

Press Release

For Immediate Release

27 February 2014

COMPANIES, SCHOOLS TO HELP PITCH COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS

This year, the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) and the National University Hospital (NUH) are working together with companies and schools to spread the awareness of colorectal cancer and the importance of screening

Eight major organisations – Ethicon, Fujifilm Asia Pacific, Merck, National University of Singapore, PSA International, Shell Eastern Petroleum, SMRT Corporation, ST Engineering – have pledged their support to help educate their staff about colorectal cancer, and the benefits of screening. Medical staff from the NCIS and NUH will conduct health talks and also distribute Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits to the companies' employees. The FIT kit is a simple and easy screening test that can help detect the disease early, and thus enable a person to seek timely medical treatment if necessary.

The eight companies are joined by two primary schools: through health talks and activities, the children in Fuhua Primary School and Bukit Timah Primary School will have a better understanding of colorectal cancer, and become ambassadors to promote awareness of the disease, and the usefulness and ease of screening to their families.

The participation of the companies and schools is a highlight of this year's Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month programme. In line with the Singapore Cancer Society's approach, the NCIS and NUH are reaching out to the general public, to inspire people – young and adults alike, to become advocates to encourage those who are 50 years old and above to go for screening.

Explained Dr Cheong Wai Kit, Head, Division of Colorectal Surgery, NUH and Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, NCIS, "We need to get the cancer screening message out to every man and woman who is aged 50 years old and above, because this is the group that is most at risk of developing cancer. And so this year, we have enlisted the help of companies and schools in the fight against the disease".

"The health and wellness of our staff are key focus areas for Shell and we actively encourage our employees to manage their health matters as part of the company's overall



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'Be Well' programme. This initiative to enhance greater awareness of colorectal cancer will further support our existing in-house health programmes and Shell is pleased to work with the NUHS in building a strong wellness culture nationwide," said Jocelyn Lim, Policy, Benefits & Services Manager, Shell Eastern Petroleum (Pte) Ltd.

Indeed, colorectal cancer is not a fatal disease when it is detected early. From 2008 to 2012, about 19,500 colonoscopy tests were done at the NUH.

Out of this group, about 450 people who went through colonoscopy did so after their FIT kits indicated blood in their stool samples. Abnormalities were found in close to 50% of the samples: cancer was found in 2% while another 43% had polyps. The ability of the FIT kit to detect abnormalities is vital in early detection, Dr Cheong said.

To find out more about colorectal cancer and how FIT kits can be used for early detection and save lives, please join us at the CCAM launch event at the NUH on 3 March 2014 at 1.30pm. Please refer to Annex A for the event programme.

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For more information, contact:

Sharon Aw
Senior Assistant Manager, Communications
Tel: 6772 3987
Email: sharon_aw@nuhs.edu.sg

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About the National University Hospital

The NUH is a tertiary hospital and major referral centre for a comprehensive range of medical, surgical and dental specialties including Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Orthopaedic Surgery and Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery. The Hospital also provides organ transplant programmes for adults (in kidney, liver and pancreas) and is the only public hospital in Singapore to offer paediatric kidney and liver transplant programme.

Staffed by a team of healthcare professionals who rank among the best in the field, the NUH offers quality patient care by embracing innovations and advances in medical treatment.

In 2004, the NUH became the first Singapore hospital to receive the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation, an international stamp for excellent clinical practices in patient care and safety. Today, patient safety and good clinical outcomes remain the focus of the hospital as it continues to play a key role in the training of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, and in translational research which paves the way for new cures and treatment, offering patients hope and a new lease of life.

A member of the National University Health System, it is the principal teaching hospital of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry.

For more information, please visit www.nuh.com.sg

About the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore

The National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) offers a broad spectrum of cancer care and management covering both paediatric and adult cancers, with expertise in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. The Institute's strength lies in the multi-disciplinary approach taken to develop a comprehensive and personalised plan for each cancer patient and his or her family. NCIS draws on the expertise of its specialists in the fields of haematology-oncology, radiation oncology, gynaecologic oncology, paediatric oncology, surgical oncology, oncology nursing, oncology pharmacy, palliative care, pathology, radiology, medical specialties including gastroenterology and hepatology, infectious diseases, pulmonary and critical



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care, psychiatry, epidemiology and public health as well as other allied health sciences. NCIS's strength in research allows patients to access drugs and devices before they are commercially available. NCIS is also closely affiliated with the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, National University of Singapore.

For more information about the NCIS, please visit www.ncis.com.sg

About the National University Health System (NUHS)

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

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

Visit www.nuhs.edu.sg



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Annex A

Detailed Programme

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| 1.30pm | Arrival of School Children |
| 1.45pm | Arrival of GOH |
| 2.00pm | Opening address by Dr Cheong Wai Kit, Head, Division of Colorectal Surgery, NUH and Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, NCIS |
| 2.10pm | Survivors Video Screening |
| 2.15pm | 5 School Children to place stickers on backdrop to signify Partners' support for the CCAM cause |
| 2.20pm | Presentation of Certificates to Partners by Dr Cheong Wai Kit |
| 2.25pm | Group photo on stage with GOH, Partners & Dr Cheong Wai Kit |
| 2.30pm | End of stage event; viewing of exhibits |