Press Release

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For immediate release

First Heart Patient in Singapore is Treated with Abbott's Groundbreaking Bioabsorbable Vascular Scaffold in Global Clinical Trial

Associate Professor Tan Huay Cheem of National University Heart Centre Talks about the Success of a Revolutionary Device to Treat Coronary Artery Disease

Singapore, May 20, 2011 — National University Heart Centre today announced that the first heart disease patient in Singapore has been successfully treated with Abbott's investigational bioabsorbable vascular scaffold (BVS). The BVS is a groundbreaking device designed to restore blood flow by opening a clogged vessel and providing support while it heals. Once the vessel can remain open without the extra support, the bioabsorbable scaffold is designed to be slowly metabolized and eventually dissolved by the body. The patient, treated at NUHCS, is the first in the Singapore to receive this device as part of the ABSORB EXTEND global clinical trial, which is being conducted by Abbott.

"Treatments for coronary artery disease have come a long way from the days of balloon angioplasties and metal stents. The results from Abbott's earlier ABSORB trial were quite remarkable, and physicians are intrigued by the concept of being able to effectively open up and support a blocked artery without leaving a permanent implant behind in the blood vessel," said Assoc Prof Tan, Director at the National University Heart Centre, Singapore. "Abbott's BVS has the potential to revolutionize how we treat patients with coronary artery disease."

The National University Heart Centre, Singapore is the first hospital in Singapore to enroll a patient into Abbott's ABSORB EXTEND trial, a worldwide trial of approximately 1,000 patients at up to 100 centers in Europe, Asia Pacific, Canada and Latin America. To date, the BVS device has been studied in three global clinical trials, with more than 300 patients treated with the device over the past four years.

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About the ABSORB EXTEND Clinical Trial

The ABSORB EXTEND trial is a large-scale, single-arm trial that will enroll approximately 1,000 patients from up to 100 centers in Europe, Asia Pacific, Canada and Latin America. The ABSORB EXTEND trial will enroll patients with more complex coronary artery disease and will provide data that will be used to support approval in various markets around the world. Key endpoints of the study include – MACE and treated site thrombosis rates – at 30 days; six, 12, 24 and 36 months, as well as an assessment of the acute performance of the bioabsorbable vascular scaffold, including successful deployment of the system. Other key endpoints of the study include imaging assessments by angiography, intravascular ultrasound (IVUS), optical coherence tomography (OCT), and other state-of-the-art invasive and non-invasive imaging modalities.

The National University Health System (NUHS)

The National University Health System (NUHS) groups the National University Hospital (NUH), the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry under a common governance structure to create synergies to advance health by integrating clinical care, research and education.

The enhanced capabilities and capacity will enable the NUHS to deliver better patient care, train future generations of doctors more effectively and bring innovative treatments to patients through groundbreaking research.

For more information about the NUHS, please visit www.nuhs.edu.sg

The National University Heart Centre, Singapore

The National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) brings together the resources, expertise and capabilities in the areas of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery to better meet the needs of the growing number of patients with heart disease. A key centre for the treatment and management of complex cardiovascular diseases, its core clinical programmes include heart failure, structural heart disease, acute coronary syndrome, vascular medicine and therapy, women’s heart health and heart rhythm.
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Comprising a team of cardiovascular specialists and experts from a multitude of medical and surgical disciplines, the NUHCS provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to the treatment of patients with heart problems. This approach is backed by cutting edge knowledge and information gathered by the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI).

The CVRI focuses on developing niche research work in creating new knowledge in support of NUHCS’ core clinical programmes by working in close collaboration with both local and international renowned research institutes such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and New Zealand’s Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Partnerships are formed with various medical institutes as NUHCS is a selected training centre for international physicians. Education and training ensures that our medical professionals are kept abreast. Nurturing the next generation, our specialists are also actively involved in conducting workshops and teaching programmes for our medical undergraduates.

For more information, please visit http://www.nuhcs.com.sg