

business

FEBRUARY 21 - 22, 2009 **16** WEEKEND TODAY

NEW RESEARCH CENTRE FOR MECHANOBIOLOGY

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Ministry of Education will jointly provide \$150 million in funding to set up a fourth Research Centre of Excellence (RCE) in Mechanobiology. Mechanobiology is the study of the inter-relationship between mechanics and biology.

The new RCE, to be located in the National University of Singapore, will

employ 180 to 200 researchers and hopes to recruit a "significant fraction" of these from Singapore, said its director designate, Professor Michael Sheetz.

Possible medical applications from the research at the new RCE include cartilage repair and liver tissue regeneration.

The NRF also announced on Friday it would contribute \$40 million to two research collaborations with Israeli universities – the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science. **ONG DAI LIN**