



## SINGAPORE TRAUMA AND ACUTE CARE CONFERENCE 2018

Building Partnerships, Advancing Care, Improving Outcomes

20 April 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Trauma is a global epidemic – about 5.8 million people die each year as a result of injuries, accounting for about 10 per cent of the world’s deaths, more than the number of fatalities from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined.<sup>1</sup> Among survivors of traumatic injuries, a large proportion incurs temporary or permanent disabilities. In Singapore, trauma is the number one killer among those under the age of 45, and the fifth leading cause of death overall. In addition, there has been a steady increase in the number of trauma cases among the elderly, most often as the result of a fall, with almost 50 per cent of trauma deaths occurring in those aged above 65 years old.<sup>2</sup>

As part of its efforts to improve trauma care education and clinical outcomes in Singapore, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), a member of the National Healthcare Group, has been organising a global conference on trauma care since 2007. The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Singapore Trauma and Acute Care Conference (STACC)** was held at the Raffles City Convention Centre from 20 to 21 April 2018.

Themed “**Building Partnerships, Advancing Care, Improving Outcomes**”, STACC 2018 brought together leading researchers, clinicians and academics in Singapore and around the world to share their expertise and updates on research in the fields of emergency medicine, anaesthesia and critical care, neurosurgery and orthopaedic surgery, as well as trauma and acute care.

In his opening address at the two-day conference, Guest-of-Honour, Health Minister Gan Kim Yong, discussed preventive strategies to address the public health impact of trauma, as well as coordinated efforts among multiple stakeholders to provide quality trauma care and improve patient outcomes.

### **Regional Trauma Systems**

Singapore adopts a multi-pronged and integrated approach to manage trauma covering prevention, the acute phase, and rehabilitation phase. In line with this national strategy of

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health - [https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh\\_web/home/pressRoom/speeches\\_d/2016/speech-by-mr-chee-hong-tat-minister-of-state-for-health--at-the0.html](https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/pressRoom/speeches_d/2016/speech-by-mr-chee-hong-tat-minister-of-state-for-health--at-the0.html)

coordinating and optimising resources, TTSH announced its partnership with the upcoming Sengkang General Hospital (SKH) in the management of trauma patients in the central and north-eastern regions of Singapore. The two hospitals will partner in the areas of trauma clinical coverage, training, and clinical audit of trauma systems. In addition, severely injured trauma patients will be managed by a multi-disciplinary team of trauma experts from TTSH and SKH for better right-siting of care, improved patient outcomes, and lower mortality rates.

Dr Teo Li-Tserng, Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at TTSH and Chairman of STACC 2018, said, “Regional Trauma Systems, where resources are optimised by managing severely injured trauma patients in higher resourced hospitals, have been shown to reduce death and disability due to injury in the populations under their care. TTSH and SKH will work together, along with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), to coordinate trauma care and right-site patients in the Central and the North-East Region.”

Dr Kam Juinn Huar, Consultant at the Department of Surgery, Sengkang General Hospital, added, “As part of ongoing efforts to regionalise trauma care in Singapore, SKH is collaborating with TTSH on training, cross-learning, and coordination for trauma care. The shared expertise and resources achieved from the collaboration will enhance the efficiency of care delivery as SKH continues to develop its trauma services in preparation for the hospital's opening in the second half of the year.”

This collaboration is part of Singapore’s ongoing efforts to regionalise trauma care.

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**About Tan Tock Seng Hospital**

TTSH is one of Singapore's largest multi-disciplinary hospitals with 173 years of pioneering medical care and development. The hospital has 45 clinical, allied health and pharmacy departments as well as 16 specialist centres. It also has three institutes that are spearheading care, research and innovations in geriatric medicine, infectious diseases and ophthalmology.

Powered by more than 8,000 healthcare staff, TTSH sees over 2,500 patients at its specialist clinics and some 460 patients at its emergency department every day. TTSH is part of the National Healthcare Group, providing holistic and integrated patient care.

With a strong quality culture steeped in patient safety, TTSH constantly challenges itself to provide faster, better, cheaper and safer care for patients. To achieve this, the hospital keeps abreast and believes in investing in its staff, facilities, medical technology and system improvements.

For more information on the Singapore Trauma and Acute Care Conference, please visit <http://singaporetrauma.com/>.

**About 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](http://www.nhg.com.sg).