

26 March 2008

**Media Release
(Embargoed till after delivery 30 March 2008, 9.30pm)**

**SENIOR MINISTER LAUNCHES 1ST BOOK ON THE EVOLUTION OF
CARDIOLOGY IN SINGAPORE AT THE NHC 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Singapore, 26 March 2008 – Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong will officiate the launch of the National Heart Centre Singapore 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book titled “Hearts of Gold – At the Forefront of Heart Care in Singapore” at the centre’s anniversary dinner on 30 March 2008 at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. The book is the first in Singapore that chronicles the major milestones in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery in Singapore, and highlights the arduous but significant journey towards cardiac specialisation over the last five decades. It also features the contributions of NHC doctors and surgeons, and the advent of national programmes championed by the NHC including heart and lung transplants and the use of mechanical assist devices that have given new lease of lives to many Singaporeans.

Over 700 guests including medical luminaries, top cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons, ex-patients and staff are invited. The Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister Goh, will deliver a speech at the dinner.

Adding on to the joyous mood, well-known philanthropist, Mr Goh Cheng Liang, on behalf of the Goh Foundation, will be making a generous donation of S\$10 million to the NHC Health Endowment Fund, currently subsumed under the SingHealth Foundation. The donation will aid NHC in its efforts in promoting research and development in cardiac areas, continuing educational and training programmes for healthcare professionals and developing facilities to improve patient care.

Although 2008 marks the first decade of NHC’s incorporation, NHC’s influence in local medical history and its role in shaping the treatments for heart diseases can be traced back to pre-war Singapore and the early years of institutionalised healthcare at Medical Units I and II at the Singapore General Hospital. As an autonomous institution

over the last 10 years, NHC has been able to allocate greater focus on critical disciplines and expertise, enabling it to better serve a population where heart diseases rank as the second top killer. Today, NHC caters to the highest cardiac outpatient loads in Singapore.

Said Associate Professor Koh Tian Hai, Medical Director of the NHC, "While we remain committed to deliver accessible and affordable cardiac care to all Singaporeans, we must maintain our edge as a top-notch national referral centre through continued clinical service, relevant research and continuous training to grow our competency in the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases. Our 10th anniversary is a timely occasion to take stock of how far we have come, learn from our tireless predecessors, and rally together for greater outcomes as we gear up expertise and cutting edge treatments to meet the needs of the future."

*Your organisation's reporter and cameraman/photographer are cordially invited to cover the NHC's 10th anniversary dinner on 30 March 2008 (Sunday), 6.00pm, at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, Grand Ballroom, Level 1. A copy of the programme is attached below for your reference. Interested media representatives to RSVP with the media contacts indicated below by **28 March 2008 (Friday)**.*

Media Contacts

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About National Heart Centre Singapore

National Heart Centre (NHC) Singapore is the designated national centre for cardiovascular medicine in Singapore. Our medical staff represents the largest cardiovascular specialty group, treating complex cases and seeing the highest volume of patients in Singapore. We are the first heart centre outside USA and in Asia to receive the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation which is an assurance for safe and quality patient care for our patients.



NHC 10th Anniversary Dinner, 30 March 2008 (Sunday), Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, Grand Ballroom, Level 1

Programme

6.00 pm	Arrival of guests Activity Stalls and Cocktail Reception
6.45 pm	Guests to be seated
7.15 pm	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour (GOH)
7.20 pm	Welcome address by Medical Director, NHC
7.35 pm	Screening of NHC 10 th Anniversary Video Dinner begins
7.50 pm	Speech by GOH
8.00 pm	Launch of NHC 10 th Anniversary Commemorative Book by GOH Cake cutting Gift donation from Goh Foundation
8.15 pm	Dinner continues Acoustic Band Set 1
9.00 pm	Staff Performances
9.45 pm	Showtime – Illusions
10.00 pm	Exit of GOH
1.00 am	End of Programme

Dress Code: Smart Casual