

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TOP EUROPEAN HEART MEETING PARTNERS NATIONAL HEART CENTRE SINGAPORE TO REACH OUT TO ASIAN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

- East-Meets-West partnership brings the best of heart care practices in Europe, US and Asia to over 1000 delegates in Singapore
- Partnership re-affirms Singapore's level of cardiac care expertise in Asia
- Allows patients to have quicker access to novel and advanced devices and techniques available in Europe

Renowned interventional meeting, EuroPCR (Paris Course on Revascularisation) chooses to partner with the National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS) to jointly launch the first AsiaPCR-SingLIVE, a cardiology conference, on 21 – 23 January 2010.

EuroPCR is one of two biggest interventional meetings in the world. The Singapore LIVE is an annual cardiology conference organised by the National Heart Centre Singapore since 1989. It has played a pivotal role in advancing cardiac care in Asia. Each year, over 1000 doctors and healthcare professionals from the globe attend the Singapore LIVE course to benefit from the sharing of current and new interventional techniques and devices by the experts.

Elaborating on the strategic partnership, Professor Jean Marco, Course Director of EuroPCR and AsiaPCR-SingLIVE says, "Both EuroPCR and SingLIVE share similar visions of improving patient care and reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease. SingLIVE, with its established standing and quality as one of the premier cardiovascular interventional events in the Asia-Pacific region, is a natural choice when we are seeking a partner in Asia. With this collaboration, we hope to elevate the professional standards of cardiovascular intervention in the region."

AsiaPCR-SingLIVE will have all the features of a high-end interventional meeting with cutting edge content delivered by key opinion leaders. Participants can also pick up the latest

techniques and devices, learn from difficult and unusual case studies, hear the debate on the best therapeutic options and expand their network of contacts.

Associate Professor Koh Tian Hai, Medical Director, National Heart Centre Singapore and Course Director of AsiaPCR-SingLIVE added, “Europe has been leading the way in introducing new techniques and devices. The collaboration with EuroPCR will help to bring cutting edge interventional cardiology right to the doorsteps of Asian doctors and paramedical staff, without the need to travel long distances to Europe. As our Asian physicians acquire new skills and introduce novel alternative treatments to patients, it will help to improve the overall standard of cardiovascular care in the region.”

AsiaPCR-SingLIVE, which is expected to run for the next 5 years, is set to present the best from both meetings by incorporating choice elements of EuroPCR, such as the popular “Tech News and Trends”, “LIVE-in-a-box™” case transmissions and “How Should I Treat?” sessions into the SingLIVE programme, which features practical interactive sessions on new devices and techniques, “Tips and Tricks”, and live cases from centres in the region.

### **Facilitating the introduction of novel and advanced devices to the region**

The drug eluting balloon (DEB) catheter is a revolutionary new device which works by releasing a cell growth-inhibiting drug onto the wall of the artery rapidly, to keep arteries clear without the need for stent implants.

Developed in Germany by B. Braun Melsungen AG, studies in Europe have demonstrated that the device offers faster healing, reduced risk of recurrence and could prove more economical for patients in the long run.

Since its introduction to the region at the SingLIVE course in 2008, the DEB has earned the CE Mark approval last year and it is now available for patient use in Singapore.

Dr Philip Wong, Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Director, Research and Development Unit at NHCS shares, “The DEB is a new device which can be used to resolve in-stent restenosis (where a treated vessel becomes blocked) after stent implantation. It is also a useful alternative in cases where stenting is undesirable or impossible due to small vessels or previous procedures done at the site. The DEB is an example of how the scientific

meeting can bring a device from clinical trial to patient care, ultimately improving local patient access to novel, yet cost-effective care. With AsiaPCR-SingLIVE, we look forward to more of such success stories.”

About 13 patients at NHCS have been treated with the DEB since May 2009.

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### **About EuroPCR**

EuroPCR contributes to the promotion of education and information, on existing and developing techniques in interventional cardiology. The objective of this annual course is to inform practitioners of the latest technological developments and offer practical tips and tricks that help surgeons and cardiologists make the right ethical choice for each individual patient. It is also the official annual meeting of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI).

### **About Singapore LIVE**

First organised by the National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS) in 1989, the course is also one of the oldest live courses in interventional cardiology. For more than 20 years, SingLIVE has contributed to the education of medical professionals and development of cardiac care in the region by bringing in the latest devices and techniques and sharing information, often with an Asian focus and application, to help our doctors achieve the best outcomes for their patients. Today, the Singapore LIVE has become one of the most successful and preferred course in the region with more than 1,000 participants.

### **About the National Heart Centre Singapore**

The National Heart Centre Singapore (新加坡国家心脏中心) is a 185-bed national and regional referral centre for cardiovascular disease. A one-stop facility with the largest heart specialists group in Singapore, NHCS treats complex cases and sees the highest volume of heart patients locally.

Each year, the centre handles over 90,000 outpatient consultations, 6,000 interventional and surgical procedures and 9,000 inpatients. Its outcomes for heart attack treatment, balloon angioplasty with stenting and coronary bypass surgery have been shown to be equivalent to international standards.

NHCS is the first heart centre outside USA and in Asia to receive the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) since 2005, a testament to the safe and quality patient care the centre provide to our patients.