

## **RHODES SCHOLARSHIP NATIONAL SECRETARIAT (SINGAPORE)**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Computer scientist with a passion for biomedical engineering wins prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford**

SINGAPORE (15 November, 2023) – A Stanford computer scientist who hopes to leverage cutting-edge AI technologies for use in medical treatment has won the Rhodes Scholarship this year.

Scholar-Elect Mr Gurupranav Gurusankar, who was selected from among 9 shortlisted applicants, intends to commence post-graduate studies in public policy and applied digital health at the University of Oxford in October 2024. He will be Singapore's 29th Rhodes Scholar.

Pranav, as he is known to peers, aspires to be a medical doctor and expert in digital health who understands the public impact of AI developments in society and to use this knowledge to bring large-scale improvements in healthcare delivery for all. At Stanford University, he has applied his talents to conduct research in bioelectronics, cancer biology, and digital health interventions for chronic pain. He is also a recipient of the Frederick Emmons Terman Engineering Scholastic Award, presented to the top students of each year's Stanford undergraduate senior engineering class.

Driven by an ethical concern about inequalities in access to healthcare, he has committed many years as a student leader providing public health education at Stanford and volunteer services to persons with dementia, traumatic brain injuries, and other neurological conditions.

While studying at the United World College of South East Asia (East Campus) in Singapore, Pranav was a committed volunteer teaching computer literacy skills to residents living with neurological disorders at the Hougang Care Centre. A Singapore citizen, Pranav was commended for his excellent contributions during National Service to systems restructuring at MINDEF Artillery Headquarters. As a student in the United States, he leads national training and recruitment for the United Students for Veterans' Health which organises weekly activities for nursing home patients with dementia, leads a support program for traumatic brain injury survivors, and runs the Healing Strokes organization which serves stroke survivors nationwide.

The Rhodes selection process chooses young people with proven academic excellence who also show exceptional character, leadership, the energy to use their talents to the full and a commitment to solving humanity's challenges. Explaining this year's choice, Ms Yong Ying-I, who chaired the Selection Committee, said,

“The Rhodes Scholarship looks for people who are not just outstanding in their individual capabilities and achievements, but display the character and leadership to inspire others, who can make a difference to our societies. Pranav impressed the selection committee with his clear vision of the impact to society he hoped to make as a physician scientist, by connecting up the fields of digital technologies and clinical medicine. While his goals are extremely ambitious, Pranav's outstanding achievements to-date and his strong convictions gave us confidence that he will realise them. We look forward to his future contributions to society.”

Applications for the 2025 Rhodes Scholarships will open in June 2024. More information about the Scholarship application can be found at

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/>

### **About the Rhodes Scholarship**

The Rhodes Scholarship is a scholarship programme established at Oxford University in 1903, which aims to select public-spirited leaders and promote international understanding through a global community of Scholars. Singapore resumed the conferment of one Singapore Rhodes Scholarship per year since 2018, after a 14-year hiatus. The **Rhodes Scholarship for Singapore** is funded in partnership with APS Asset Management Singapore. The Singapore Rhodes Selection Committee is chaired by Chairman of the CPF Board Ms Yong Ying-I and comprises former Rhodes Scholars and eminent Singaporeans. The Rhodes National Secretary for Singapore is Professor Andrew Wee of the National University of Singapore.

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