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Singapore lays focus on training future doctors and researchers to strengthen medical research

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Introducing dedicated workshops called Patient and Public Involvement



To make health research more relevant to the communities it serves, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (NTU LKCMedicine) will train its medical undergraduates and PhD candidates to involve patients, caregivers and members of the public as active partners in their research.

LKCMedicine is introducing dedicated workshops called Patient and Public Involvement (PPI), to enhance its Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and PhD by Research curricula.

Students will learn how to work with patient partners across the research cycle, ensuring that research questions, study designs and outcomes reflect what matters to patients.

The enhanced curricula will be introduced to medical undergraduates in August 2027. It was first rolled out to PhD students in September 2026. For undergraduates, the training is embedded as a compulsory workshop in Year 2 under the Research and Scientific Enquiry Vertical Theme. For PhD candidates, a dedicated workshop is offered as an elective module under the Professional Skills for Researchers course.

Through structured case studies and interactive discussions, learners will explore how to involve patients and the public inclusively, which means reaching out to people from diverse backgrounds, respecting their cultural beliefs, values and preferences and creating a safe, welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their views.

LKCMedicine also co-leads the development of the National Guidance Document for PPI in Health Research in collaboration with the Singapore Clinical Research Institute (SCRI) and multi-sector healthcare stakeholders, providing guidance to incorporate patient partnership in health research and innovation.