



10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

NHG DRIVES MULTI-PARTNER EFFORTS IN ADDING 15 MILLION YEARS OF HEALTHY LIFE FOR RESIDENTS IN CENTRAL AND NORTH SINGAPORE

While Singaporeans have one of the longest life expectancies in the world at 85 years, they typically spend their last 10 years in poor health. The National Healthcare Group (NHG) which oversees public hospitals, polyclinics, and national specialty centres in Central and North Singapore aims to change this.

As the Regional Health Manager (RHM) for this region, NHG has expanded beyond its traditional role of a healthcare provider to focus on delaying the onset of serious illness and raising the healthspan and lifespan for our 1.5 million residents. This involves addressing broader health factors such as lifestyle, choices, and social determinants through collaborations with partners in health, community, academia, and industry.

NHG Group Chief Executive Officer, Professor Joe Sim says, "NHG is deeply committed to providing medical care but to close the gap between healthspan and lifespan, we have synergised our efforts across primary care, community care and population health management to better fulfil our RHM role and are now augmenting these efforts with partners to achieve a collective goal of adding 15 million years of healthy life to the population we serve. An exciting development is the setting up of an Academic Health System (AHS) which leverages our strong collaboration with Nanyang Technological University Singapore's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. By integrating research, clinical care, and education, the joint AHS will enable us to develop more evidence-based interventions that directly address population health needs, building on our strengths of delivering innovative, data-driven solutions for healthcare. Equally exciting are our new partnerships with the National Parks Board and retail pharmacies to innovate care and make our preventive health services more accessible in the community."

Four collaborations will be announced at NHG's 22nd Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC) on 10 and 11 October 2024. They will add new dimensions and momentum to boost our multi-partner efforts in achieving our collective goal.

1. Academic Health System – A Collaboration with Nanyang Technological University, Singapore’s (NTU Singapore) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)

A tighter integration of healthcare, education, and research is crucial to achieve better care outcomes for our patients and population. The **NHG-LKCMedicine-NTU Singapore Academic Health System (AHS)** will provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary framework to advance medical knowledge and education for better patient outcomes and population health impact.

The AHS will focus on translating academic endeavours into real-world outcomes to better enhance patient care, optimise health service delivery, and improve population health. It will adopt a systems-level partnership that extends beyond the medical school to the rest of NTU Singapore, to foster a more holistic approach towards translational research and education. Central to the AHS are specialised Academic Clinical Programmes (ACPs) built around multidisciplinary teams of healthcare professionals, scientists, and engineers, enabling real-world issues to inspire research, and for evidence-based insights to be effectively brought into policy and practice. ACPs will be introduced progressively from 2024 to 2028, starting with Rehabilitation Medicine and Skin Health.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly establish the AHS will be signed by NHG Group Chairman Medical Board (Research) Professor Benjamin Seet, and NTU Senior Vice-President (Health and Life Sciences) and LKCMedicine Dean Distinguished University Professor Joseph Sung. It will be witnessed by Health Minister Ong Ye Kung.

“The establishment of this first Academic Health System in Singapore will facilitate application of scientific discovery, technological advancement and socio-economic ideas and models to improve delivery of health services for the entire population. Translating knowledge into practice and nurturing young talents in the healthcare profession is our common goal in NHG and LKCMedicine,” says Prof Joseph Sung.

Prof Benjamin Seet adds, “Traditionally, medical education and practice have revolved around the biomedical and clinical sciences. This is no longer adequate today. In the Academic Health System we are setting up, the medical school serves as bridge into the rest of NTU Singapore – we will need to leverage on biological sciences, data sciences, engineering, social sciences and business, to keep up with technology and to train clinicians for tomorrow.”

(See Fact Sheet on National Healthcare Group and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore’s (NTU Singapore) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) Set Up Academic Health System)

2. Greenery and Health – A Collaboration with National Parks Board (NParks)

NHG will also ink a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NParks on ‘Greenery and Health’ covering three areas:

- i. Integrated therapeutic landscapes with NHG’s network of healthcare institutions and community care facilities
- ii. Therapeutic Horticulture Programme at NParks’ Therapeutic Gardens
- iii. Nature-based health programmes for patients and residents under NHG’s network of care

Studies have shown that nature has a restorative effect on mental health and well-being and that exposure to gardening and therapeutic horticulture activities can improve mental resilience. With the signing of the MOA, the introduction of therapeutic landscapes and programming will be made accessible to more residents across various demographics.

Therapeutic horticulture programmes have been specially designed to:

1. Promote low-intensity exercise and improve motor skills
2. Stimulate memory
3. Encourage positive social interactions and connectedness with nature
4. Promote mindfulness

Under the MOA, staff and volunteers of our community partners based in the 90 Communities of Care (CoC) established in Central and North Singapore will be trained to run and facilitate therapeutic horticulture programmes. Care Corner, NTUC Health and SPD have come onboard as our pilot partners to implement the nature-based and gardening initiatives to support their centre-based clients and caregivers in Toa Payoh to be physically and mentally active.

NHG and NParks will also identify more opportunities to integrate nature and greenery such as therapeutic gardens and/or nodes into NHG’s upcoming institutions. To mark the collaboration to bring health and well-being through greenery and green spaces to more residents, NHG Group CEO Professor Joe Sim, and NParks Deputy CEO Dr Yap Him Hoo will be signing the MOA, which will be witnessed by Health Minister Ong Ye Kung at SHBC.

“NParks looks forward to collaborating with NHG to encourage greater access to the benefits of nature and greenery for the community. Programmes such as gardening and therapeutic horticulture have a positive impact on mental health, while therapeutic landscapes can boost mental well-being and encourage health-promoting behaviours. With this MOA, we hope that we can improve the health and wellbeing of different segments of the population,” says Dr Yap Him Hoo, Deputy CEO, NParks.

“NHG is very excited to partner NParks on our Greenery and Health effort. Engaging with nature encourages movement and stimulates the senses, which can be especially beneficial for individuals with cognitive or physical impairments. Such programmes also

provide social interaction and emotional support, critical for reducing the risk of social isolation and building connectedness for more holistic health and longevity for our residents," says Professor Eugene Fidelis Soh, Deputy Group CEO, Population Health, NHG.

(See Fact Sheet on National Parks Board and National Healthcare Group's Collaboration on 'Greenery and Health')

3. Preventive Health Counselling and Medication Therapy Management – A Collaboration with Community Retail Pharmacies

NHG is partnering Guardian Health & Beauty, Watson's Personal Care Stores, and Unity Pharmacy to increase access to preventive health counselling and medication therapy management services for patients and residents. The collaboration will kick-start with smoking cessation counselling. NHG aims to reduce the smoking prevalence from 8.8 per cent to 8 per cent in Central and North Singapore by 2030. That's helping about 2,000 smokers quit the habit every year in our region. Patients who wish for help to quit smoking will be co-managed by NHG (its polyclinics and specialist clinics) and their preferred retail pharmacy at an agreed location in the community. The public can also walk into any of the participating retail pharmacies to enrol in the smoking cessation programme.

The Master Collaboration Agreements between NHG and the retail pharmacies will be signed by NHG Deputy Group CEO (Clinical and Academic Development) Professor Chin Jing Jih, and Mr Naresh Kalani, Managing Director, Guardian Health & Beauty; Ms Irene Lau, Managing Director - Watsons Singapore and Regional Brand Marketing Director - Watsons International; and Ms Chong Li Ling, General Manager, Unity Pharmacy, respectively at SHBC on 11 October.

(See Fact Sheet on NHG's Master Collaboration Agreements with Guardian Health & Beauty, Watson's Personal Care Stores, and Unity Pharmacy on Preventive Health Counselling and Medication Therapy Management Services)

4. Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life Movement – A Collaboration with Community Partners

Next is our multi-partner movement - **Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life (#15M)** - to get people to take ownership of their health and live more of their life-years in good physical, mental, and social health so that they can enjoy what matters to them for longer.

"Our ageing population and social drivers of health, mean that we are living longer but we may spend years in poor health, frailty, social isolation, and dementia. NHG's 15M movement seeks to build health and care for all, joining up our collective efforts with residents and partners," says Prof Eugene Fidelis Soh.

The Movement starts with a campaign of inspiring stories of activated residents supporting each other for health or leading their communities as connectors and

organisers, and community organisations' contributions viewable on www.15M.sg. From February 2025, a 15M Social Challenge will be organised annually to get residents in groups to set collective health challenges and support each other to reach the goal. Participating groups stand to win vouchers to further support the group's activities.

(See Fact Sheet on Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life Movement)

Roll-Out of NHG's Health Empowered by AI Launchpad (HEAL)

Healthcare systems face increasing demand and complexity. Tapping into AI is essential to drive innovation, enhance preventive care, and optimise outcomes, ensuring a more efficient, accessible and personalised healthcare future. NHG's newly set-up AI unit - HEAL (Health Empowered by AI Launchpad) - is focusing on equipping and enabling NHG's institutions and partners to adopt and integrate AI technologies effectively and safely for patient care and operational efficiency, through infrastructure development, strategic partnerships, and training. Already, HEAL is supporting more than 70 projects in development across NHG, including predictive analytics for patient safety; optimising patient care; and enabling advanced population health analytics.

(See Fact Sheet on Revolutionising Healthcare with NHG's AI Launchpad)

This year's SHBC centred on the theme, Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life, will be attended by 2,000 international and local participants, including healthcare professionals, research scientists, academic advisors and industry experts. More information on SHBC 2024 available at www.shbc.com.sg.

=== END ===

About the National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore recognised for delivering high value patient care. Our clinical services are provided through an integrated system of primary care polyclinics, acute care tertiary hospitals, community hospitals, national specialty centres, and community-based ambulatory care centres. Together, we provide comprehensive, holistic, and innovative healthcare to address the needs of our patients and the population we serve. As a learning organisation, we are establishing ourselves as an academic health system to drive clinical excellence, raise research intensity and grow our academic partnerships to continually improve the way we deliver care to our patients.

As the Regional Health Manager for 1.5 million residents in Central and North Singapore, NHG collaborates with private general practices, public and community health and social care providers to keep residents well and healthy.

With more than 20,000 healthcare professionals in NHG, we are committed towards building healthier and resilient communities, and Adding Years of Healthy Life to the people we serve.

More information is available at www.nhg.com.sg.

GLOSSARY

Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress	新加坡卫生与生物医学大会
Academic Health System	医疗教研体系

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	新加坡南洋理工大学
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine	李光前医学院
Professor Joe Sim Group Chief Executive Officer National Healthcare Group	沈恒毅教授 集团首席执行官 国立健保集团
Professor Joseph Sung Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Senior Vice President (Health & Life Sciences) NTU Singapore	沈祖尧 教授 李光前医学院院长 高级副校长 (健康与生命科学) 新加坡南洋理工大学
Professor Benjamin Seet Group Chairman Medical Board (Research) National Healthcare Group	薛寒友教授 集团医疗委员会主席 (医学研究) 国立健保集团
Professor Eugene Fidelis Soh Deputy Group CEO (Population Health) National Healthcare Group	苏源财教授 副集团首席执行官 (国民保健) 国立健保集团
National Parks Board (NParks)	国家公园局
Dr Yap Him Hoo Deputy Chief Executive Officer Professional Development and Services Cluster Commissioner of Parks and Recreation National Parks Board	葉钦赋博士 国家公园局 专业发展与服务 副局长 公园及康乐总监
Professor Chin Jing Jih Deputy GCEO (Clinical and Academic Development) National Healthcare Group	秦经智教授 副集团首席执行官 (医务与学术发展) 国立健保集团
Naresh Kalani Managing Director, Guardian Health & Beauty	N.A
Ms Irene Lau Managing Director - Watsons Singapore Regional Brand Marketing Director - Watsons International	刘丽萍 新加坡屈臣氏董事總經理 屈臣氏國際區域品牌營銷總監
Ms Chong Li Ling General Manager, Unity Pharmacy	鍾泐伶 总经理, 仁益药房
Unity Pharmacy	仁益药房
Watsons	新加坡屈臣氏
Centre of Healthcare Innovation, National Healthcare Group	医疗保健创新中心, 国立健保集团
Health Empowered by AI Launchpad (HEAL)	AI 医健启发所



Adding years of healthy life



10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

National Healthcare Group and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) Set Up Academic Health System

Singapore's healthcare system today is faced with emerging challenges resulting from our shifting demographics, including an ageing population, a rise in chronic diseases, and concerns about sustainability. Additionally, rapid technological advancements are poised to disrupt and transform current medical practices. To effectively address these challenges and to better leverage technological advancements, a tighter integration of healthcare, education, and research is crucial to achieve better care outcomes for our patients and population.

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) will jointly establish the **NHG-LKCMedicine-NTU Singapore Academic Health System (AHS)**, which will provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary framework to advance medical knowledge and education for better patient outcomes and population health impact.

Drawing on the collective strengths of NHG, LKCMedicine and NTU Singapore, the AHS comprises three thrusts:

1. **Making a Difference for Population Health:** Rather than embarking on a traditional approach to academic excellence, the AHS seeks to translate academic endeavours into real-world outcomes, to better carry out the missions of enhancing patient care, optimising health service delivery, and improving population health.
2. **Partnership with a Technological University:** The AHS adopts a systems-level partnership that extends beyond the medical school to the rest of NTU Singapore, including biological sciences, data sciences, engineering, social sciences and business, to foster a more holistic approach towards translational research and education.
3. **Changing the Future:** The AHS features an integrated governance framework and shared goals to reimagine, develop and implement change in healthcare delivery to our patients and population. This encompasses joint investments in research and education programmes, as well as talent development to achieve NHG's vision of

“adding years of healthy life”, and LKCMedicine’s vision of “redefining medicine, transforming healthcare”.

New Academic Clinical Programmes to Enhance Patient Care

Under the AHS, **Academic Clinical Programmes (ACPs)** will be launched to drive better integration of research and education with clinical care. By bringing together a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, scientists and engineers, the ACPs will create a dynamic interplay between clinical and academic excellence. This enables real-world issues to inspire research, and for evidence-based insights to be effectively brought into policy and practice. This approach has been proven to deliver better clinical outcomes, accelerate adoption of new technologies, and to provide a richer learning environment and experience for future healthcare leaders and professionals.

The ACPs will be rolled out progressively over five years from 2024 to 2028, starting with Rehabilitation Medicine and Skin Health. The Rehabilitation Medicine ACP is an example of how clinical outcomes will drive research and technology adoption, leveraging NTU Singapore's cutting-edge expertise in engineering, AI, and data analytics to enhance patient recovery and reduce hospital stay durations. On the education front, the Skin Health ACP seeks to build upon NTU Singapore’s strengths in continuing education and training to raise competencies in general practitioners to better manage skin conditions in the community, allowing NHG’s National Skin Centre (NSC) and our hospitals to focus on more complex cases.

As one of the top technological universities globally, NTU Singapore's strengths in research, innovation and education can accelerate and empower the AHS to adopt breakthrough solutions, enhance medical education, transform healthcare delivery, and improve patient outcomes. The AHS is the next step in a decade-long partnership between NHG and LKCMedicine and deepens the engagements and collaborations with the wider NTU Singapore to achieve both academic and clinical excellence.

=== END ===



10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

National Parks Board and National Healthcare Group's Collaboration On 'Greenery and Health'

As Regional Health Manager for 1.5 million residents in Central and North Singapore, the National Healthcare Group (NHG) is committed to raising the physical, mental, and social well-being of the residents. By collaborating with General Practitioners (GPs), community partners, government agencies and resident leaders, NHG builds Communities of Care that integrate health and social care services and programmes, with our new aim of adding 15 million years of healthy life for our residents.

The National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for enhancing and managing the urban ecosystems to transform Singapore into a City in Nature. NParks is the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare and management. It also partners agencies and community stakeholders to promote health and well-being through greenery and nature-based programming like therapeutic horticulture.

The Greenery and Health initiative is a collaboration between NHG and NParks which focuses on proactive health to address challenges related to Singapore's ageing population, such as frailty, isolation, disabilities, and poor lifestyle habits.

Under this partnership, NHG and NParks will jointly address health and social needs of the residents through non-traditional models of care. It will seek to:

- (i) Increase the accessibility and variety of health/lifestyle programmes through expanding therapeutic horticulture programmes within Communities of Care in Central and North Singapore, particularly targeting persons living with cognitive impairment (e.g., dementia) or mental disability, persons with physical impairment, and caregivers;
- (ii) Develop training frameworks and administer training to allied health professionals (e.g., social workers and occupational therapists) and laypersons interested in becoming trained guides to implement and expand therapeutic horticultural programmes that complement clinical interventions;
- (iii) Observe and record post-interventional insights after the implementation of the therapeutic horticulture programmes and co-develop evidence-based programmes and co-publish evidence-based research, including but not limited to the sharing of data, where appropriate, to track the impact of the therapeutic horticulture programmes being implemented, as well as other nature-based programmes and activities; and
- (iv) Identify areas where nature and greenery such as therapeutic landscapes can be brought closer at various levels, such as on the institutional level, community care level, and individual level, to improve the mental and physical well-being of the residents of Singapore.

NHG and NParks will sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 10 October 2024 during the opening ceremony of NHG's Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC) to formalise this collaboration. The signing will be witnessed by Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung as Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony.

The event exhibition will also showcase NHG's Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life, including interactive therapeutic horticulture programmes and activities, as well as ongoing pilot projects with Care Corner, NTUC Health, and SPD to demonstrate the impact of the NHG-NParks collaboration.

=== END ===



10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

National Healthcare Group Inks Master Collaboration Agreements with Guardian Health & Beauty, Watson's Personal Care Stores, and Unity Pharmacy on Preventive Health Counselling and Medication Therapy Management Services

As Regional Health Manager for 1.5 million residents in Central and North Singapore, the National Healthcare Group (NHG) is committed to raising the physical, mental, and social well-being of the residents. We collaborate with General Practitioners (GPs), community partners, government agencies and resident leaders to build Communities of Care that integrate health and social care services and programmes, aligned with our new aim of adding 15 million years of healthy life for our residents.

NHG has partnered community retail pharmacies – Guardian Health & Beauty, Watson's Personal Care Stores, and Unity Pharmacy – to enhance patients and residents' access to preventive health counselling and medication therapy management services. As the retail chains are recognised as strong advocates of preventive care, this partnership serves to expand their efforts in bringing more health to the populations they serve.

Across Singapore, Guardian Health & Beauty manages more than 120 stores with over 70 being pharmacies; Watsons currently operates 98 stores, 34 of which have pharmacies; and Unity Pharmacy has 91 stores with 46 being pharmacies. Their stores are in key locations, including Central and North Singapore, and the expansive network bodes well for our patients and residents to access preventive health counselling and medication therapy management services at a location of choice in the community.

For a start, this collaboration will focus on smoking cessation counselling, with the intention to improve access to smoking cessation services for more than 150,000 residents within our NHG region and reduce the smoking prevalence from 8.8 per cent to 8 per cent by 2030. That's helping about 2,000 smokers quit the habit every year. Patients who express intention to quit smoking and are interested in the programme will be referred by our participating NHG institutions to their preferred retail pharmacy location and patients will be jointly managed. The public can also walk into any of the participating retail pharmacies to enrol in the smoking cessation programme.

The retail pharmacy will provide smoking cessation counselling and customised interventions with each recruited patient, including follow-ups at one (1), three (3), six (6) and twelve (12)-month intervals. The patient's smoking status will be tracked at three (3) and six (6) months and updated to the referring NHG institution accordingly.

The duration of this collaboration will be for a period of two years. If the joint programme is well received and successful, there will be considerations for further extension.

=== END ===

10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life Movement

Singaporeans live among the longest in the world at 85 years, yet they typically spend the last 10 years in poor health. The National Healthcare Group (NHG) hopes to regain as many of those 10 years as possible for each of our 1.5 million residents in Central and North Singapore as its Regional Health Manager. Its Population Health Campus (PHC) anchors care for the residents with a full range of services across Primary Care, Community Care, and Population Health Management while working closely with our hospitals, national specialty centres and polyclinics. Together, we are firmly committed to rallying the community to take stronger ownership of their health, aligned with *Healthier SG* and *Age Well SG*.

We have thus set **Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life** (#15M) as our aspirational goal for our residents to live more of their life-years in good physical, mental, and social health so that they can enjoy what matters to them for longer.

NHG will support the Movement through its commitment to medical care and innovations for its residents. But this challenge calls for a collective effort of residents, community partners, GPs, and organisations in Central and North Singapore. This effort will drive the 15M Movement by activating and supporting residents not as individuals but as groups and communities for health; find among themselves stories of health and social activation that inspire and contribute to building a better society; support residents to proactively connect and act together with one another for better health; and extend support to those who need it more.

The key call of the Movement is “Me to We”, from attaining my own health by myself to acting together with others for the health of all. It makes achieving health more possible, even for those with less resources, and increases the social health of all, which in turn impacts physical and mental well-being. Research has shown that strong connections have as much influence on physical health as smoking, and more influence than physical activity on obesity.

While many residents and groups are already acting together in self-organised activities or as part of programmes by community partners in Central and North Singapore through the Communities of Care, this Movement for health will connect and enable these efforts even further through:

1. A campaign of inspiring stories of activated residents supporting each other for health or leading their communities as connectors and organisers, as well as stories of how community organisations are enabling this (www.15M.sg);
2. An annual 15M Social Challenge in February 2025 to get residents in groups of families, friends, neighbours, colleagues, schoolmates, interest groups to get together to set a joint health challenge and target for the month and support each other to reach the goal; Participating groups stand to win vouchers to further support the group’s activities.

3. CHI's Health and Social Change Academy (HSCA) and Centre for Health Activation (CHA) will support volunteers and residents interested in community organising to access a range of training modules that will give them the skills they need to motivate and mobilise their local communities.

At the opening ceremony of Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress 2024 on 10 October 2024, Guest-of-Honour Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health, will officially launch the Adding 15 million Years of Healthy Life Movement. An event exhibition will showcase NHG's plans on this front.

=== END ===

10 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

Revolutionising Healthcare with NHG's AI Launchpad

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) will be launching the **Health Empowered by AI Launchpad (HEAL)** on 10 October 2024 during the opening ceremony of the Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC).

Hosted at NHG's Centre of Healthcare Innovation (CHI), HEAL aims to revolutionise Singapore's healthcare system through the power of artificial intelligence (AI). It will focus on equipping and enabling public healthcare institutions to adopt and integrate AI technologies to enhance patient care and operational efficiency.

NHG's Roadmap for AI Transformation

As part of ensuring that AI technologies are integrated effectively, safely, and beneficially across our healthcare system, HEAL has developed an AI Adoption Strategy, encompassing five key areas:

- 1. Infrastructure Development:** AI adoption and integration for enhanced patient care is supported by the transition to the Next Generation Electronic Medical Record (NGEMR), and the Health Empowerment through Advanced Learning and Intelligent eXchange (HEALIX), which is a comprehensive national cloud-based analytics platform for Singapore's public healthcare sector. The strategic use of these two systems will provide secured access to extensive datasets, and AI development tools which are crucial for developing and deploying reliable AI solutions.
- 2. Partnerships and Expertise:** Strategic national and international partnerships are in place with more than 10 technology companies and systems with existing expertise in AI - for example the AI Centre for Value Based Healthcare in London, the Coalition for Health AI (CHAI) in the US, A*STAR, Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTU Singapore)'s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), and Microsoft. These partnerships are essential for the sharing of best practices and co-learning to facilitate our understanding of AI technology and keep Singapore's healthcare system at the forefront of AI-related innovations.
- 3. AI Literacy and Training:** In collaboration with NTU Singapore, HEAL has developed a comprehensive framework of AI literacy programmes and learning journeys to enable staff from NHG and partner healthcare institutions to utilise AI tools to deliver better healthcare. Co-designed with our academic partners and NTUC Learning Hub, these programmes will

imbue healthcare professionals with the curiosity and confidence to explore opportunities for AI integration in their work. The programmes also provide senior staff with the know-how and insights to facilitate and lead the adoption of AI technologies.

4. **Oversight and Governance:** Effective oversight and governance are critical to ensuring the safe and responsible use of AI technologies. Robust oversight mechanisms have been established to ensure that AI models are accurate, secure, and ethically deployed, thereby maintaining trust amongst providers and patients while safeguarding data privacy for Singapore's healthcare system.
5. **Change Management:** Implementing AI technologies across public healthcare in Singapore represents a significant transformation. To support this transition, dedicated change management resources will be provided to guide teams through the adoption process. This support will facilitate the seamless integration of AI into existing workflows, helping to drive successful outcomes and fostering an environment of continuous improvement.

The team at HEAL has made significant strides to enable the integration of AI into Singapore's healthcare services, to support more than 70 projects in development across NHG. Some of these projects cover:

Predictive Analytics for Patient Safety: An AI tool to predict the risk of patient falls within hospital settings is currently being developed. By identifying patients at high risk, hospital nursing teams can implement targeted preventive measures to enhance patient safety and reduce the likelihood of injuries.

Optimising Patient Care: Hospital operations teams are being trained on utilising predictive analytics to estimate a patient's length of stay. This information enables clinical teams to better anticipate patient needs, develop personalised treatment plans, and optimise the allocation of hospital resources, leading to quicker recoveries and better patient outcomes.

Streamlining Administrative Tasks: Behind the scenes, healthcare delivery involves significant administrative work. Teams at public healthcare institutions are being trained to use approved AI tools to automate routine tasks, generate reports quickly, and handle paperwork more efficiently, thereby freeing up more time for patient care.

Supporting Population Health: HEAL will better meet the needs of residents and predict future trends by leveraging AI to enable advanced population health analytics. This is done by linking up health and social data to develop a more comprehensive profile of our population. Analysis of such datasets can also aid in the identification of individuals at high risk for chronic conditions and inform more effective prevention and care strategies for community-based teams.

"AI holds the potential to propel our healthcare system to new heights," said Professor Jonty Heaversedge, Co-Director, HEAL, and Clinical Director and Chief Clinical Informatics Officer, Population Health Campus, NHG. "By integrating AI into our everyday care processes, we not only enhance the precision and efficiency of our services but are also looking at a new era of proactive, personalised healthcare. NHG's commitment to AI adoption reflects our dedication to improving patient outcomes and setting new standards in healthcare excellence."

=== END ===