Entrepreneurship specialist Gerard (Gerry) George is to become the next dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Business at Singapore Management University. Prof George will replace Howard Thomas, formerly head of of Warwick Business School, as dean from January 2015.

Prof George is currently deputy dean at Imperial College Business School in London and director of the Rajiv Gandhi centre there, which was established in December 2007 to help Indian and UK companies improve performance in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Prof George made clear that entrepreneurship will be central to his approach to the new job. “I see my role as increasing [the school's] global visibility, strengthening linkages with industry, government and the region, and encouraging an intellectual climate that is vibrant and relevant to the challenges faced by business and society today,” he said on his appointment. “We can deliver on this promise only by remaining entrepreneurial and nimble in an increasingly crowded market, that’s where I see my skills as creating the most value.”

Before joining Imperial, Prof George was faculty director of the Institute of Technology at London Business School, and before that he was director of the Weinert Applied Ventures in Entrepreneurship Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also editor of the Academy of Management journal until 2016.