

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND RUIJIN HOSPITAL, SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ESTABLISH KEY PARTNERSHIP FOR COLLABORATIVE HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS

Through the newly-formed Singapore-Shanghai Medical Innovation Centre, clinicians from both hospitals partner to advance breakthroughs in cell and gene therapy and orthopaedics for a start

SINGAPORE — In a step towards charting a new chapter in patient-centred innovations, the National University Hospital (NUH) and the Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (RJH) formally launched the Singapore-Shanghai Medical Innovation Centre (SSMIC) on 15 October at the 6th Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council (SSCCC) meeting in Shanghai, China.

The SSMIC marks the first project arising from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both hospitals during the 5th SSSCC meeting in 2024¹, to establish a framework for clinical cooperation through staff exchange programmes and other collaborative efforts.

Co-chaired by Professor Aymeric Lim, Chief Executive Officer of NUH, and Professor Ning Guang, President of RJH, the SSMIC will serve as a dynamic space dedicated to co-developing proof-of-concept methodologies and medical technologies, exchange of critical expertise and ideas, and conducting vital translational research.

Elevating the patient care landscape

To begin this collaborative journey, the SSMIC will focus its efforts on priority tracks that draw upon the strengths and expertise of both NUH and RJH. This focused approach aims to deliver tangible results and accelerate innovations that will directly benefit patients, beginning with:

- Cell and gene therapy
- 3D printing in orthopaedics

¹ Enterprise Singapore, "Two-way trade between Singapore and Shanghai grows; New area of collaboration in digital economy", 9 July 2024, https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/-/media/esg/files/media-centre/media-releases/2024/july/two-way-trade-between-singapore-and-shanghai-grows_new-area-of-collaboration-in-digital-economy.pdf

Under **cell and gene therapy**, cancer experts from both hospitals will jointly conduct clinical trials to validate a novel Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy. Using a patient's own immunity system to fight the cancer, this therapy employs a highly personalised form of treatment to destroy the cancer cells with the specific biomarker on their surface. The objective of this collaboration is to translate the findings of the trials into a validated, effective treatment that can be made available to suitable cancer patients, especially those who have not found success with first-line cancer treatments.

In the field of **orthopaedics**, specialists from NUH and RJH will launch a collaborative clinical study focusing on 3D printing's transformative potential for musculoskeletal tumour resection and reconstruction of affected areas in patients' bodies, to enhance surgical outcomes and improve patient recovery. This includes the design and implementation of patient-specific tumour prostheses, development of advanced 3D-printed bone-ingrowth segment scaffolds, and the use of bioprinted materials to address complex reconstructive needs arising from challenging cases such as after the removal of a large tumour.

While these initial projects represent a significant first step, they are just the beginning of what SSMIC sets out for patients. With the Centre designed to be a dynamic and sustained platform, NUH and RJH will actively explore opportunities for further collaborations and expand the Centre's scope, ensuring a sustained pipeline of clinical breakthroughs.

"In the face of ever-evolving health challenges, it is paramount that we continuously innovate and push the boundaries of medical science" said Professor Aymeric Lim. "We are honoured to formalise this partnership with RJH as we build upon the foundation of collaboration established as founding members of the Asian University Hospital Alliance and as co-hosts at the 3rd Asian University Health Forum in December this year. Through the SSMIC, we look forward to partnering with RJH with a common mission to advance real-world change in healthcare, enriching the lives of individuals in both countries and beyond."

"NUH shares the same value with Ruijin Hospital regardless of the geographic distance so our employees will do all we can to advance the clinical care and research to benefit more patients in more countries. Clinical excellence relies on long-term investment in people and lifelong reverence for the unknown. We as physicians and surgeons shall dedicate all we learn to the new cures; and mobilise the industry, the regulators, the basic scientists and other stakeholders to apply these cures to human at the fastest speed. This is also the call of SSMIC. With the support from Shanghai government and Singapore stakeholders, I have the faith that we will succeed." said Professor NING Guang, President of Ruijin Hospital.

Chinese Glossary

National University Hospital (NUH)	国立大学医院 (国大医院)
Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine	上海交通大学医学院附属瑞金医院

Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council	新加坡-上海全面合作理事会
Singapore-Shanghai Medical Innovation Centre	新加坡-上海医学创新中心
Professor Aymeric LIM Chief Executive Officer National University Hospital	林玉堂教授 国立大学医院总裁
Professor NING Guang President Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine	宁光教授 上海交通大学医学院附属瑞金医院院长

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About the National University Hospital

The National University Hospital (NUH) is Singapore's leading university hospital. While the hospital at Kent Ridge first received its patients on 24 June 1985, our legacy started from 1905, the date of the founding of what is today the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. NUH is the principal teaching hospital of the medical school.

Our unique identity as a university hospital is a key attraction for healthcare professionals who aspire to do more than practise tertiary medical care. We offer an environment where research and teaching are an integral part of medicine, and continue to shape medicine and transform care for the community we care for.

We are an academic medical centre with over 1,200 beds, serving more than one million patients a year with over 50 medical, surgical and dental specialties. NUH is the only public and not-for-profit hospital in Singapore to provide trusted care for adults, women and children under one roof, including the only paediatric kidney and liver transplant programme in the country.

The NUH is a key member of the National University Health System (NUHS), one of three public healthcare clusters in Singapore.

About Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine

Ruijin Hospital was founded in 1907, formerly known as "Kuang-tse Hospital 廣慈醫院" and "Hôpital Sainte-Marie", and is a public teaching hospital of Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The hospital boasts numerous medical experts with a high reputation both at home and abroad and runs full clinical specialties in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Hainan Provinces. The headquarter is located in the city center of Shanghai City where the garden campus offers assuring mental and physical care for the people.

Leading with solid research accomplishment and always curing the incurable, our faculty always meets the challenges in the no man's land of medical technology. By mastering the cutting-edge therapy and adopting the team approach, we unite our strengths for the multidisciplinary treatment on the patients.

Ruijin Hospital established the official collaboration in 2024 under the government framework between Shanghai and Singapore. This partnership marks the fruit of the long-lasting medical exchange in two cities. Aiming to tackle more unmet needs in clinical, Ruijin Hospital will join NUH for more advanced cure in Asia and beyond.