



## FACT SHEET

### SINGAPORE HEALTH & BIOMEDICAL CONGRESS 2021

*Brave New World of Healthcare*

***For Immediate Release***

**Singapore, 7 October 2021** – The 19<sup>th</sup> Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC) 2021, organised by the National Healthcare Group (NHG), will focus on the “Brave New World of Healthcare”, and the paradigm shift in healthcare delivery over the past year – leveraging technology and exploring innovative approaches through telemedicine, remote monitoring and other technology-enabled services. As Singapore prepares for the new normal, SHBC 2021 will also explore and discuss how to develop a sustainable, future-ready healthcare system amid the changing landscape. The conference kicked off this morning.

**Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health Mr Masagos Zulkifli** was the Guest-of-Honour for the SHBC 2021 Opening Ceremony.

#### **SHBC 2021 NEW FORMAT AND HIGHLIGHTS**

This year’s Congress will be special. Besides the Opening Ceremony and several select sessions taking place on 7 October, the rest of the track, plenary and panel discussions will be streamed virtually as a weekly lunch-time series over four months. Renowned local and overseas experts will share their in-depth expertise and knowledge on five key areas, with a total of 13 tracks: ***Brave New World of Healthcare; What We Learnt from COVID-19?; Education; Stratifying Health Care; and Innovation in Clinical Care.***

On the morning of 7 October, the keynote address on “**Community, Family and Health**” by **Mr Masagos Zulkifli** was streamed virtually. This was followed by a panel discussion on “**Reinventing the Continuum of Healthcare**” with **Associate Professor Kenneth Mak, Singapore’s Director of Medical Services; Professor Philip Choo, Group CEO, NHG; and Associate Professor Jeremy Lim, Director, LIGHT, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore (NUS).** The session was moderated by Ms Salma Khalik, Senior Health Correspondent, *The Straits Times*.

A second panel discussion for the afternoon will focus on “**New Models of Partnership in a Post-COVID World**”. It will feature **Dr Soumya Swaminathan Yadav, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO); Dr Richard Hatchett, Chief Executive Officer, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI); Professor Leo Yee Sin, Executive Director, National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID); and Professor Peter Piot, Professor of Global Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Distinguished Visiting Professor in Medicine, NUS.** The session will be moderated by

Associate Professor David Lye, Director, Infectious Diseases Research and Training Office (IDRTO), NCID.

Notable Plenary Sessions will include:

- **What Does the COVID-19 Pandemic Tell Us About Health Systems and Preparedness**  
Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Chief Health Scientist, Ministry of Health (MOH); Executive Director, MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation (MOHT) will share insights on the new SARS vs Influenza paradigm of pandemic control, the development of key global priorities of universal health coverage and epidemic preparedness, and the building of basic research capabilities and their rapid translation into real world applications.
- **Precision Medicine in 2021: Opportunities and Challenges**  
Professor Joseph Sung, Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine); Senior Vice President (Health and Life Sciences), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will discuss how technology and development of biomedical sciences have made personalised medical care possible, the critical need for proof of improved clinical outcome and cost-effectiveness, and defining ethical, social and legal issues of data-driven approaches, artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- **Harnessing Digital Medicine to Optimise N-of-1 Healthcare**  
Professor Dean Ho, Provost's Chair Professor; Director, The N.1 Institute for Health (N.1) and The Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM); Head, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Pharmacology, NUS will highlight the emergence of digital medicine, how technology is changing the development and administration of therapies to evolve alongside patients, and the integration of digital medicine-based optimisation into clinical workflows.

#### **NHG RESEARCH & INNOVATION AWARDS 2021**

The annual NHG Research & Innovation Awards recognise individuals and teams who have made outstanding contributions towards improving health outcomes or delivery, as well as promoting the spirit for continuous research and innovation in NHG. A new category, "NHG-LKCMedicine Clinician/Clinical Scientist Award" was added this year. The Awards will be presented to four individuals and five teams across five categories.

#### **SHBC SCIENTIFIC COMPETITION 2021**

The annual Scientific Competition showcases the achievements of medical and healthcare professionals and scientists to improve patient care. A new category, "COVID-19: Our Response to a New Challenge" was added this year. 633 submissions were received from Institutions across healthcare clusters and community partners. 58 award winners across 18 categories will be showcased online.

For information about SHBC 2021, visit [www.shbc.com.sg](http://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 20,000 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 social care agencies. 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](http://www.nhg.com.sg).