



## FACT SHEET

# SINGAPORE HEALTH & BIOMEDICAL CONGRESS 2022

*Reinventing Healthcare*

***For Immediate Release***

**Singapore, 12 October 2022** – The 20<sup>th</sup> Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress (SHBC) 2022, organised by the National Healthcare Group (NHG), will focus on “Reinventing Healthcare”, and the imperative need to redesign and transform the healthcare ecosystem to manage immediate and future issues. This includes living with COVID-19 as an endemic disease and tackling challenges arising from Singapore’s ageing population.

With the nation’s drive towards *Healthier SG*, SHBC 2022 will also explore how the government, healthcare providers, partners, patients, and the community can work together to contribute towards better population health. The two-day conference kicked off this morning. **Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung** attended the SHBC 2022 Opening Ceremony and delivered the Keynote Address.

### **SHBC 2022 HIGHLIGHTS**

This year’s Congress will be held in a hybrid format, with the Opening Ceremony, plenary and panel discussions, and select sessions live-streamed online. Spanning 15 tracks, all sessions will be recorded and made available to registered participants for viewing until January 2023. Distinguished local and overseas experts will share their in-depth expertise and knowledge on two key areas: **New Era of Healthcare** and **NHG’s *River of Life* Framework for Population Health**.

The Plenary Sessions and Panel Discussions on 12 October will address the key enablers of *Healthier SG*. The first panel discussion on “**Towards *Healthier SG***” featured **Professor Philip Choo, Group CEO, NHG; Ms Jasmin Lau, Deputy Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Health (MOH); Ms Leong Siao Wearn, Chief Commercial Officer, Amplify Health; and Dr Tham Tat Yean, CEO and Family Physician, Frontier Healthcare Group**. Mr Han Fook Kwang, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies; Editor-At-Large, *The Straits Times*, was the moderator for the session.

The remaining Plenary Sessions and Panel Discussions will centre on:

- **Transforming the Health Workforce**  
**Mr Yee Wee Tang, Managing Director, Grab Singapore** led the dialogue on scaling business in a marketplace environment, and how relevant principles and practices on workforce development could apply to the healthcare sector to meet increasingly complex manpower demands. The panel discussion featured **Associate Professor Lita Chew, Group Director, Allied Health, SingHealth; Dr Benjamin Koh, Deputy Secretary (Development), MOH; Ms Chelvin Loh, Director, Jobs-Skills Insights**

Division, SkillsFuture Singapore; and Ms Clara Sin, Group Service Transformation & Medical Records Office, National University Health System (NUHS). It was moderated by Associate Professor Wong Hong Tym, Clinical Director, Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI).

- **The Impact of Technology**

Dr Rasu Shrestha, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer, Atrium Health, USA will discuss the strategic thrusts in leveraging technology and the lessons learned from the global COVID-19 pandemic to reinvent the future of healthcare. The panel discussion will feature Mr Abel Ang, Group CEO, Advance MedTech Holdings; Ms Irene Cheong, Director, Enterprise Division, Venture Creation & Growth, Agency for Science, Research and Technology (A\*STAR); Dr Cheong Wei Yang, Deputy Secretary (Technology), MOH; and Professor Carolyn Lam, Professor, Duke-National University of Singapore; Senior Consultant Cardiologist, National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS). It will be moderated by Dr Tan Jit Seng, Founder; Director; Senior Home Care Physician, Lotus Eldercare Private Limited.

- **Partnership for Sustainable Healthcare**

Professor Sir Aziz Sheikh, Professor of Primary Care Research & Development, Director of the Usher Institute and Dean of Data, University of Edinburgh, UK will highlight how partnerships with health and social entities help facilitate holistic care for the population in the UK, and examine how Singapore can adopt a similar approach. The panel discussion will feature Dr Leong Choon Kit, Family Physician, Mission Medical Clinic; Professor Eugene Fidelis Soh, Deputy Group CEO (Integrated Care), NHG, and CEO, Tan Tock Seng Hospital & Central Health; and Dr Mary Ann Tsao, Chairwoman, Tsao Foundation. It will be moderated by Dr Khor Swee Kheng, CEO, Angsana Health.

## **EMPOWERING DIABETES SELF-CARE THROUGH EDUCATION**

Aligned with *Healthier SG* and the shift towards preventive care, the 'Beyond Information towards Transformation through Enabling Therapeutic Patient Education (TPE)' track will highlight the **NHG Diabetes and Metabolic Care (DM) School**. Set up in January 2021, the NHG DM School, which is the first-of-its-kind in the cluster, provides patients with diabetes and their caregivers with accessible, evidence-based education to boost their knowledge in diabetes, inculcate behavioural changes, and empower them in self-care to improve health outcomes. Education materials for diabetes patients are harmonised from across primary and tertiary settings in NHG, including the National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP), Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH), and the upcoming Woodlands Health (WH).

Under the NHG DM School, participants will be enrolled into programmes that cater to their specific needs. For example, the **NHG Group Education and eMpowerment (GEM) Programme** is suitable for individuals newly diagnosed with diabetes and those with poor diabetes literacy, while the **Diabetes School Project** benefits Type 1 and 2 diabetes patients using insulin injections, insulin pump treatment or insulin therapy in the local Asian context. To-date, 108 patients have registered for the NHG GEM Programme, and its interim data showed improvement in the patients' diabetes literacy, as well as their mental well-being and

dietary-related self-care behaviours. As of June 2022, 108 patients were recruited into the Diabetes School Project.

### **LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

Other innovations in clinical care to be featured at SHBC 2022 include robotic-assisted surgeries for joint replacements and the use of “cinemedicine”<sup>1</sup> in palliative care.

Traditionally, joint replacement surgeries performed using conventional technique involved the use of manual jigs and purely subjective assessments by surgeons. To enhance precision, accuracy, and safety of such surgeries, TTSH introduced the use of robotic technology in 2018 and since 2021, the hospital has performed majority of its joint replacement surgeries using computer navigation or robotics. Robotic technology in joint replacements provides objective alignment assessment with real-time dynamic feedback on soft tissue balance, 3D visualisation of the pre-planned implant positions and precise execution of bone cuts, without the need for jigs. To-date, more than 200 patients have benefitted from robotic-assisted joint replacement surgeries.

To shore up support for junior doctors working in palliative care, TTSH piloted the use of “cinemedicine” as a tool to explore and address their emotional challenges. From September 2020 to September 2021, some 32 junior doctors were recruited to view a movie screening of ‘Tuesdays with Morrie’ and subsequently participate in a focus group discussion to share and reflect on their experiences and issues faced. Findings of the pilot study revealed that common challenges include discomfort in talking about death, impeded call to action with regard to saving lives, and inner fatigue due to struggles in balancing between workload and the grave intensity of the scope of palliative care. TTSH is exploring implementing “cinemedicine” into regular tutorial sessions for junior doctors working in palliative care.

### **SHBC SCIENTIFIC COMPETITION 2022**

The annual Scientific Competition showcases the achievements of medical and healthcare professionals and scientists to improve patient care. The award categories include: Health Professions Education Research Investigator Award; Singapore Allied Health Award; Singapore Clinician Investigator Award; Singapore Nursing Award; Singapore Primary Care Research Award; Singapore Young Investigator Award; SHBC Student Award; COVID-19: Our Response to a New Challenge; and SHBC Best Poster Award. 365 submissions were received from Institutions across healthcare clusters and community partners. 55 award winners across 17 categories will be showcased online.

### **NHG RESEARCH & INNOVATION AWARDS 2022**

The annual NHG Research & Innovation Awards recognise individual and teams who have made outstanding contributions towards improving health outcomes and/or delivery, as well as promoting the spirit of continuous research and innovation in NHG. The Awards will be presented to five individuals and five teams across five categories.

For information about SHBC 2022, visit [www.shbc.com.sg](http://www.shbc.com.sg).

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<sup>1</sup> Cinemedicine refers to the use of movies to improve students’ understanding of the psychosocial aspects of medicine.

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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 seven 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 22,000 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-North 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](http://www.nhg.com.sg).