

**CITATION FOR UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LIM PIN
RECIPIENT OF NUS HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS**

**PUBLIC ORATOR
PROFESSOR CHONG YAP SENG
DEAN (NUS YONG LOO LIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)**

**NUS COMMENCEMENT 2026, MAIN CEREMONY
THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2026
NUS UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE**

Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce Professor Lim Pin.

President of the Republic of Singapore and NUS Chancellor;

NUS Pro-Chancellors;

NUS Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Trustees;

NUS President;

Distinguished Honorary Graduate, Dr Kay Kuok;

Distinguished Honorary Graduand, University Professor Lim Pin;

Distinguished guests, graduates, parents and friends;

Ladies and gentlemen

To be the longest-serving Vice-Chancellor at NUS and the first professor conferred NUS' highest academic appointment, University Professor, speaks volumes of Professor Lim Pin's dedicated service to the University, whose pioneering efforts laid the foundations for NUS to become the university it is today.

A Queen's Scholar in 1957, Professor Lim trained at Queen's College Cambridge, and King's College Hospital London before returning to Singapore to a career spanning clinical medicine, research, and higher education leadership. Driven by his strong belief that Singapore deserves a place on the world stage, he spent his career making that a reality.

He made foundational contributions in his research on magnesium metabolism, renal disease, thyroid disorders, and diabetes, publishing in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine and the British Medical Journal, at a time when no Singaporean had done that, achieving a psychological breakthrough for local biomedical researchers.

Appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1981 at just 45 years of age, Professor Lim went on to lead NUS for close to two decades. He persuaded the Government to invest in the country's scientific research capabilities, forging links with local and international companies, and laying foundations for key research institutions, including what would later become A*STAR.

Professor Lim established a lasting research culture on campus, tying promotion of faculty to research output and championing interdisciplinary collaboration. In the 1980s, the University's research budget was, in his words, "a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year." By the time he stepped down in the year 2000, NUS had a multi-million-dollar annual research budget and six research institutes.

Beyond the University, Professor Lim's counsel has been widely sought on matters of national importance. He chaired the National Biotechnology Committee and the Bioethics Advisory Committee, among others, earning a reputation for rigour, integrity and balance across science, ethics and policy. His achievements have been recognised at the highest levels, including Singapore's Distinguished Service Order.

A much-loved doctor, educator, scientist and leader, known for his infectious chuckle and gentlemanly ways, Professor Lim is also a devoted family man. He credits his cherished late wife, Shirley, as his pillar of support, without whom he could not have raised his young family while seeing patients, teaching and pursuing research.

Professor Lim's legacy is woven into the fabric of Singapore medicine, which advanced because he dared to dream and make those dreams reality. His steadfast leadership as Vice-Chancellor laid the foundations for NUS' success, even as his medical acumen and keen intellect contributed immensely to education and research at NUS Medicine.

Mr Chancellor, may it please you to confer on Professor Lim Pin, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters. Thank you.