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Open access Nature Partner Journal, *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes*

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

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Contact: Rachel Scheer

Corporate Public Relations Manager, Nature Publishing Group

T: +1 212 451 8569

r.scheer@us.nature.com

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) today announce a new online-only open-access journal, *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes*. Leading NTU's effort in this new initiative is its Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), a national research institute that aims to harness the powers of micro-organisms for environmental and water sustainability. *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes* is one of the first three journals to launch as part of the 'Nature Partner Journal' series.

The editorial team will be led by Editor in Chief Staffan Normark, permanent secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Professor of Medical Microbiology at Karolinska Institutet.

Launching in Q2 2014, *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes* will promote biofilm research across a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines. The journal will establish a platform for cross-disciplinary discussions and allow for the understanding of the biology and ecology of biofilm populations and communities, as well as applications so derived across medical, environmental and engineering domains.

"The study of complex microbial populations, such as those appearing in biofilms, leads to novel insights on how communities evolve and how individual participants benefit from another. The tools to understand the underlying mechanisms behind these microbial societies and how they interact with the environment are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Microbes, as part of biofilms and/or present in complex microbiomes, play an increasingly appreciated role in many engineered, as well as natural processes, including the physiology of all living organisms. It is an extremely satisfying moment to be part of a new journal capturing the best of this exciting science. I feel that the best is yet to come," said Professor Staffan Normark, Editor in Chief.

"NTU is going big on life sciences with the formation of a compelling Life Sciences and Biomedical Cluster comprising our School of Biological Sciences, the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), our new medical school set up in partnership with Imperial College London and a new structural biology lab led by Prof Daniela Rhodes FRS," said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson. "NTU's collaboration with NPG to establish a new open access journal *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes* is therefore timely, providing a new publication platform for our scientists as we push the research frontiers in the study of complex microbial communities across a wide disciplinary spectrum and covering natural, medical and industrial settings."

"NPG is dedicated to both publishing the world's leading research and to furthering open science," says Martin Delahunty, Global Head of Partnership Journals, Open Research, NPG. "The Nature Partner Journal portfolio enables us to share with our partners our strengths as a publisher of high-impact scientific research, and to increase the open access options we can make available to researchers."

The Nature Partner Journals bring Nature's reputation for impact and excellence to open access and publishing partnerships. The Nature Partner Journals are characterized by landmark partnerships with institutions, foundations and academic societies. The home for Nature Partner Journals is at www.nature.com/npj.

Nature Partner Journals feature a modified set of Nature editorial standards, with rigorous requirements for the training and appointment of Editors-in-Chief and continuous assessment of editorial quality against agreed key performance indicators.

NPG, with strategic partner Frontiers, is a leading open access publisher. Together, they published 10,500 open access research papers in 2013, 51% of their combined research publication output for the year. All 63 NPG academic, society and partner publications have introduced open access options or are open access journals. For more information see URL (http://www.nature.com/libraries/open_access/index.html).

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About Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

A research-intensive public university, NTU has 33,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the colleges of Engineering, Business, Science, and Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences. It has a new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, set up jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of

International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) and the Institute on Asian Consumer Insight (ACI).

A fast-growing university with an international outlook, NTU is putting its global stamp on Five Peaks of Excellence: Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road, and Innovation Asia.

Besides the main Yunnan Garden campus, NTU also has a satellite campus in Singapore's science and tech hub, one-north, and a third campus in Novena, Singapore's medical district.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg.

Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE)

SCELSE is an interdisciplinary Research Centre of Excellence and a pillar of the life sciences cluster at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. It aims to harness the power of micro-organisms to solve various water and environmental issues.

Funded by Singapore's National Research Foundation and Ministry of Education, SCELSE is located at NTU and its senior scientists are also professors at the Schools of Biological Sciences; Civil and Environmental Engineering and the LKC Medical School.

SCELSE is linking new insights from the life sciences with expertise from the emerging technologies in engineering and natural sciences to understand, harness and control microbial biofilm communities. The union of these fields has established an exciting new discipline known as Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (ELSE).

The National University of Singapore is NTU's partner in this research centre.

About Nature Publishing Group (NPG)

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific information in print and online. NPG publishes journals, online databases and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences.

Focusing on the needs of scientists, *Nature* (founded in 1869) is the leading weekly, international scientific journal. NPG publishes a range of Nature research journals and *Nature Reviews* journals, and a range of prestigious academic and partner journals including society-owned publications. Online, nature.com provides over 8 million visitors per month with access to NPG publications and services, including news and comment from *Nature*, and the leading scientific jobs board *Naturejobs*.

Part of the Nature Publishing Group family is Frontiers, a community-driven open-access publisher and research network. NPG and Frontiers work together to empower researchers to change the way science is communicated, through open access publication and open science tools. For more information on Frontiers, please go to www.frontiersin.org.

Scientific American is at the heart of NPG's consumer media division, meeting the needs of the general public. Founded in 1845, *Scientific American* is the oldest continuously published magazine in the US and the leading authoritative publication for science in the general media. Together with scientificamerican.com and 14 local language editions around the world it reaches over 5 million consumers and scientists. Other titles include *Scientific American Mind* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* in Germany.

Throughout all its businesses NPG is dedicated to serving the scientific community and the wider scientifically interested general public. Part of Macmillan Science and Education, NPG is a global company with principal offices in London, New York and Tokyo, and offices in cities worldwide including Boston, San Francisco, Washington DC, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Melbourne, Osaka, Seoul, Barcelona, Madrid, Basingstoke, Heidelberg, Munich and Paris. For more information, please go to www.nature.com.

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