

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE
AT NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR PAUL FOSTER
3 SEPTEMBER 2018, MONDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

1. Address the Audience

Good evening Professor Paul Foster, Management Committee members, fellow NUSS members, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for taking the time to join us for tonight's Professorship Lecture, and a warm welcome to those who are here for the first time.

2. About the NUSS Professorship Lecture

The NUSS Professorship was **established in 1996** with an **endowment of \$1.5 million** to fund talks by distinguished professors from different disciplines. This is part of the Society's efforts to contribute towards the development of meaningful partnerships with our alma mater through academic pursuits, and corresponds with the Society's goal to share knowledge with the NUS community and the general public. In line with this objective, the NUSS Professorship is the only Lecture / Dialogue that is opened to members of the public.

Over the years, we are privileged to have visiting professors from various universities around the world to share their insights with us. Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of hosting two esteemed professors - **Professor Marlon Boarnet from the University of Southern California** to share on how telecommunication and big data have revolutionised the process of urban planning in cities and **Professor Bao Zhenan, K.K. Lee Professor of Chemical Engineering at Stanford University** to share the development of skin-inspired organic electronic materials in medical technology.

This evening, I am happy to welcome you back for another session, this time on a familiar subject – asthma. It is indeed a privilege to have **Laureate Professor Paul Foster**, who will discuss on how asthma develops its impact on patients and emerging new treatments. **Professor Foster is an eminent researcher in the mechanisms of asthma, allergy and respiratory infections. He is a Professor and Chair of Immunology in the School of Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacy at the University of Newcastle.**

I would also like to thank **Associate Professor Fred Wong**, who has graciously agreed to moderate the Q&A segment for this evening. Professor Wong is the **Head of Pharmacology in the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine** and conduct research focused on drug discovery and development for asthma and chronic respiratory diseases. He has published over 70 peer reviewed medical journal articles and filed four patent applications. Much appreciation also goes out to the hosting NUS department, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology.

3. Introduce the Session

Asthma is one of the leading chronic illnesses in our community and the Australasia region. In fact, according to statistics from the Singapore General Hospital – around 20 per cent of children and 5 per cent of adults in Singapore suffer from asthma.

Asthma can also take a heavier toll on seniors. Given that many of our members have young children or have to care for their aged parents, tonight's session is especially pertinent for us. With Professor Foster's extensive research experience and expertise on this topic, I am confident that you will be able to gain valuable insight into this chronic illness. I wish you all an enriching and stimulating session ahead.

4. Thank You