

Opening Speech by Professor Chee Yam Cheng, CEO, National Healthcare Group, at the opening of the 2nd Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress at 9.05am on Friday 11 November 2011, in the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health,

Prof Satkunanantham Kandiah, Director, Medical Services, Ministry of Health,

Dr Lam Pin Min, Member of Parliament for Sengkang West SMC,

Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC,

Madam Kay Kuok, Chairman, National Healthcare Group,

Distinguished Guests, Friends and Colleagues.

1. Good morning, and to our overseas delegates, a very warm welcome to Singapore.
2. It gives me great pleasure today to welcome all of you to the Opening and Awards Ceremony for the 2nd Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress.
3. This marks the 10th year that this scientific meeting is organised for the healthcare community. Originally known as the National Healthcare Group's Annual Scientific Congress when inaugurated in 2002, it has flourished through the years. Last year, it was re-branded as the Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress or SHBC. Today, SHBC is the largest healthcare scientific meeting and competition in Singapore, attracting over 2,400 healthcare delegates from Singapore and the Asia Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and Europe.

4. For this 2nd SHBC, we are privileged to have representatives from three other regional health clusters – Alexandra Health, Jurong Health Services and Changi General Hospital – in our Organising Committee led by Associate Professor Thomas Lew, Chairman, Medical Board, Tan Tock Seng Hospital. With four regional health clusters on board the Organising Committee, we chose a contemporary theme “Shaping our Regional Healthcare Systems – Innovate to Integrate; Educate to Excel; and Research for Relevance” to bring forth the depth and breadth of ideas which will emerge from this Congress to benefit all.

5. I am confident that there will be an exciting exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices among our speakers and participants, as the Congress unfolds over the next two days. The programme comprises seven Keynote and Plenary Lectures, the inaugural SHBC Health Leaders Summit, 19 Specialty-related Tracks, and eight Cross-disciplinary Tracks.

6. We are honoured to have Dr Glenn Steele, President & CEO, Geisinger Health System, USA, to deliver the keynote address on “What makes a Regional Integrated Healthcare System Excellent”.

7. We are also privileged to have six other distinguished plenary speakers for SHBC this year: Professor Elizabeth Armstrong from Harvard Macy Institute, Harvard Medical School, Professor Freddy Boey from Nanyang Technological University, Professor Philip Choo from the National Healthcare Group and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman from Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, A*STAR, Professor William Nelson from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, and Professor Stephen Smith from Nanyang Technological University. Prof Smith is also the Founding Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine – Singapore’s third Medical

School, a partnership between NTU and Imperial College London, and with us, the National Healthcare Group as its principal clinical training partner.

8. In addition to the main Congress, this 2nd SHBC will also concurrently host two important satellite conferences – the NHG Eye Institute’s 4th International Ophthalmology Congress (IOC) and the Primary Care Forum 2011. The theme for the 4th IOC is “Evolving Paradigms in Cataract Surgery”. Top cataract surgery experts and opinion leaders from Europe, USA and Asia will share their expertise and experiences.

9. IOC will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Healthcare Group Eye Institute (NHGEI). NHGEI has indeed distinguished itself over the past decade with innovations and initiatives to transform eye care in Singapore and regionally. You will have the opportunity to view the 10th Anniversary video of the NHG Eye Institute shortly.

10. The other satellite conference is the Primary Care Forum 2011. Its theme “Reinventing Primary Care: Shaping the Future” sets the framework for re-examining current care models and pushing the boundaries for their radical transformations, with new mindset shifts on patient-centric care, management of chronic illnesses, prevention and maintenance, and novel approaches to care integration with our healthcare partners in the community, with the view to tackling a fast ageing population and providing innovative solutions to its challenges.

11. Back to SHBC, I am pleased to announce that we received 334 abstracts for our annual Scientific Competition. The competition has attracted investigators and researchers from our partner organisations, academic medical centres and research institutes. Out of this total of 334 abstracts, 20% came from NUHS, 8% from Alexandra Health, 3% from

Changi General Hospital, 2 % from SingHealth and Jurong Health Services, and an additional 20% from institutions and research centres outside of the National Healthcare Group.

12. This year, we also changed the venues for the judging of the Scientific Competition which used to be at the conference venue. Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital and Changi General Hospital were the new sites for the Scientific Competition and Judging. This enabled more participation by our healthcare professionals in learning from the judging deliberations. With such active participation, the SHBC Scientific Competition is steadily emerging as a national-level competition for the interdisciplinary research community.

13. We look forward to up the ante on research nationally. In particular, we are keen to have more opportunities for NHG to collaborate with NTU and its Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine faculty in our research and education programmes. I say again, NHG is proud to collaborate with NTU and Imperial College London, as their principal clinical training partner for Singapore's third medical school.

14. I am delighted to announce that the winners for the following award categories will be showcased later on stage – SHBC Best Poster Awards, Singapore Young Investigator Award (YIA), Singapore Allied Health Award, Singapore Nursing Award; and the Singapore Clinician-Investigator Award (CIA).

15. Finally, I wish to thank our Guest of Honour, Health Minister Gan Kim Yong and our distinguished guests, including NHG Chairman Kay Kuok and Members of the NHG Board, for their presence today. I would also like to thank our speakers for contributing their time and effort for a

stimulating conference programme. As always, I am grateful to – and proud of – Associate Professor Thomas Lew, Chairman of this 2nd SHBC Organising Committee and his capable teams on the Scientific Committee, and Secretariat for their hard work. To our delegates, I hope that all of you will enjoy two exciting and enriching days of networking, sharing ideas and best practices, and strengthening friendships.

16. And now, we present a short video to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the NHG Eye Institute.

Thank you.