



Adding years of healthy life

6 Commonwealth Lane
#02-04 GMTI Building
Singapore 149547
Tel: 6496 6261
www.nhg.com.sg

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

2nd Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress (SHBC) focuses on Regional Health Systems Two Satellite Conferences spotlight Primary Care Transformation and Cataract Surgery

Reshaping Regional Health Systems (RHS) and transforming Primary Care are the hot topics at the 2nd Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress (SHBC) 2011 organised by the National Healthcare Group (NHG). This year's SHBC – the largest healthcare scientific meeting and competition in Singapore – is co-organised with Alexandra Health, Changi General Hospital and Jurong Health Services. Health Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong is the Guest of Honour.

2 With three other healthcare clusters on the Organising Committee, deciding on the SHBC theme was obvious – “Shaping our Regional Healthcare Systems: Innovate to Integrate; Educate to Excel; and Research for Relevance”.

3 More than 2,400 delegates from Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, UK and Europe will attend the two-day Congress in Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre on 11 and 12 November. Stellar names gracing the event include Dr Glenn Steele, President & CEO of Geisinger Health Systems, USA, who will deliver the keynote address on “What makes a Regional Integrated Healthcare System”.

4 Dr Steele is joined by six other Plenary Speakers who will share on a variety of timely topics covering medical research, technological innovation and delivering integrated health services to patients. The other plenary speakers are Professor Philip Choo from the National Healthcare Group and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, and Professor Sir Peter Gluckman from A*STAR's Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, who will speak on 11 November. Professor Elizabeth Armstrong from Harvard Macy Institute, Harvard Medical School, USA, Professor Freddy Boey from Nanyang Technological University; Professor William Nelson from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Baltimore, Maryland, USA, and Professor Stephen

Smith, also from Nanyang Technological University, will speak on 12 November. 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, with NHG as its principal clinical training partner.

5 A key component of SHBC is the Scientific Competition which this year received 334 abstracts from nine major institutions. Five national awards will be presented – the Singapore Clinician-Investigator Award, Singapore Allied Health Award, Singapore Nursing Award, Singapore Young Investigator Award and the SHBC Best Poster Award. SHBC Guest of Honour Health Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong will present the prestigious Singapore Clinician-Investigator Award. The full list of winners is in Annexe A.

6 NHG CEO Professor Chee Yam Cheng shared on the new breed of Clinician Scientist in his SHBC message. “At NHG, we also believe that the best doctors are the ones at the forefront of the latest medical discoveries and treatment,” he said. “In the next three years, NHG is committed to building up our research capabilities in areas including aging/geriatrics, rehabilitation medicine, mental health and metabolic diseases like diabetes.

7 “We also recognise that biomedical research today demands that individuals look beyond the confines of their own individual disciplines and explore collaborative models, which are often multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary in nature. It is not uncommon to see a research project – that is highly innovative and has the most direct impact on patient care and delivery – comprising a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians, scientists and engineers with each contributing his or her ideas, knowledge and expertise to the research.”

8 Associate Professor Thomas Lew, Chairman, Medical Board, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, and Chairman, SHBC Organising Committee, said: “This year’s abstracts represent an array of research activity across many institutions in Singapore, conducted not only by doctors but also by nurses and allied health professionals. Medical knowledge and practice can advance with such research. The abstracts were high quality and showed thoughtful and innovative solutions in delivering better care for our patients.”

9 Besides the main Congress, this 2nd SHBC will concurrently host two important satellite conferences – the NHG Eye Institute’s 4th **International Ophthalmology Congress (IOC)** and the Primary Care Forum 2011.

10 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. IOC will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Healthcare Group Eye Institute (NHGEI).

11 The other satellite conference – the **Primary Care Forum (PCF) 2011** – is also timely with its emphasis on “Reinventing Primary Care: Shaping the Future”. This theme sets the framework for re-examining current care models and pushing the boundaries for their transformation – 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. The intent is to tackle a fast ageing population with innovative solutions to its challenges.

12 Prof Chee observed in his PCF Opening Speech: “Today I’m happy to note that primary care in Singapore is rising up to the challenges it faces. Health delivery models of practice based on appropriate right siting of care and care provision by healthcare teams involving nurses and allied health professionals provide patients with holistic, quality care. We are seeing more collaboration between polyclinics and GPs and other healthcare institutions to provide care to patients in the community.”

13 He added: “With the introduction of the Family Medicine Residency Training Programme, we now have a new system to train future Family Physicians. In addition to providing well-rounded clinical training, it also includes improving patient communications, empowerment and care coordination for patients in their increasingly complex journey through our healthcare systems.”

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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 nine primary healthcare polyclinics, acute care hospitals, national specialty centres, innovative virtual specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of 340 years of medical expertise to our philosophy of patient-centric care.

By designing accessible and seamless healthcare services around patient needs, NHG ensures that patient care is fully coordinated within the cluster and is also extended to high level collaboration with other healthcare providers at home and abroad.

NHG’s vision of “***Adding years of healthy life***” is more than just about healing the sick. It encompasses the more difficult but infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 10,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective.

More information is available at <http://www.nhg.com.sg>

For media queries and more information about NHG and SHBC, please contact:

Ms Lim Phay-Ling
Deputy Director, Corporate Communications
National Healthcare Group
Direct: 6496 6261, E-mail: phay_ling_lim@nhg.com.sg

For media queries and more information about IOC, please contact:

Ms Crystal MK
Senior Executive, Corporate Communications
Tan Tock Seng Hospital
National Healthcare Group
Direct: 6357 8099, E-mail: crystal_mk@ttsh.com.sg

For media queries and more information about PCF, please contact

Ms Shirlene Wong
Executive, Corporate Communications Department
National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP)
Direct: 64966735, Mobile: 98416090
E-mail: shirlene_sq_wong@nhgp.com.sg

Key Names and Designations in Chinese

Professor Chee Yam Cheng

Chief Executive Officer
National Healthcare Group

徐炎青教授

行政总监

国立健保集团

Clinical Associate Professor Thomas Lew Wing Kit

Chairman Medical Board
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

廖泳傑副教授

医药委员会主席

陈笃生医院