

Blood-test kit to assess health risks

A SIMPLE blood-test kit may one day help Singaporeans assess their risk of suffering heart attacks or strokes.

A team of researchers here hopes to achieve this within the next four to five years.

Based in Nanyang Technological University and led by the university's Assistant Professor Sze Siu Kwan, the team will take samples from more than 2,000 Singaporeans of all races.

The study is expected to yield over 100 bio-markers – unique proteins that signal the potential risk of heart attack and stroke.

The team will narrow the list down to the 10 most commonly found bio-markers for use in the diagnostic kit.

The study is a continuation of one conducted by scientists from Singapore and the Netherlands more than five years ago.

That study discovered 13 bio-markers that stroke and heart-attack patients in the Netherlands had in their blood.

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