate science to be offered next semester.



"I am very grateful to receive this honour from my own faculty and I deeply appreciate the trust and support of NUS, government agencies and my mentors."

EMERITUS PROFESSOR LIM HOCK
(Physics 1970)

> Awards are not true indicators of end results. Instead, let this accomplishment be a reminder that growth and learning are the most valuable rewards of any endeavour.
>
> MS CHEW KAI HWA
> (Chemistry and Biochemistry 1987)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Ms Chew Kai Hwa is an ardent advocate of lifelong learning, which leads her to continually push the boundaries of knowledge.

Staying true to this aspiration led her to develop numerous innovative products for Singapore Asahi Chemical & Solder Industries, transforming it into a technology-driven company.

In 1994, she secured her first patent for fluxless soldering, which eliminates expensive, environmentally hazardous cleaning. To date, she holds over 100 patents globally in areas such as soldering processes, lead-free solders, silver nanowires and production processes.

Kai Hwa's contributions to the electronics industry have led to significant product advancements

Kai Hwa started off as an Application Chemist in Omega Scientific specialising in analytical equipment before venturing into enterprise, first founding Quantum Chemical to support Singapore Asahi's research.

Thereafter, she co-founded Advanced Metal Technology with Yissum, the technology transfer company of Hebrew University, where she was appointed Chairman of a new startup to develop copper inks for printed electronics applications.

She is currently the Managing Director of Quantum Chemical Technologies and concurrently the Technical and R&D Director of Singapore Asahi Chemical & Solder Industries and Chief Technology Officer of Asahi Lifecare and Advanced Metal Technologies.

As a member of NUS Chemistry's Industry Advisory Board, Kai Hwa shares insights from her industry experience to help shape chemistry courses.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Serendipity led Mr Daniel Chia to become a human resources (HR) practitioner. He planned to work in research after graduation but pivoted to the uncharted waters of HR after discovering his interest in training.

Leading from the heart, Daniel uses the little he has to make a difference

As Director, Country Human Resources at market services expansion company DKSH Singapore, Daniel believes that people are an organisation's best asset.

He remains single-minded in his focus - enhancing employee engagement and wellbeing to fight the talent war.

As testament of his work, DKSH was twice honoured as a Great Place to Work®, making it a standard-bearer for exceptional workplace culture. This accolade is but one feather in his cap in a career where he has assumed HR leadership roles in various multinationals including Samsung Electronics, Carlsberg Group and Nestle Singapore.

As an Executive Council member at the Singapore Human Resources Institute, Daniel's team planned and ran the World Human Resource Congress which put Singapore on the global HR map. He is also the Chairperson of NUSS' Membership Sub Committee and partners with the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to improve workers' lives.

Daniel received the Outstanding Food Science and Technology (FST) Award (2019, 2024) for his contributions to his alma mater. These include fundraising for awards and bursaries that support disadvantaged students (PJ Barlow Book Prize (2006), Alumni Bursary Awards (2009)), leading FST's Day of Service since 2016 and organising Charity Golf events which enabled the set-up of the FST Alumni Endowment Fund.

Daniel also volunteers in various roles with Children's Wishing Well and Dover Park Hospice. As a nominated NUS Alumni Student Advancement Committee member, he raises funds for meaningful causes, such as bursaries, to assist financially disadvantaged students.

> Simple acts of kindness have the power to uplift. It is the intent behind our actions that make them meaningful, no matter how small they may seem.
>
> MR DANIEL CHIA HY
> (Food Science and Technology 2003)

Science is a dynamic and evolving field of inquiry - new discoveries are made, new evidence is found and new methods are developed. I am inspired everyday by what science can do.

MR HOW TI HWEI
(Pharmacy 1995)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

As Vice President of International Oncology & Market Access at AstraZeneca, Mr How Ti Hwei leads efforts to enhance cancer screening, early detection and diagnosis in Emerging Markets, particularly for lung cancer, which has the highest mortality rates. In addition, he creates platforms to empower cancer survivors to make meaningful contributions back to society.

Ti Hwei is passionate about improving cancer outcomes worldwide

Ti Hwei previously led the Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (SAPI) and the European Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Committee. At SAPI, he collaborated with the Health Sciences Authority to help Singapore become one of the first countries to implement electronic package inserts, using QR codes instead of paper inserts, for quick and ecofriendly medication information updates.

He has almost three decades' experience in the pharmaceutical and consumer goods sectors, where he has held various marketing and country leadership positions. He also serves on several advisory bodies, including the Singapore Pharmacy Council, the Singapore Pharmacy Programme Advisory Board at NUS and Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Life Sciences and Chemical Advisory Committee, contributing to the advancement of life sciences education and practice.

His insights contributed towards developing NUS' new integrated Bachelor of Pharmacy curriculum, the only tertiary-level programme of its kind in Singapore. Ti Hwei continues to give back to his alma mater, by mentoring students and hosting internships for science students.

While pursuing his Executive MBA at NUS Business School, Ti Hwei was awarded the Chua Joon Eng Gold Medal.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Ms Lim Chin Chin was among the pioneer batch of forensic experts who recreated crime scenes in the courtroom. She was also a court witness for some of Singapore's most challenging criminal cases, such as the Yishun Triple murder in 2008.

She was running her own consultancy providing forensics services in Singapore and overseas when the opportunity to join the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) as Director of its Forensics Centre of Expertise arose.

She combines her experience, gained over the past three decades, with technology to transform how Home Team departments investigate criminal activities and incidents.

Chin Chin seeks not just to solve crimes but also to proactively identify potential threats to allow timely interventions

Chin Chin started her career as a Forensic Scientist at the then Department of Scientific Services (now the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)), where she played a pivotal role in expanding its Forensic Chemistry and Physics Laboratory capabilities. This transformed it from a small outfit to a prolific laboratory.

Her contributions during her illustrious career - from developing a framework to detect counterfeit drugs to pioneering the development of bloodstain pattern analysis and forensic scene reconstruction in Singapore - have had significant impact.

She was an invited speaker at key international conferences and collaborated with experts from international organisations like INTERPOL on the forensic analysis of counterfeit drugs. She has also co-authored over 130 scientific papers.

Chin Chin is a recipient of the HSA Living Core Values Distinction Award (2006), the National Day Commendation Medal (2006) and the HTX Ideal Leader Award (2023).

> Indulge your curiosity. Put your heart and soul into something you love without thinking about the rewards you might receive.
>
> MS LIM CHIN CHIN
> (Chemistry 1991, MSc 1994)

“I am grateful that my alma mater remembers me.”

PROFESSOR LIM LEK-HENG
(Mathematics 1996, MSc 1999)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Professor Lim Lek-Heng was not interested in mathematics when he was young. A conversation with a junior college physics teacher piqued his interest in gauge theory - and attempting to make sense of the mathematics that underpins gauge theory put him on a path towards becoming a mathematician.

Now a Professor of Computational and Applied Mathematics at the University of Chicago, he trains the next generation of applied mathematicians and statisticians in the art of advanced mathematical computations, indispensable in every modern quantitative discipline.

Lek-Heng is developing the mathematical foundations to better understand technologies driving Artificial Intelligence

A noteworthy aspect is that he draws on uncommon tools in pure mathematics, some of this knowledge a result of his past foray into gauge theory.

Getting selected for the now-defunct Direct Honours Programme in Mathematics was a standout moment in NUS. With an inverted student-teacher ratio, where more than 15 professors taught a class of four students, this programme exposed Lek-Heng to advanced areas outside his comfort zone and afforded invaluable interactions with dedicated instructors.

Among his accolades, Lek-Heng highlights the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Young Faculty Award that he received as an Assistant Professor. This is the agency that created transformative technologies like the Internet, the Global Positioning System (GPS), drones, mRNA vaccines, and more. He felt flattered but also encouraged that DARPA found his work worthy of support.

Later, it even honoured him with a DARPA Director's Fellowship and more recently, a Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship, the United States Department of Defense's most prestigious award for basic research.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Professor Ng Huck Hui is captivated by how gene regulation confers unique cellular properties that govern the ability of cells to self-renew or to differentiate into more specialised cells.

Huck Hui's work has placed Singapore on the global map for gene regulation research in stem cells

He is renowned internationally for his expertise in gene regulatory networks and functional genomics and has authored some of the seminal works in this field. His team's discoveries did not only shed light on cellular behaviour but also opened doors for scientists to cell and molecular therapy.

Huck Hui's illustrious career has closely charted the development of Biopolis, which was established from scratch in 2000 and has since climbed the ladder for excellence in science as an international hub for biomedical science research.

As Executive Director of the Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), he developed GIS into one of the most influential institutes in genomics.

He was subsequently appointed as Assistant Chief Executive (ACE) of A*STAR's Biomedical Research Council and is currently ACE, Research and Talent Development, where he plays a pivotal role in championing multidisciplinary research and mentorship for researchers.

Huck Hui has received multiple accolades in recognition of his work, including the National Science Award (2007), the Singapore Youth Award (Commendation Medal) (2010) and the Public Administration Medal (Silver) National Day Awards (2019). He received the President's Science Award (Team Award) (2011, 2018) for groundbreaking work on embryonic stem cell pluripotency, and Parkinson's disease, respectively.

"The many mentors and teachers I had profoundly shaped my outlook in science. This transformative experience constantly reminds me to give back to society."

PROFESSOR NG HUCK HUI
(Life Sciences 1996)
(Adjunct Professor in NUS)

I am honoured to receive this award, which I dedicate to my peers in the natural sciences community. This is a salute to all of you!

DR PHYU PHYU TUN KARENNE THERESA DELPHIN
(Zoology 1994, PhD Marine Science 2013)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Dr Karenne Tun fell in love with coral reefs when she started diving in 1990 and knew she wanted to focus on this as a profession.

As Director (Coastal and Marine / Terrestrial Branches), National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, she has a job she loves!

Together with her team, Karenne works with stakeholders to provide technical advice in support of policymaking.

Karenne's work contributes to a whole-of-government approach to conservation

Her team also manages Singapore's first marine park - the Sisters' Islands Marine Park - and promotes responsible stewardship of marine resources through outreach and education programmes.

As a PhD student at NUS Science, Karenne conducted research to improve coral reef monitoring and management, and contributed towards numerous development-related mitigation protocols while she was concurrently working at DHI Water & Environment.

Prior to her PhD, Karenne worked at WorldFish, Malaysia, coordinating regional coral reef monitoring reporting for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. She continues to contribute actively to regional and global coral reef monitoring and conservation efforts.

She currently serves as Deputy Co-Chair of the Group of Experts for a United Nations initiative tasked to prepare the Third World Ocean Assessment.

Karenne received the SeaKeepers of the World Award (2018) and the Ministry of National Development Minister's Award (2022) - Ecological Profiling Exercise, among others.

She continues to give back to her alma mater, by guest lecturing various courses and contributing to alumni activities.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Mr Simranjit Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Guardant Health AMEA, is a prominent voice in precision oncology. His connection to Guardant became deeply personal after he went through invasive tissue biopsies during a cancer scare - an experience that shaped his journey in cancer diagnostics.

Under Simranjit's leadership, Guardant introduced groundbreaking liquid biopsies, which detect tumour DNA in the bloodstream with accuracy - offering early cancer detection, recurrence monitoring and guiding treatment selection.

Guardant's innovation has transformed cancer care

Guardant Health became the first blood test approved by Singapore's Health Sciences Authority, the United States Food and Drug Administration and Japan's Ministry of Health for comprehensive genomic profiling of all solid tumours.

Simranjit led Guardant Health as a startup in Asia through complex multicountry regulatory approvals, expanding its technology into over 40 countries and reaching more than 50,000 cancer patients across Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Beginning his career in the public sector, Simranjit later led Frost & Sullivan's healthcare management consulting practice before joining Quintiles, a global market leader in clinical research for biopharmaceuticals, to develop Asia as a hub for clinical trials. After the merger of Quintiles and IMS to form IQVIA, he launched the global medical devices and diagnostics business unit for the company, driving significant growth.

Simranjit served on the National Health Innovation Centre Oversight Committee under the Ministry of Health and now sits on the Evaluation Committee of the Diagnostics Hub under the Agency of Science, Technology and Research. He also mentors students from NUS Science and supports startups from the NUS Overseas Colleges Programme.

Through his leadership, Simranjit continues to shape the future of healthcare, bringing hope and innovation to countless lives.

"The drive to bring biomedical breakthroughs to humanity has fuelled my career. By focusing on the productisation and commercialisation of transformative technologies, I've made a meaningful impact on cancer patients' lives."

MR SIMRANJIT SINGH
(Life Sciences 2004)

"To succeed you need the will to keep going."

MR TEO KEE MENG
(Chemistry 1979)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Mr Teo Kee Meng was the first to bring da Vinci® robot-assisted technology to Singapore in 2000, which was subsequently used for then Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's prostatectomy in 2015.

When he co-founded Transmedic in 1980, Kee Meng could not have imagined that his pioneering ventures into the then nascent medical technologies industry would redefine how traditional open surgeries are conducted

Over the years, Transmedic has introduced numerous advanced medical devices in the region that would pave the way for hospitals to conduct minimally invasive surgeries.

Kee Meng first launched continuous renal replacement therapy to treat patients with acute renal failure in the intensive care unit, moving on thereafter to focus on less invasive surgery. These included initiating left ventricular assist device therapy for patients who cannot undergo heart transplants and the introduction of robot-assisted systems for prostrate, knee and spine surgery which allow surgeons to perform complex surgical procedures with accuracy.

Transmedic was the first to introduce TomoTherapy® intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) in the ASEAN region. Helical IMRT allows doctors to direct radiation beams onto diseased tissue with precision and spares healthy tissue from radiation damage. It also introduced magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound to hospitals, a new emerging procedure to treat Parkinson's disease and prostrate cancer.

Kee Meng, who expanded Transmedic's footprint into seven countries, continues to serve the company on a consulting basis. Under his leadership, Transmedic received the Frost & Sullivan Health Excellence Best Practice Award (2018) in recognition of its achievements in technological innovation and strategic product development.

Kee Meng contributes to his alma mater by supporting financially disadvantaged students through the M&G (Mercy & Grace) Study Award.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Dr Geraldine Wong had a career-defining moment during the pandemic. It was in 2020 that she was appointed the first Group Chief Data Officer (CDO) at GXS Bank, one of Singapore's two pioneer digital full banks, at a time when the CDO role was still nascent.

She played a pivotal role in establishing the bank's data vision and fundamentals - including its governance, policies, processes, infrastructure and its team - remotely from the ground up during COVID-19. Subsequently, in integrating the bank's data strategy with its business needs, she succeeded in promoting data-driven financial inclusion to consumers, small businesses and underserved individuals.

Geraldine's work has pushed the boundaries to reimagine how people transact, access credit and invest, with the use of secure and ethical technology

Joining GXS Bank was not her only bold career move. Geraldine started her career in academic research on extreme climate events in Australia and Europe, before taking a leap of faith to become a data scientist in the private sector. At Singtel, she led teams in developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives and at Accenture, she managed analytics projects across the public, transport and infocommunications sectors.

In seeking to inspire more young women to discover their passion in technology, she guides Data Science and Analytics students on real-life industry-led projects as an Adjunct Associate Professor at NUS.

Geraldine has received multiple awards and accolades in recognition of her contributions to shaping the future of financial technology. These include the SG100 Women in Tech (2021), the Global Top 100 Innovators in Data and Analytics (2022), CIO 100 (2023) (ranked 8th), the inaugural Asia Women Tech Leaders Award (2024) and the Women Leading Change Awards Asia Pacific (2024).

"Winning this award is a profound honour and an affirmation of my passion for advancing technology and AI. I hope it serves as a beacon, encouraging others to reach for new heights."

DR GERALDINE WONG
(Statistics 2004)
(Adjunct Associate Professor in NUS)

People have always been the heart of my work and my passion. Their potential inspires me, their drive fuels our success and their growth ensures our continued progress.

MS WONG SZE KEED
(Mathematics and Economics 1992)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Ms Wong Tze Keed attributes her success as a corporate leader to her humble beginnings which imparted valuable lessons - such as hard work and dedication - and her journey as a financial services consultant. Collectively, these experiences shaped her to become the decisive, people-focused leader she is today.

As Chief Executive Officer of AIA Singapore, what fires her is the desire to make a positive impact - on her team, insurance representatives, customers, community and family.

She envisions for AIA Singapore to deliver an industry-leading and enduring customer experience - one that combines exceptional service driven by expertise, human empathy and care, with the enabling power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency.

Tze Keed's goal is to cultivate a sales culture rooted in trust and competence. To achieve this, she actively contributes to shaping industry standards through her roles at the Singapore College of Insurance and the Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore. She also plays a pivotal role in elevating the reputation of the insurance industry through the Life Insurance Association.

Under Keed's leadership, AIA Singapore has been ranked as a leading employer for five consecutive years and recognised as one of LinkedIn's Top Companies in Singapore

AIA Singapore has also reigned as the #1 Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) company with the highest retention rate of MDRT members for an unprecedented 10 years.

Tze Keed is the recipient of multiple awards, including CEO of the Year (2022), one of Asia's Most Inspiring Leaders (2022), the Women Entrepreneur Awards (2023), and more.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

Mr Yeo Keng Joon has made an indelible mark on the lives of many. Coming from humble beginnings, he relied on financial aid to pay for his education.

Helping financially disadvantaged students is close to his heart

He first started in 2006 with a gift of $25,000 to fund a bursary at NUS Business School and subsequently played a pivotal role in the establishment of endowed bursaries and student loan funds across NUS, Singapore Polytechnic and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia. He also initiated the Campus Couples Bursary, which brings together alumni couples to give back to the NUS community - an initiative which has drawn support from prominent figures such as then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Keng Joon is the founder and Chairman of Bharat Luxindo Agrifeeds, India, the first company to introduce complete formulation fish feed for the aquaculture industry in India. He was previously in the adhesives and coatings business at Cold Storage Group, and in animal feed and nutrition at the Gold Coin Group. He has also worked in the antimicrobial business producing packaging materials to protect footwear and apparel against mould.

He was an inaugural member of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board (2006 to 2010). He is also part of NUS' Alumni Student Advancement Committee which has raised over $30 million since 2015 to help financially disadvantaged students in NUS.

Keng Joon has dedicated his life to uplifting others. His efforts are recognised by the President of Singapore and have led to multiple accolades, including the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service (2006), the NUS Business School Eminent Alumni Special Service Award (2008) and Outstanding Member of NUS Society (2023).

Keng Joon also supports Chemistry Study Awards, the Science Merit Scholarship, the Science Summer Institute Study Award and the Faculty of Science's 95th Anniversary Bursary Fund.

He is passionate about creating a culture of lifelong alumni engagement and driving alumni participation to make the NUS community more inclusive, regardless of socioeconomic status.

"Chemistry has been the catalyst for my professional career and has taken my career to beyond my wildest dreams and greatest satisfaction."

MR YEO KENG JOON
(Chemistry 1973)

I hope this award will inspire young women everywhere to boldly embrace their potential and pursue their dreams with confidence.

DR ZHAO JINGYUAN
(PhD Statistics 2009)
(Adjunct Associate Professor in NUS)

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE ALUMNI AWARD

When she left China for Singapore in 2004 to pursue her dream of studying statistics at NUS, little did Dr Zhao Jingyuan know that it would ignite her passion to apply data analytics to real-world challenges.

A data scientist is the "sexiest job in the 21st century", she believes, and the ability to digest numbers to predict trends has since led her to helm organisations in various industries, where she played pivotal roles in their data-driven transformations.

As Group Chief Data Officer at Great Eastern, Jingyuan leads Group Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy, implementation and governance to advance the company's strategic objectives and drive business value

She also builds capabilities empowering employees to use data for more informed decision-making.

Jingyuan's journey to industry began at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, where she developed statistical models to identify causal genes for human diseases. Subsequently, at the Lazada / Alibaba Group, her team developed large-scale AI solutions, including recommendation engines and fraud detection systems, which unlocked substantial business value for the organisation.

At consulting firm Capgemini, Jingyuan collaborated with leading companies in the Asia Pacific to achieve significant business growth through end-to-end data and AI solutions. She also built two analytics centres at NTUC Enterprise Cooperative, likewise transforming the businesses of its social enterprises.

An ardent advocate of nurturing young talent, Jingyuan is an Adjunct Associate Professor at NUS where she co-teaches undergraduate and graduate courses. She is a speaker and panellist at numerous talks and conferences and promotes responsible AI use as a committee member of AI Ethics and Governance, Singapore Computer Society.

Jingyuan was named in the Singapore 100 Women in Tech (2021) list in recognition of her contributions to the technology sector.