Chairman's Foreword
Impetus – the eighth Annual Report of the Health Sciences Authority – fittingly encapsulates the essence of the agency’s progress and priorities over the past year.

Driven by a spirit of innovation, we rose to meet the challenges and demands of our ever-evolving environment. Whether through adjustments of work processes, or by effecting major change in testing methods from our scientific research, we were constantly on the lookout for newer and better ways to run our business, advance our science-based agenda, and exceed the expectations of our stakeholders.

HSA continually strives to safeguard public health and has implemented plans and strategies in support of this. We do this with a strong mission-oriented mindset, conscious of the critical role we play in strengthening Singapore’s reputation as a leading medical hub and centre of biomedical excellence.

We directed efforts towards strengthening ties and partnerships with parties and agencies in the public, private and people sectors, both locally and overseas. These collaborative alliances continue to provide us with a greater capacity to develop more creative and practical solutions to deal with global and local matters in the health sciences.

Through fresh approaches in our business operations and new communication channels, we redoubled our efforts to engage our customers and improve the experience of individuals and organisations interacting with HSA staff.

There was a palpable sense of excitement as we grew in new ways. We had the privilege of sharing our expertise, experiences and successes with various audiences around the world and who were keen to learn about our experiences. Such opportunities allow us to influence national and global public health and safety in a positive and sustainable manner.
Our distinctive blend of professional expertise and know-how presents unique possibilities to explore innovation in our regulatory and laboratory arenas. We continued to harness synergy within and across our organisation which helped us deliver on our key accountabilities more competently and efficiently. Our Applied Sciences Group expanded the accredited screening list for western drug adulterants in herbal medicines, as well as applied conventional and novel forensic techniques to enhance our Health Products Regulation Group’s enforcement capabilities and advance our fight against illegal and counterfeit drugs. Drawing on this in-house expertise across a broad spectrum of scientific fields will not just strengthen the unified identity of HSA, but will empower us to forge fresh momentum to continually transform ourselves and actively shape our future.

As a science-based and science-led organisation, our decisions and actions are always guided by the highest standards of professional integrity and scientific rigour. This is strongly linked to our aim to inspire trust and confidence in meeting the needs of our stakeholders and finding solutions for critical issues that we deal with, regardless of how complex these may be.

We have much going for us, in spite of being a relatively young organisation. We have many good reasons to be optimistic about our future, and these give us the added impetus to grow and advance. Bolstered by the professionalism and passion of the HSA team, this outlook is founded on the underlying strengths of the firm scientific foundations and legacy on which our organisation is built, the tremendous potential of synergistic collaborations within the agency, the power of partnerships with our key counterparts locally and globally, and the promise of new breakthroughs in our research and scientific and organisational collaborations.

I would like to commend and thank the leadership and staff of HSA for another year of sterling work and dedication in enabling our agency to move decisively forward in serving the nation and the world.

Professor Edison Liu
Chairman