Dear Colleagues & Students,

I welcome you to another brand new year of 2015. I hope you had a well-deserved break together with your families and loved ones over the year-end holidays. As we embrace the New Year, let us reflect on the Department’s journey in 2014 and the exciting events in 2015.

MD7 levels 1 and 2 have been fully operational since October 2014. On 22 January 2015, the long-awaited temporary occupation permit was finally awarded to MD7. Research labs still at MD6 will be moving back to MD7. It is a massive coordination project involving hard work from all research staff, students, PIs and our senior technical staff. I therefore extend my deepest appreciation to all in ensuring a smooth and safe relocation back home.

The Department has successfully completed the examination process for Semester 1 AY 2014/2015. Once again, I am extremely proud that we have achieved an absolute 100% accuracy in the marks for all our modules and this is only possible because of the immense efforts and cooperation by all our Module Coordinators, Teaching Assistants, technical and administrative staff.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Deng Lih Wen who was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure from 1 January 2015. A/P Deng has significantly contributed to our Department’s teaching and service while managing an active research programme. This promotion is therefore very well deserved. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions by our Emeritus Professor Sit Kim Ping who retired on 31st December, after being in the Department since 1967. On behalf of all staff and students, I wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

As NUS Medicine aims to be world-class in research and academic excellence by 2020, we have proposed some aspirant and peer departments as part of the research benchmarking for the Department for the Dean’s consideration. We are looking forward to welcome the NUHS Chief Executive to visit the Department on 4th February 2015 as part of his annual engagement sessions with academic staff. The search for the next Head of Department is underway and please be assured of a smooth handover when I retire in June 2015.

As we eagerly await the Chinese New Year of the Goat, I would like to wish you and your families a successful, healthy and happy year in 2015. Thank you for all of your dedication and contributions to the Department.

With warmest regards,

Professor Jean Paul Thiery
A/P Theresa Tan was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award for AY2013/2014 by the University Town Residential Colleges for her teaching and service dedication at University Town, College of Alice & Peter Tan.

Dr Yvonne Tay was awarded the National Research Foundation Fellowship 2015 for her proposed research titled, "MicroRNA and competing endogenous RNA crosstalk: Post-transcriptional regulatory networks in cancer pathogenesis and therapeutics". Dr Tay was also awarded the President’s Assistant Professorship from 1st November 2014.

A/P Markus Wenk was one of seven established researchers who have been awarded the National Research Foundation Investigatorship 2015 for his research on “Defining natural boundaries of lipidomic variations”. This award of $2,991,600 will allow A/P Wenk to further his research on defining the natural boundaries of lipidomic variations.

CONGRATULATIONS!
## Congratulations to all graduating students!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MAIN SUPERVISOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chin Cheen Fei</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>30-09-2014</td>
<td>Dr Yeong Foong May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ang Khay Chun</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>30-11-2014</td>
<td>A/P Vinay Tergaonkar and A/P Robert Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lim Hwee Ying</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>30-11-2014</td>
<td>Prof Barry Halliwell and Prof Sit Kim Ping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grants Awarded

**October - December 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>GRANT CALL</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>APPLICANTS</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>NRF Biological design tools and applications grant</td>
<td>Synthetic Lixiviant Biology: Metallurgical Biomimicry for Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
<td>$1,977,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University's Strategic Research</td>
<td>The Synthetic Biology Initiative</td>
<td>A/P Matthew Chang</td>
<td>$8,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUHS Bench-to-Bedside</td>
<td>Serum miRNA as Biomarker for patients with myeloid malignancies treated with hypomethylating agents</td>
<td>A/P Too Hen Phon</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>AcRF Tier 1 FRC</td>
<td>Role of cystine as a nutritional regulator of mTORC1 and the integrated stress response</td>
<td>Dr Long Yun Chau</td>
<td>$178,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>Seed Fund for Basic Science Research Grant Call</td>
<td>Mechanism of transcriptional regulation mediated by long non-coding RNAs.</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
<td>$149,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mechanisms of linking folate metabolic dynamics and epigenetic memory to prevent aneuploidy</td>
<td>Dr Chen Ee Sin</td>
<td>$149,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publications


Ma, H, JR Ow, BC Tan, Z Goh, B Feng, YH Loh, M Fedele, H Li and Q Wu, "The dosage of Patz 1 modulates reprogramming process". *Scientific Reports*, (2014): 7549. (United Kingdom)


Conference Papers


**Event:** Biosystems Design 1.0 Symposium  
**Location:** Matrix @ Biopolis  
**Date:** 9 – 10 February 2015

This inaugural symposium will be Asian-centric, but will nonetheless feature talks from distinguished Synthetic Biologists and Metabolic Engineers from the global stage, including A/P Matthew Chang and Dr Yew Wen Shan from our department. The symposium is jointly organized by the Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (ICES, A*STAR), the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).
Our Staff Welfare Committee is organising a scrumptious lunch buffet for all Department-funded staff at Furama City Centre, Tiffany Restaurant. We are looking forward to good food, memorable time with colleagues and lucky draw prizes!

FIRST CHILD

First child, Liu Jingshuo of Dr Zhang Xiaoming, a Research Fellow in A/P Deng’s lab, born on 11th November 2014.

Third child, Iain Godric of Dr Jan Gruber, born on 22nd January 2015.
We bid farewell to our fellow colleagues who have contributed in their own special ways to the Department and wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

Chen Ruilin Jacklyn,
Kim Hye Rim
and

Emeritus Professor Sit Kim Ping

She was one of the handful of distinguished staff awarded a Doctor of Science for her extensive contributions and achievements in biomedical sciences. She is our Department’s very own, Emeritus Professor Sit Kim Ping, who retired on 31 December 2014. Having served the Department for 47 years, Professor Sit, who was once the Head of Department from 1996 - 2000, has taught thousands of medical, dental and science students, whom are now, today, very successful in their respective fields.

The Department would like to put on record our appreciation and thanks to Emeritus Professor Sit Kim Ping for her dedicated years of service, commitments and invaluable contributions to the Department. We wish Professor Sit a very Happy Retirement.

“Farewell is not the end, but a new beginning for you and me”