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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15TH SINGAPORE LIVE AIMS TO RAISE REGION'S PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE WITH UPDATED PROGRAMME LINEUP & NEW COURSES

The 15th Singapore Live Interventions in Vascular Endotherapy (LIVE) course, Singapore's pioneering cardiology conference, once again presents the latest developments and cutting-edge technology to over 700 cardiology experts, comprising specialists, medical doctors, nurses and paramedics from all over the world.

Besides providing quality and cost-effective clinical services to patients with disorders of the heart, lung and chest, National Heart Centre (NHC) also prides itself on being the training centre for post-graduate training for cardiovascular medicine. Singapore LIVE is one of the programmes NHC organises to raise the professional standards in the region.

This year's four-day convention, which is held at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre from 26 February - 1 March 2006, sees an exciting lineup of new courses and workshops that touch on groundbreaking new methods and technology, and an increased number of device hands-on workshops for participants to work on and learn from.

The conference, now into its fifteenth year, features several main highlights which will be take place over the course of the convention:

1. Managing life-threatening heart diseases

Course Type:	Special Sessions, ECMO Workshop
Date:	26 February 2006
Time:	0800 – 1730

Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) is a technique that is able to provide sufficient oxygenation for several days or even weeks, allowing time for intrinsic recovery of the lungs and heart while the potential additional injury of aggressive mechanical ventilation is avoided.

ECMO, in its principal features, has been at our disposal since the 1970s, but almost a quarter of a century was needed before the technology and indications had undergone the refinement that guarantees successful and safe treatment of patients' medical conditions. ECMO technology has since undergone further improvements, such as having modern heparinised tubings and membrane oxygenators to help avoid bleeding

complications and has emerged as a new life saving modality for patients with life threatening heart/lung conditions such as pulmonary embolism and myocarditis.

The ECMO workshop, a new programme to Singapore LIVE, is a one-day workshop that serves as an introductory course to the use of extracorporeal techniques for cardiac and respiratory resuscitation. The topics chosen cover the basic setup of an ECMO circuit, management of the critical patient on ECMO support, complications of ECMO, weaning protocols, and bridging to longer-term support. Clinical cases of patients on ECMO will be discussed and there will be a hands-on session on the various ECMO circuits available.

2. New imaging technologies in interventional cardiology & the next generation drug eluting stent

Course Type: Main Programme, Day 1
Date: 27 February 2006
Time: 0950 – 1020

Veteran US cardiologist Prof Peter Fitzgerald from Stanford University Medical Centre will be talking about the latest imaging technologies in interventional cardiology. Emerging modalities such as magnetic resonance imaging, multi-slice computed tomography, and the three-dimensional echocardiography will be featured.

Find out the exciting new developments in the drug eluting stent technology. Established German cardiologist Prof Eberhard Grube from Heart Centre Siegburg will give you a glimpse into the future of the next generation drug eluting stent.

3. Accelerating the Natural Healing Process – Genous Bio-engineered R Stent

Course Type: Evening Industry Symposia
Date: 27 February 2006
Time: 1800 – 1930

One of the latest stents developed by OrbusNeich, the Genous Bio-engineered R stent, comes with a unique antibody coating that is said to be able to protect against thrombus and minimise restenosis via promotion of natural healing. Clinical results presented on 21 October 2005, at the annual 'Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Meeting' in Washington, showed that patients with normal endothelial progenitor cell levels and implanted with the Genous stent had no restenosis or cardiac complications.

This less aggressive bio-engineering approach to combat thrombosis and restenosis was jointly developed by Orbus Neich and Dr Michael Kutryk, leading cardiologist and clinician scientist from St Michael's Hospital in Canada. Dr Kutryk will be present at Singapore LIVE 2006 to present this novel technology.

(For more information on the Genous stent, please refer to accompanying Orbus Neich press kit.)

4. First Fellows Course held in Southeast Asia

Course Type: Special Sessions, Fellows Course
Date: 1 March 2006
Time: 0700 – 1730

Singapore LIVE's inaugural Fellows Course is aimed at exposing advanced medical trainees to the many facets of interventional cardiology. Already a popular course among cardiologists in the States, Singapore LIVE is the first to organise a full-day intensive Fellows Course in Southeast Asia. Such a course serves as a platform to increase the skill level of cardiology trainees in the region, thereby helping to boost Southeast Asia's level of medical expertise.

The course serves primarily to reinforce the fundamentals of interventional cardiology through intensive and didactic lectures. Presented by experienced masters of intervention and industry professionals, the course is designed to stimulate the 'technology' facet of intervention as well as firmly ground the young interventionalist in evidence-based practice. Concurrent workshops will allow hands-on experience with the latest devices and tools.

5. Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) – The new gold standard for follow-up studies of new treatment for coronary artery disease?

Course Type: Special Sessions, IVUS Course
Date: 1 March 2006
Time: 0800 – 1630

The international gold standard technique for detection and evaluation of coronary artery disease is contrast angiography. However, in recent years, a number of limitations of this technique have become apparent; these include the two-dimensional nature of the images, the absence of information of the blood vessel wall, insensitivity to substantial plaque burden in outwardly re-modelled vessels and inability to detect vessel wall disruption during angioplasty. To overcome these limitations, Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) was developed.

In clinical practice, IVUS is most often used as an adjunct to balloon angioplasty to detect dissection, stent underdeployment, stent thrombosis and to predict restenosis risk. It is also used as an accessory to diagnostic angioplasty to evaluate lesions of uncertain severity and to detect disease which is not visible on an angiogram.

IVUS technology is widely accepted as being the new gold standard for follow-up studies of new treatment for coronary artery disease, specifically those designed to prevent restenosis. It is also used for longitudinal studies of other vascular processes, particularly vascular re-modelling and progression of transplant coronary artery. We are honoured to have two IVUS veterans from USA, Prof Peter Fitzgerald from Stanford University Medical Centre and Dr Gary S Mintz from Cardiovascular Research Foundation, to speak at this one-day course.

These highlights, together with live telecast demonstrations from countries such as Japan, China and India will be seen by close to 1000 participants expected to be present throughout the four-day convention.

Said A/Prof Koh Tian Hai, Course Director and Medical Director of the National Heart Centre: "We are pleased to play host to so many delegates from all the world and we strive to give all of our delegates the best learning experience here in Singapore."

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