

Press Information

National Heart Centre collaborates with Philips Medical Systems 1st in South East Asia to work on clinical validation and training for latest innovations

Singapore, January 18, 2007 - National Heart Centre will be the first in South East Asia to work with Philips Medical Systems in a clinical and educational collaboration involving the latest medical imaging technology. With the installation of the state-of-the-art Philips Allura Xper FD10/10, the National Heart Centre will be the first cardiac care facility to offer patients x-ray radiation that is significantly reduced compared to other conventional systems. The Philips Allura Xper also offers more accurate cardiac diagnosis with the availability of clearer imaging technology for stents in arteries and better visualization of complex coronary arteries using an innovative 3D technique.

The first time that Philips Medical System is working with a reputed medical institution in Singapore in the cardiac laboratory imaging area, the collaboration will involve two parts - clinical validation of new innovative technologies on the Philips Allura Xper and training on the usage of the equipment for cardiologists from around the region. To assist in the clinical validation, a Philips clinical scientist will visit the National Heart Centre regularly. As part of the collaboration, cardiologists from reputable international medical institutions will also be invited by Philips to share their knowledge at Singapore LIVE organized by the National Heart Centre.

As part of the clinical validation agreement, the National Heart Centre will validate the new innovations on the Philips Allura and provide relevant clinical feedback and recommendations of future improvements. In the next phase, Philips will also partner the National Heart Centre in evaluating and developing new technologies for angiographic systems.

Associate Professor Koh Tian Hai, Medical Director, National Heart Centre, said, “The National Heart Centre sees more than 80,000 outpatients and 8,000 inpatients a year. With our vision to become a world-class cardiac care facility and a premier training centre in cardiovascular medicine, the new Philips Allura system puts us at the forefront of medical technology.”

“Allura’s features include radiation-saving that minimises patients’ exposure to radiation and the StentBoost patented technology which provides clearer images of the stents in arteries. Besides these, the Allura 3D-CA feature provides an accurate 3D modelling of the coronary vessels. Its accurate visualisation of vessels optimise viewing angle and assessment of the right lesion length and hence the right length stent”, elaborates A/Prof Koh.

“Its cardiac rotational angiography, an alternative to the standard angiography, provides improved visualisation capabilities and hence able to obtain extensive views of all segments of the coronary arteries including those which are not easily characterise, such as bifurcation lesion ”, said Dr Lim Soo Teik, Director of Interventional Cardiology, National Heart Centre.

Mr Lee Weng Seong, Regional Director, Philips Medical Systems ASEAN, said, “We are honoured to be working with such a prestigious medical institution as the National Heart Centre, known regionally for its commitment to research, both in the clinical and basic sciences. We believe that cardiologists in Singapore and around the region will find the Allura useful in making quicker and more accurate patient assessments.”

The training collaboration with the National Heart Centre also forms a strategic component of Philips’ total customer education program for its customers in the Asia Pacific region. This partnership will provide practical training for cardiologists in a clinical environment. It ideally complements a multi-million dollar imaging systems training centre which Philips inaugurated seven months ago in Singapore. The Philips training centre caters to systems application training without access to patients.

The Philips Allura Xper is the latest cardio interventional technology using the latest state-of-the-art digital imaging to enable more accurate assessments of patient’s conditions and better clinical results in a shorter procedure time. Both Allura 3D-CA, which creates a true 3D model of coronary arteries, and StentBoost, which provides better visuals of stents in coronary arteries, enables cardiologists to plan patient treatment more efficiently and make corrective decisions more quickly. The Philips Allura also features the latest processing algorithms for the best-in-class image quality and customisable options that cater to each user.

A live coronary angioplasty procedure using the Philips Allura Xper FD10/10 system will be demonstrated via satellite transmission at the Singapore LIVE 2007 on 22 & 23 January at Suntec Convention Centre, a premier cardiology conference in the region which is well-attended by over 1000 medical professionals.

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About Royal Philips Electronics

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHI) is a global leader in healthcare, lifestyle and technology, delivering products, services and solutions through the brand promise of “sense and simplicity”. Headquartered in the Netherlands, Philips employs approximately 126,000 employees in more than 60 countries worldwide. With sales of EUR 30.4 billion in 2005, the company is a market leader in medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring systems, energy efficient lighting solutions, personal care and home appliances, as well as consumer electronics. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.

About National Heart Centre (NHC)

National Heart Centre (NHC) is a 185-bed national and regional referral centre for cardiovascular medicine in Singapore. It provides one-stop comprehensive preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative cardiac services to local and overseas patients. Evolving over the years into an institution with significant international reputation for its clinical services, research and medical advances, NHC became autonomous on 1 January 1999 and is a member of Singapore Health Services (SingHealth). Managing an annual workload of more than 80,000 outpatients and cardiac procedures each, and over 6,000 surgeries and 8,000 inpatients, NHC is dedicated to providing excellence in healthcare through cost-effective and best care possible at the best value. This will be achieved through our clinical services, teaching, research and training.

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