The Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases.

Building solid foundations.

The Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD), represents a major part of Novartis' bid to improve the developing world's access to medicines. The NITD's overarching goal is to discover novel treatments and prevention methods for major tropical diseases. In those developing countries where these diseases are endemic, the Novartis Group intends to make treatments readily available without profit. The focus of this Institute is to apply Novartis' drug-discovery expertise and cutting-edge technology platforms to fight against infectious diseases that are currently not well covered by modern treatment regimens, particularly Dengue fever and Tuberculosis. The NITD is expected to collaborate closely with established academic of excellence around the world.

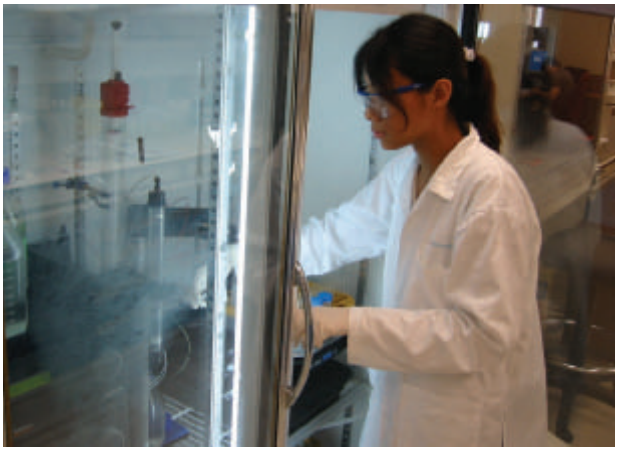
The NITD feels it is crucial to attract top scientists from around the world with the strongest commitment to research in neglected diseases. The NITD is now beginning its second round of recruitment, in order to reach full headcount as soon as it has moved into its permanent home, the new Biopolis@one-north site in Singapore. Once the Institute is fully staffed, it will number 70 full-time scientists plus 30 students, and also offer sabbaticals and post-doc positions.

The NITD is off to a strong start. Earlier this year, it held the Inaugural Symposium on Dengue Fever and Tuberculosis, a ground-breaking conference that brought together leading scientists in the field of tropical disease research with opinion leaders from institutions in Singapore as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, and Médecins Sans Frontières ("Doctors Without Borders"), and WHO.

Research at the Institute is overseen by the NITD's scientific advisory board. It is made up of well-respected scientists in the field, including: Nobel Laureate, Professor Sidney Brenner of The Salk Institute in California; Professor Duane Gubler of the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, Colorado; Professor Barbara Imperiali of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge; Professor Stephan Kaufmann of the MPI for Infection Biology in Berlin, and Nobel Laureate, Professor Rolf Zinkernagel, Head of the Institute of Experimental Immunology in Zurich.

In addition, the recent appointment of Professor Alex Matter as the NITD's inaugural director reflects Novartis' strong commitment toward treating neglected diseases. Alex Matter formerly headed the Novartis Oncology therapeutic area, and led the team that discovered the Bcr-Abl inhibitor Gleevec. He helped to bring this revolutionary treatment for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) to market. During his career, he also led drug-discovery programs in the area of anti-infectives and HIV.

As a leader in the pharmaceutical industry, Novartis takes its role as a corporate citizen seriously. By supporting international medical-aid efforts through the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development and the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, among other activities, Novartis has shown a strong commitment



to patients on a global level, regardless of economic standing and geographic location.

"In view of the fact that many important tropical diseases had not been sufficiently addressed previously by the pharma industry resulting in a lack of medicines, Novartis decided that it would contribute by dedicating its new Institute to the discovery of novel medicines leveraging its leading drug discovery skills and technologies. We will also leverage the experience, technology, and databases in the entire network of Novartis Research Institutes." says Professor Paul Herrling, Head of Novartis Corporate Research, and the Chair of the NITD.

As part of its mission, the Institute will also help train the next generation of scientists dedicated to research and discovery. "I am greatly looking forward to dedicating my expertise in drug discovery to the mission of NITD." says Alex Matter. In addition to the full-time staff the Institute will teach up to 30 students, and all unit heads have taken up adjunct appointments at local Universities. A joint Ph.D. program will be established with a local University in the near future.

The Mission of the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases is to discover novel treatments and prevention methods for major tropical diseases. In those developing countries where diseases are endemic, the Novartis Group intends to make treatments readily available and without profit. The discovery technology is state-of-the-art and the scope of activities range from target discovery through to screen development and compound optimisation. The Institute is looking to recruit the best scientists in the world, and as a major centre of excellence, will offer exceptional teaching and training opportunities for post-doctoral fellows and graduate students.

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The Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases in Singapore is currently looking to attract the best talent available in this specialist field. If you share our belief that we can make a difference, visit **www.nitd.novartis.com**