

MEDIA RELEASE

WORLD'S LEADING SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS TO GATHER AT THE GLOBAL YOUNG SCIENTISTS SUMMIT 2021

Summit will host 21 eminent scientists including Nobel Laureates, who will engage and share first-hand insights in science and research with over 500 young scientists from 30 countries

6 JANUARY 2021, SINGAPORE – The National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF) will host the ninth edition of the [Global Young Scientists Summit \(GYSS\)](#), which will see the gathering of the world's foremost scientists and technologists engage and inspire aspiring young scientists.

Held virtually from 12 to 15 January 2021, the eminent scientists will also discuss the latest advances in research and how they can be used to develop solutions to address major global challenges. The Summit will be graced by Singapore's **Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of NRF, Mr Heng Swee Keat**, who will deliver the opening address.

The GYSS is a multi-disciplinary event covering the disciplines of chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, computer science, and engineering. During the event, luminary scientists and technologists will share details of their discoveries by delivering plenary addresses, participating in panel discussions, and engaging with the young scientists in small group discussions. They will also provide mentorship to over 500 young researchers from more than 30 countries.

Star-studded panel speaking on a wide range of subjects and issues

This year, the GYSS sees 21 speakers, the highest number since the start of the Summit, of whom 17 are speaking at the Summit for the first time. The list includes Nobel Laureates, Fields Medallists, Millennium Technology Prize and the Turing Award winners.

One prominent speaker is the famed biochemist and founder of Moderna, **Professor Robert Langer**, a recipient of the Millennium Technology Prize (2008). Holding over 1,400 patents, Professor Langer will be sharing insights in advanced drug delivery systems and therapies, touching on examples in the areas of cartilage, skin, blood vessels and diabetes.

The Summit will also be joined by **Professor Jennifer Doudna**, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2020). Professor Doudna developed the CRISPR-Cas9 technique – using enzymes from bacteria that could be used for programmable editing of genomes – a breakthrough with enormous potential for improving lives. She will be part of a panel discussion on personalised medicine, alongside her postdoctorate supervisor **Professor Thomas Cech**, a fellow Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (1989) who is well-known for his ground-breaking work in molecular genetics.

Going beyond the Solar System, **Professor Didier Queloz**, Nobel Laureate in Physics (2019) will be sharing more on his stellar work that had led to the detection of close to a hundred planets. Alongside his PhD supervisor, Prof Didier discovered a planet outside the Solar System – known as an ‘exoplanet’. He will speak about life in the universe and the emergence of a new paradigm for the origins of life on Earth.

Professor Low Teck Seng, Chief Executive Officer of NRF, said, “Now in its ninth year, GYSS continues to inspire and connect young scientists from all around the world. It provides a unique platform for the learning of science through dialogues and lectures with some of the world’s leading minds in various fields. Science, technology and innovation are key pillars of national development and imperative to the progress of humankind – and GYSS continues to support this by bringing together generations of great minds.”

The 2021 GYSS is divided into two sessions to accommodate international time zones: between 08:00 to 11:30 SGT; and 17:00 to 20:15 SGT (+8 hours ahead in GMT). Information about the Speakers and the daily programme is available at: www.gyss-one-north.sg.

The Summit will also be livestreamed on NRF’s YouTube channel (@nrfmediasg) at bit.ly/NRFSGyoutube.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Illka Gobius
Managing Director
Pinpoint PR Pte. Ltd.
Email: illka@pinpointpr.sg
WhatsApp: +65 9769 8370

Ms Ilyda Chua
Assistant Head, Corporate
Communications
National Research Foundation Singapore
Email: ilyda_chua@nrf.gov.sg
DID: +65 6684 2900
Mobile: +65 8533 2268

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A [press centre is available online](#) with detailed information about the speakers who are willing to accept interviews.

2. Speakers that are participating in GYSS for the first time are:

- Prof Robert Langer, Millennium Technology Prize (2008) (Opening Plenary)
- Prof Jennifer Doudna, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2020)
- Prof Thomas Cech, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1989)
- Prof Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2009)
- Prof William Moerner, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2014)
- Prof Stanley Whittingham, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2019)
- Prof William Daniel Phillips, Nobel Prize in Physics (1997)
- Prof Didier Queloz, Nobel Prize in Physics (2019)
- Prof Michael Young, Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine (2017)
- Prof Gregg Semenza, Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine (2019)
- Sir Peter Ratcliffe, Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine (2019)
- Prof William Kaelin Jr, Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine (2019)
- Prof Joseph Sifakis, Turing Award (2007)
- Prof David Patterson, Turing Award (2017)
- Prof Alessio Figalli, Fields Medal (2018)
- Prof Caucher Birkar, Fields Medal (2018)
- Sir Timothy Gowers, Fields Medal (1998)

3. For more details on the programme, please [visit www.nrf.com.sg/qyss/programme](http://www.nrf.com.sg/qyss/programme). The full list of speakers is available at www.nrf.com.sg/qyss/speakers.