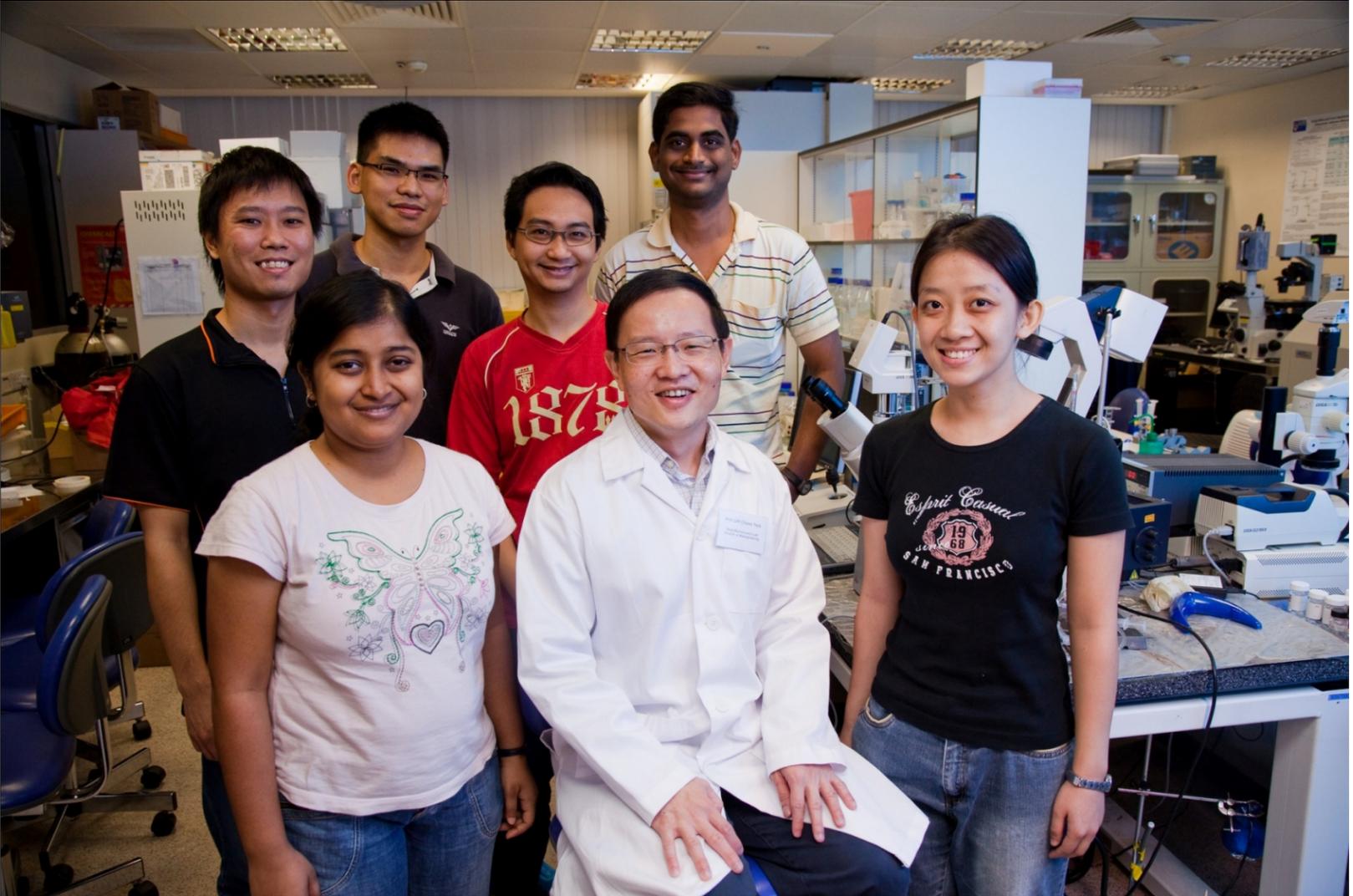


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Bioengineering's cancer-related research making waves worldwide



Prof Lim Chwee Teck (centre) and members of his team at NUS Bioengineering.

THE Nano Biomechanics Lab at the NUS Division of Bioengineering celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year has been making news -- and attracting attention worldwide. Its most recent addition was a Fulbright scholar from Johns Hopkins University, Mr Kevin Doxzen Junior, who was impressed with the work the Lab is conducting. The graduate student will be studying cancer metastasis (migration of cancer cells) in the Nano Biomechanics Lab for the nine months that he would be with the Faculty of Engineering.

Mr Doxzen said in an interview with The Baltimore Sun that he chose Singapore because of the Government's focus on Science. He was also attracted to the NUS Faculty of Engineering's use of microfluidics to detect and diagnose cancer in patients. He is very interested in this area, adding that his grandfather had passed away earlier because of cancer.

The Nano Biomechanics Lab conducts basic and applied research in cell and molecular biomechanics and mechanobiology of human diseases such as malaria and cancer as well as development of mechanics based biomedical micro/nanodevices. Helmed by Prof Lim Chwee Teck, the team at the lab has invented a microfluidic biochip which can isolate and retrieve viable rare circulating cancer cells from patients' blood. This biochip, which was highlighted by *Nature Medicine* recently, has potential applications for detection, diagnosis and prognosis. It won two research awards and has been commercialized. Receiving worldwide attention, it is now being tested in several hospitals in Singapore and will undergo tests in several top cancer centres in the USA and Europe.

Said Prof Lim who was recently conferred the Faculty Research Award, "NUS Bioengineering, working with international clinicians and scientists, is at the forefront of cancer detection and therapies. Our breakthroughs have attracted attention of scientists and researchers all over the world. We are very happy to have Mr Doxzen with us, to contribute to our research and to help take it to even further heights."