



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

NEW MOU SIGNED TO DRIVE 'BENCH TO BEDSIDE' RESEARCH IN HEALTHCARE

The **National Healthcare Group (NHG)**, and **Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)** are establishing a **Joint Programme for Translational Research** in their continued push for healthcare research and innovation. The partnership was inked through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed at the Opening Ceremony of the 17th Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC) 2019 on 10 October.

The Joint Programme will leverage strategically on the expertise and resources of both partners, and streamline the setting up of joint translational research centres to improve health outcomes in the following six areas:

- (i) Ageing/ Rehabilitation
- (ii) Dermatology
- (iii) Infectious Diseases
- (iv) Mental Health
- (v) Metabolic-Vascular Diseases
- (vi) Population Health

Professor James Best, Dean, NTU LKCMedicine, said, "As a new and innovative Medical School with a vision to redefine medicine and transform healthcare, LKCMedicine is pleased to have our researchers collaborate with clinicians from NHG to bring translational research from the bench to the bedside. We have identified key research focus areas that are of deep significance to the health of Singaporeans. This is an extension of our strong partnership with NHG to provide innovative medical education to our growing student cohort, all aiming to be the doctors of the future."

Professor Steven Thng, Clinical Director, NHG Translational Research Office; Senior Consultant, National Skin Centre (NSC); and Executive Director of the Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS), said, "The integration of biomedical, digital and engineering sciences with NHG's national centres of medicine will enable the targeted translation of research work into applicable clinical solutions. These will help address evolving healthcare needs in Singapore, and ultimately deliver better care beyond hospital to community, beyond healthcare to health, and beyond quality to value."

The MOU was signed by Professor Thng and Professor Naomi Low-Beer, Vice Dean, Education, NTU LKCMedicine. Witnesses to the MOU signing were Professor Lim Tock Han, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Education and Research), NHG, and Professor Michael Ferenczi, Vice Dean, Faculty Affairs, NTU LKCMedicine. Senior Minister of State for Law and Health Mr Edwin Tong was the Guest-of-Honour for SHBC's Opening Ceremony.

Centred on the theme "Sustainable Healthcare through Innovation", this year's SHBC takes place from 10 to 11 October at the Max Atria@Singapore Expo, and on 12 October at the Ng Teng Fong Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI). Besides the Symposiums on 'Value Creation in Healthcare', 'Transforming Models of Care', and 'Empowerment through Digitalisation', and plenary sessions, SHBC will showcase the achievements of medical and healthcare professionals and scientists in improving health and patient care.

SHBC SCIENTIFIC COMPETITION 2019

The annual SHBC Scientific Competition received 611 submissions from Institutions across healthcare clusters and community partners. Awards were presented to 53 winners across 16 categories at the Opening Ceremony. Notable Award entries included:

- **Widening of the gap between systolic and diastolic blood pressure found to be associated with reduced cognitive function in people with diabetes**

Arterial stiffness is a known risk factor for cognitive impairment, and is reflected as an increase in pulse pressure (the difference between systolic and diastolic blood pressure). In a study on 1,167 patients with diabetes, clinicians from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) have found that a wide pulse pressure is associated with decreased cognitive performance across multiple domains such as immediate memory, visuospatial construction, language and attention. This puts patients at higher risk of dementia. These findings suggest that pulse pressure may be a potential treatment target for the prevention of cognitive impairment among people with diabetes. This project won **Gold** in the **Singapore Clinician Investigator Award** category.

SHBC 2019 Organising Chairman Associate Professor Tan Cher Heng, Radiologist and Senior Consultant, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), said, "The SHBC Scientific Competition continues to promote translational research that provides the scientific basis for many interventions that serve to advance evidence-based care for our population. This has become even more important as we seek innovative ways to build a more sustainable healthcare system."

NHGD EXPANDS COMMUNITY SCREENING FOR BREAST CANCER AND OSTEOPOROSIS

SMS (Health) Mr Edwin Tong, and NHG Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Education and Research) Professor Lim Tock Han also officiated the launch of National Healthcare Group Diagnostics' (NHGD) second Mammobus, and second Mobile Bone Mineral Densitometry Service during SHBC. The expansion of these services in the community will make screening for breast cancer and osteoporosis more accessible and convenient for residents.

Mammobus (MMB)

The second MMB features a new Full Field Digital Mammography (FFDM) system which processes the radiographic image of the breast almost instantly (up to six seconds). This reduces the total procedure time required for a mammogram from 15 minutes to 10 minutes, thereby increasing by 40 per cent the number of mammograms that can be done per day.

Mobile Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD)

The prevalence of low bone mineral density is rising among Singapore's ageing population, increasing by about 200 per cent over the past decade¹. Between 2015 and 2018, NHGD saw an annual increase of 20 per cent for its BMD services, and performed 5,600 such assessments in its first mobile BMD last year. The additional mobile BMD will enable NHGD to potentially screen about 6,000 more cases a year, bringing its total screening capacity to 12,000 cases annually.

Ms Lim Soh Har, Executive Director, NHGD, said, "The new Mammobus and Mobile Bone Mineral Densitometry Services are welcome additions to our existing fleet. Coupled with the use of improved technology, we are able to expand our services beyond the polyclinics, and deliver convenient, fast and accurate diagnostic and preventive screenings directly to the community. NHGD will continue to collaborate with our Primary Care and community partners to transform the delivery of healthcare, and facilitate early screening and detection for better treatment outcomes."

For more information on the SHBC programme tracks, see the Fact Sheet and/or visit www.shbc.com.sg.

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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.

¹ Ministry of Health: The Burden of Disease in Singapore, 1990 – 2017

GLOSSARY

新加坡卫生与生物医学大会	Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress
新加坡卫生与生物医学大会科学竞赛	Scientific Competition
唐天源教授 临床主任, 转化研究室, 国立健保集团 执行主任, 新加坡皮肤研究院 高级顾问医生, 全国皮肤中心	Professor Steven Thng Clinical Director, NHG Translational Research Office, National Healthcare Group Executive Director, Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS) Senior Consultant, National Skin Centre
詹姆斯·贝斯特教授 李光前医学院院长 南洋理工大学	Professor James Best Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University
林卓汉副教授 副集团首席执行总裁 (医学教育和研究) 国立健保集团	Professor Lim Tock Han Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research) National Healthcare Group
陈志恒副教授 新加坡卫生与生物医学大会 2019 组织主 席 高级顾问医生, 放射诊断科, 陈笃生医 院	Associate Professor Tan Cher Heng SHBC 2019 Organising Chairman Radiologist, and Senior Consultant, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Tan Tock Seng Hospital
林素霞 执行董事 国立健保集团诊断服务部	Ms Lim Soh Har Executive Director National Healthcare Group Diagnostics
邱德拔医院	Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH)
乳房X-光检验流动巴士	Mammobus
骨骼矿物质密度流动巴士	Mobile Bone Mineral Densitometry