

**SPEECH BY NUSS CEO MR ROY HIGGS
AT NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR GEORGE DIMOPOULOS
24 JANUARY 2019, THURSDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

1. Address the Audience

Good evening Professor George Dimopoulos, Management Committee members, fellow NUSS members, and friends. Thank you for taking the time to join us for the first NUSS Professorship Lecture of the year, and a very warm welcome to all 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 esteemed professors from different disciplines. This series of lectures is in line with the Society's continuous efforts in sharing knowledge with the NUS community and general public. It is also the only Lecture and Dialogue session that is open to members of the public.

Tonight, I'm pleased to welcome Professor George Dimopoulos, Associate Professor of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, at Johns Hopkins University.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Associate Professor Liou Yih-Cherng, who has kindly agreed to moderate the Q&A segment for this evening.

3. Introduce the Session

For tonight's lecture, Prof Dimopoulos will be sharing on his research on curing mosquito vectors of human diseases. The Aedes and Anopheles mosquitos are the primary vectors for the transmission of dengue and malaria respectively. According to the National Environment Agency, there was almost a 20% spike in dengue cases in 2018, compared to the year before. That trend has continued into the new year, with the first week of 2019 seeing 207 cases – the highest weekly number since September 2016. This rapid increase has led to dengue being a key concern in the local community. At this Professorship lecture, Prof Dimopoulos will share his knowledge on how genetic and ecologically sound disease control strategies have been developed through understanding the species' innate immune system and vector competence.

Given the topic's relevancy in Singapore, and Prof Dimopoulos' extensive research experience and expertise, I am confident that you will gain a better understanding on this topic. I wish you all an enriching and stimulating session ahead!

4. Thank You