

SINGAPORE

NUS, Washington University launch research institute on ageing issues

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The Next Age Institute will study, design and test social innovations to address issues surrounding families, communities and societies in Singapore and around the world.

PHOTOS



CAPTION

SINGAPORE: The National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Washington University in St Louis on Monday (Feb 23) launched a research institute for social issues related to ageing.

In a news release, NUS said the Next Age Institute (NAI) will study, design and test social innovations to address issues surrounding families, communities and societies in Singapore and around the world.

The institute's co-Director Associate Professor Corinne Goh added that NAI's establishment is to look into the "complex social phenomenon" of an ageing population in Singapore.

"Singapore is one of the fastest ageing countries in the world and we can expect the number of seniors above 65 years old in Singapore to increase threefold by 2030," she said. "Societies like ours will face social and economic issues of longevity."

The institute will embrace a transdisciplinary approach involving different disciplines of study including social work, economics and public health, said the release.

"NAI will also work together with policy makers, professionals in respective fields of practice, healthcare and social service providers, to enhance deliberations and ideas in social innovation and work towards deriving solutions which will be creative, robust and rigorous," it added.

The institute's first project will be a collaborative effort with the Centre for Social Development Asia at the NUS Department of Social Work, and also three hospitals – Singapore General Hospital, Changi General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital. They will be involved in research on the transition of care for elderly from acute to post-acute care services. The pilot study will commence in the second half of the year for some 30 families.

Other upcoming projects include examining alternative options for financing retirement needs of home-owning elderly in Singapore and supporting outreach events to engage public and private stakeholders in the development of social innovation and practice, said the release.

Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower Dr Amy Khor attended the launch of NAI at NUS University Town on Monday.