

New regional centre to tackle ageing, climate, and chronic disease risks across Southeast Asia

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Southeast Asia faces a perfect storm of health challenges driven by a rapidly ageing population, changing disease patterns, and the growing health impacts of climate change



NUS Medicine in Singapore and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington School of Medicine, have launched the NUS-IHME Global Burden of Disease Research Centre, a new regional hub to serve as a key analytical engine for the Southeast Asia and the surrounding region by delivering scientific evidence that its leaders can translate into policy.

Research at the Centre will help bridge the gap between longevity and healthy ageing in the greying demographic. Additionally, experts will examine the intensifying impact from extreme heat and other environmental shifts, while also addressing the persistent and emerging threats such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), metabolic risks, women's health, and dietary and lifestyle factors.

Based at NUS Medicine, the partnership leverages the strengths of both NUS Medicine and IHME by bringing together IHME's globally recognised expertise in health metrics with NUS Medicine's deep regional networks, research capabilities and academic leadership in the healthcare sector.

A globally renowned leader in population health metrics, IHME has a track record in capacity building and supporting national health policy development. Its flagship project—the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study—has informed health strategies in over 200 countries and territories, including Singapore.