NUS and Bayer Schering join hands

Sometimes we know that the response to the drugs is different. And sometimes we know that even the molecular makeup of the cancer is also different in Asia when you compare to other countries.

This is why pharmaceutical giant, Bayer Schering Pharma Asia-Pacific, signed a $3.5-million translational cancer research agreement yesterday with the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to develop new cancer treatments. The collaboration is the first of a $20-million investment by the pharmaceutical giant in R&D activities over the next six years with universities, hospitals, research institutes and companies in Singapore.

The tie-up with NUS will focus on joint translational research projects to investigate three new drugs that work on inhibiting tyrosine kinases and how they can be used to enhance cancer treatment. Tyrosine kinases are a group of proteins that can cause cancer when they mutate and do not function properly. Prof Salto-Tellez said the collaboration would lead to a quicker drug development process.