

Media Release

New National Skin Centre to House Enhanced Facilities and Increased Capacity

Groundbreaking Ceremony of National Skin Centre

Bringing specialised dermatological care to more patients

When the new National Skin Centre (NSC) opens in 2022, more patients can look forward to seamless access to specialised dermatological care. The 10-storey building will increase its current clinic capacity, by 50 per cent to 69 consultation rooms, to meet rising demand for outpatient services.

At NSC's ground-breaking ceremony held in conjunction with the Centre's 30th anniversary this morning, Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Amy Khor said, "Congratulations to the National Skin Centre on its 30th anniversary. As the national specialist centre in dermatology, NSC plays a leading role in providing dermatological services to Singaporeans, in training the next generation of healthcare professionals in dermatology, and in conducting research on the treatment and management of skin conditions. When the new NSC building opens from 2022, it will be a one-stop specialist centre, housing state-of-the-art facilities."

Transforming dermatology care

Currently, NSC sees over 80 per cent of the overall outpatient dermatology attendances in the public healthcare institutions.

Associate Professor Tan Suat Hoon, Director of National Skin Centre said, "Our new facility will offer a full spectrum of subspecialty expertise that is well-supported by an efficient physical infrastructure. Patients with complex skin diseases will benefit from the best clinical expertise, and nursing and allied health care provided. As an integrated hub, NSC will operate in an optimal environment that galvanises educators and students in learning, and supports and advances clinical research. It will be a place to engage the community, whether in skin health promotion or for the community to be trained in self-care."

The new NSC will house a Day Treatment Centre which will bring together diagnostic, monitoring and treatment services at one location, making access to care by patients, especially the elderly or less ambulant patients, more convenient.

There will also be a dedicated Education Centre for patients as well as caregivers. They will find useful resources and information on self-care and how to manage various skin conditions effectively. Making such resources readily available will help raise more awareness on the importance of good skin care, and empower patients and their caregivers to take charge of their health.

To strengthen NSC's role as a Centre of Excellence for clinical and translational research, its enhanced research facilities will include laboratories dedicated to non-invasive skin imaging and skin physiology. Other laboratories will facilitate studies on skin health issues prevalent in the local population, and support the conduct of a wider range of clinical trials for new therapies and treatments for common skin diseases.

As a tertiary healthcare institution, NSC's enhanced research and education facility will spearhead clinical innovations in dermatology, train more dermatologists and healthcare professionals, and raise awareness on skin health among the population.

Madam Kay Kuok, Chairman of the National Healthcare Group (NHG), said, "With this new development, NSC can better connect with the network of healthcare providers, and work with community partners across our population to educate on and promote good skin care and target programmes or interventions that reduce the risk of skin diseases."

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About National Skin Centre

The National Skin Centre (NSC) is an outpatient specialist dermatological centre with a team of dermatologists who have the experience and expertise to treat a wide variety of skin conditions. The Centre also aims to facilitate subspecialisation and be the national focus for the treatment, research, and training on all aspects of skin diseases. More information is available at www.nsc.com.sg.

As a subsidiary of the National Healthcare Group, NSC shares the NHG vision of 'Adding Years of Healthy Life' to the Singapore population. With a comprehensive range of subspecialty services, and serving about 80 percent of dermatology outpatients in Singapore, NSC is firmly established as a reputable dermatology centre in Singapore and the region. NSC also collaborates with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to operate the Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS), which focuses on conducting high impact, inter-disciplinary skin research designed to translate into improved health outcomes and quality of life.

About the National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care.

NHG's vision is 'Adding Years of Healthy Life'. This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 18,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective.

As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations. Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in Adding Years of Healthy Life to all concerned.

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

Annex A

FACTSHEET

The National Skin Centre's New Building

Key Facts and Figures

Expected Date of Completion: 2022

No. of Storeys: 10 storeys with 2 levels of basement

Situated at 1 Mandalay Road

Certifications: Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark for energy-efficiency and BCA Universal Design Mark (Gold) for barrier-free access to meet the needs of ageing population

	Current Building	New Building
No. of storeys	5	10
No. of clinics	6	8
No. of consultation rooms	46	69
No. of treatment/procedure rooms	53	55

New Features and Facilities

Day Treatment Centre

- Fully equipped with resuscitation facilities allowing conversion of the current in-patient treatment procedures to day procedures, removing the need for hospital stay and cost-savings for patients.
- This includes an infusion centre for administering intravenous medication on patients and a dedicated space for drug provocation investigation with monitoring facilities.

Patient Education Centre

- One-stop resource avenue with consolidated resource of information and educational materials on all skin conditions for patients and caregivers. Patients and visitors can obtain comprehensive information on their skin conditions
- Meeting point for patients with similar diseases to discuss and share knowledge, providing support for each other
- Space will also be used to host and facilitate support group activities

Enhanced Research Facilities

- Only skin biobank in Singapore for long-term storage of skin specimens to support research work on Asian skins
- Skin Physiology Clinic to support research works on development of new skin diagnostic techniques and to conduct clinical trials for new non-invasive skin diagnostic techniques
- Fully-equipped research laboratory to support skin research works

Expanded Education and Training Facilities

- Expanded facilities to accommodate the projected increase in medical student intake
- Facilities are designed to facilitate the latest education techniques to enhance training (i.e. Team-Based Learning)

CHINESE GLOSSARY

许连碯博士 卫生部高级政务部长	Dr Amy Khor Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health
郭运光 主席 国立健保集团董事会	Mdm Kay Kuok Chairman National Healthcare Group
朱伟仁教授 集团首席执行官 国立健保集团	Professor Philip Choo Group CEO National Healthcare Group
陈雪芬副教授 主任 全国皮肤中心	Associate Professor Tan Suat Hoon Director National Skin Centre
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