NCIS Cancer Fund

FY2025 DONOR REPORT

About Us

The National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) is a national specialist centre under the National University Health System (NUHS), and is the only public cancer centre in Singapore that treats both paediatric and adult cancers in one facility.

With a broad spectrum of cancer care and management from screening, diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation, palliative and long-term care, NCIS's strength lies in the multi-disciplinary approach taken by our clinician-scientists and clinician-investigators to develop a comprehensive and personalised plan for each cancer patient.

We are guided by the following vision, mission and belief in our everyday work.

Vision

To be a world-leading comprehensive cancer centre, dedicated to the prevention, management and cure of cancer.

Mission

To deliver Incredible Care by setting new standards in cancer care.

Belief

Every Person Matters.

The Power of Gving

The NCIS Cancer Fund

The NCIS Cancer Fund, a sub-fund under the NUHS Fund*, provides funding support in three areas – financial assistance for financially disadvantaged cancer patients, cancer research, and the education and training of healthcare professionals.

*NUHS Fund Limited is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and a registered charity with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status. The charity was set up to promote medical research and development, as well as provide health-related services for the benefit of the Singapore community. Your support makes a meaningful difference to patients in financial need as they navigate their cancer journey.

© 2026. This report is meant primarily for donors and partners. Please contact the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore by email at ncis@nuhs.edu.sg should you wish to share this report with others.

a message of

Gratitude & Impact

Dear Friends,

Cancer care is ultimately about people — the patients who face each day with courage, the families who walk beside them, and the community that makes hope possible.

In FY2025, your generosity to the NCIS Cancer Fund made a meaningful difference to patients and families at the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore. Together, our donors and partners helped provide financial assistance to patients in need, supported cancer research, and enabled initiatives that strengthen care beyond treatment. These contributions reflect a shared belief that every person matters and that no one should face cancer alone.

This report highlights the many ways philanthropy is transforming lives. Donor support has eased the financial burden of treatment for vulnerable patients, advanced research into better cancer therapies, and enabled innovations that have the potential to improve outcomes for future generations. It has also supported initiatives that enhance emotional wellbeing and quality of life for patients and caregivers, recognising that healing extends beyond the hospital setting.

We are especially grateful for several transformational gifts received this year. From strengthening patient assistance and supporting breakthrough technologies such as histotripsy, to creating therapeutic spaces like the NCIS Wellbeing Garden, these contributions demonstrate how philanthropy can both address immediate needs and shape the future of cancer care.

As we look ahead, we are guided by a bold vision: to redefine what is possible in cancer care, research and survivorship. Philanthropic support will play a vital role in helping us accelerate breakthrough research, advance precision oncology and improve early detection and intervention.

Equally important is our work to strengthen emotional, psychological and social support for patients and caregivers, ensuring that care remains centred on the whole person. Together, we can create a future where every patient benefits from more personalised treatment, better outcomes and a higher quality of life.

On behalf of NCIS, thank you for your trust, compassion and partnership. Every gift helps bring hope, healing and new possibilities to those affected by cancer.

Cheng Ean

Adj A/Prof Chee Cheng Ean
Executive Director, NCIS

Your Impact in 2025

Between April 2025 to March 2026, donor support enabled NCIS to provide financial assistance to patients facing treatment-related costs, ensuring that those in need could access essential care. At the same time, donations helped fund promising research projects aimed at advancing cancer treatment and improving outcomes for future patients.

Together, these contributions are helping us deliver compassionate care today while building a better future for tomorrow.

Total amount for research assistance

$109,715.68

$50,000.00

A Randomized Phase II Trial of Osimertinib with or without Stereotactic Radiosurgery for EGFR Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) with Brain Metastases (OUTRUN)

Principal Investigator: Dr Soon Yu Yang

$50,000.00

Investigating the Oncogenic Role of AKR1C3 in Lung Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Principal Investigator: Prof Goh Boon Cher

$9,715.68

Provision of Occult Blood Testing Services – NUS: Role of Fecal Specimens in the Detection of Colorectal Cancer

Principal Investigator: Dr Cheong Wai Kit

Supporting patients in need

The NCIS Cancer Fund provides support to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents for costs not supported by other assistance schemes. The fund also supports resident foreigners who have spent a "reasonable" time in Singapore and are part of our local community.

Total amount for patients' assistance

$ 396,098.00

119
Applications Approved

102
Patients Assisted

15%
Beneficiaries with more than one application

Citizenship

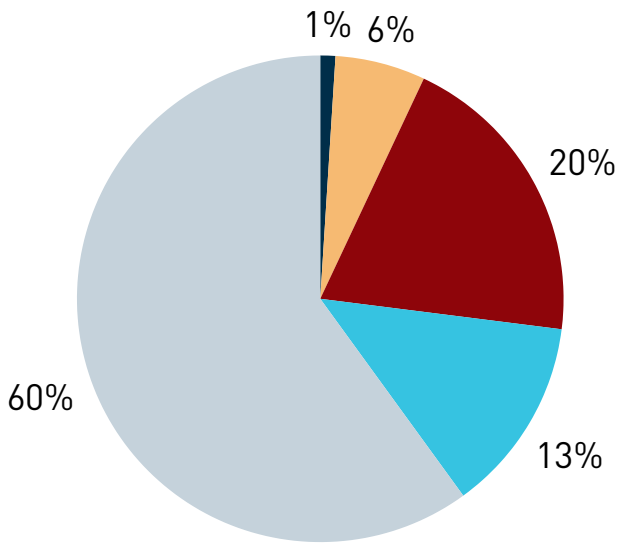
87% Singapore Citizen

13% Permanent Resident

Age Group

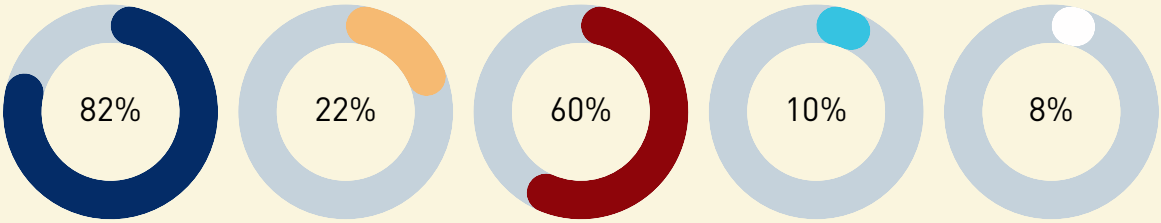
The largest segment (over 65) reflects the prevalence of chronic diseases in an aging population.

- 29 & below
- 30-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- Over 65



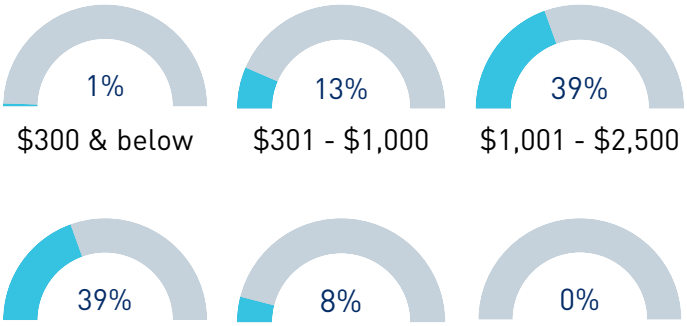
Per Capita Income (by application data)

Approved funding amount is based on financial assessment by medical social workers.



Lowest 20% | $500 & below | $501 - $1,450 | $1,451 - $2,250 | $2,251 & above

Funding Range (by application data)



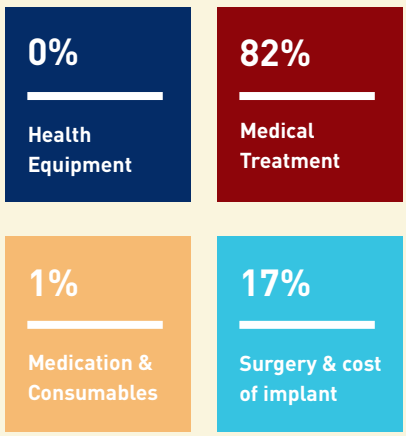
We provide crucial funding support to our beneficiaries if their medical expenses exceed their per capita income.

To help as many patients as the fund allows, the cap for financial assistance is currently set at $20,000.

Support Category (by approved amount)

Funding is provided to support treatment costs not funded by existing assistance schemes. The majority of patient funding support is for PET scans.

This helps physicians detect cancer, evaluate the extent of disease, select the most appropriate treatments, determine if the therapy is working and detect any recurrent tumours.



Lives Changed, Futures Transformed

Every contribution to the NCIS Cancer Fund helps ease the burden of cancer, bringing vital support to patients and families while advancing discoveries that hold promise for the future.

From compassionate care that restores hope during life's most challenging moments to research that pushes the boundaries of what is possible, these stories reflect how generosity is being transformed into meaningful outcomes today — and brighter tomorrows for all.

NHS
Naal University
HeSystem
DR MICHELLE TSENG
Associate Consultant

Finding strength through every challenge

How donor support helped Norhidaya focus on healing and hope

For years, uncertainty was a constant companion for Norhidaya Binte Bujang.

Her health challenges began more than ten years ago when she experienced repeated episodes of pneumothorax, or collapsed lung, caused by Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH), a rare disease that affected her lungs. Living with the condition meant never knowing when the next episode might strike. Repeated hospital visits and the unpredictability of her condition took a physical and emotional toll.

When doctors recommended chemotherapy, Norhidaya struggled to come to terms with the treatment. Fear and uncertainty about its impact on her future led her to delay treatment for several years.

Following another pneumothorax episode, she decided it was time to take the difficult step of starting chemotherapy. Norhidaya underwent intravenous chemotherapy, followed by oral chemotherapy medication for several years. Throughout treatment, she drew strength from her family and from within.

"I kept telling myself, 'I can do this. I can get through this,'" she recalled.

Alongside the challenges of treatment came financial stress. Medical and everyday living expenses continued even as she focused on her health.

Support from the NCIS Cancer Fund helped ease some of the burden, giving Norhidaya peace of mind and allowing her to focus more fully on treatment and recovery.

> **When you are already emotionally and physically tired from treatment, worrying about finances can make everything even harder.**
>
> **The financial assistance gave me breathing space and allowed me to focus on my treatment and recovery**
>
> Norhidaya Binte Bujang

For Norhidaya, the support extended beyond financial assistance. She said, "Knowing that someone is willing to help gives you hope. It makes you feel that there are people who care about what you are going through."

Today, Norhidaya's condition is stable, and she continues regular follow-up care with her medical team at NCIS. Looking back, she reflects not only on the challenges she endured, but also the resilience she discovered along the way.

Through the generosity of donors, the NCIS Cancer Fund helps patients like Norhidaya ease the financial burden of care and provides the breathing space to focus on what matters most – getting better.

Research Today. Better Cancer Care Tomorrow.

With donor support, NCIS researchers are advancing discoveries that have the potential to improve how cancer is detected, treated and managed — bringing hope to patients in Singapore and around the world.

Investigating the oncogenic role of AKR1C3 in lung squamous cell carcinoma

For patients diagnosed with lung squamous cell carcinoma, treatment options remain limited and outcomes can be uncertain. To improve the future of lung cancer care, researchers are investigating a protein known as Aldo-Keto Reductase Family 1 Member C3 (AKR1C3), which is found at higher levels in many lung squamous cell tumours and may play a role in helping cancer cells grow, spread, and resist treatment.

This research seeks to understand how AKR1C3 contributes to the development and progression of lung cancer. By studying tumour samples and cancer cells in the laboratory, the team aims to uncover the biological mechanisms that drive the disease and identify new ways to stop cancer growth. The study will also explore whether targeting AKR1C3 could help make existing treatments more effective.

The ultimate goal is to translate these discoveries into better care for patients — enabling earlier intervention, more targeted therapies, and improved survival outcomes. Every breakthrough brings us a step closer to a future where lung cancer is detected earlier, treated more precisely, and associated with better quality of life for patients and their families.

> **Donor support makes this work possible, helping researchers pursue innovative discoveries that may one day lead to new treatment options and renewed hope for those affected by lung cancer.**
>
> Prof Goh Boon Cher
> Deputy Director of Research, NCIS

Advancing treatment for lung cancer patients with brain metastases

For patients with advanced lung cancer, the spread of cancer to the brain can have a profound impact on quality of life and treatment outcomes.

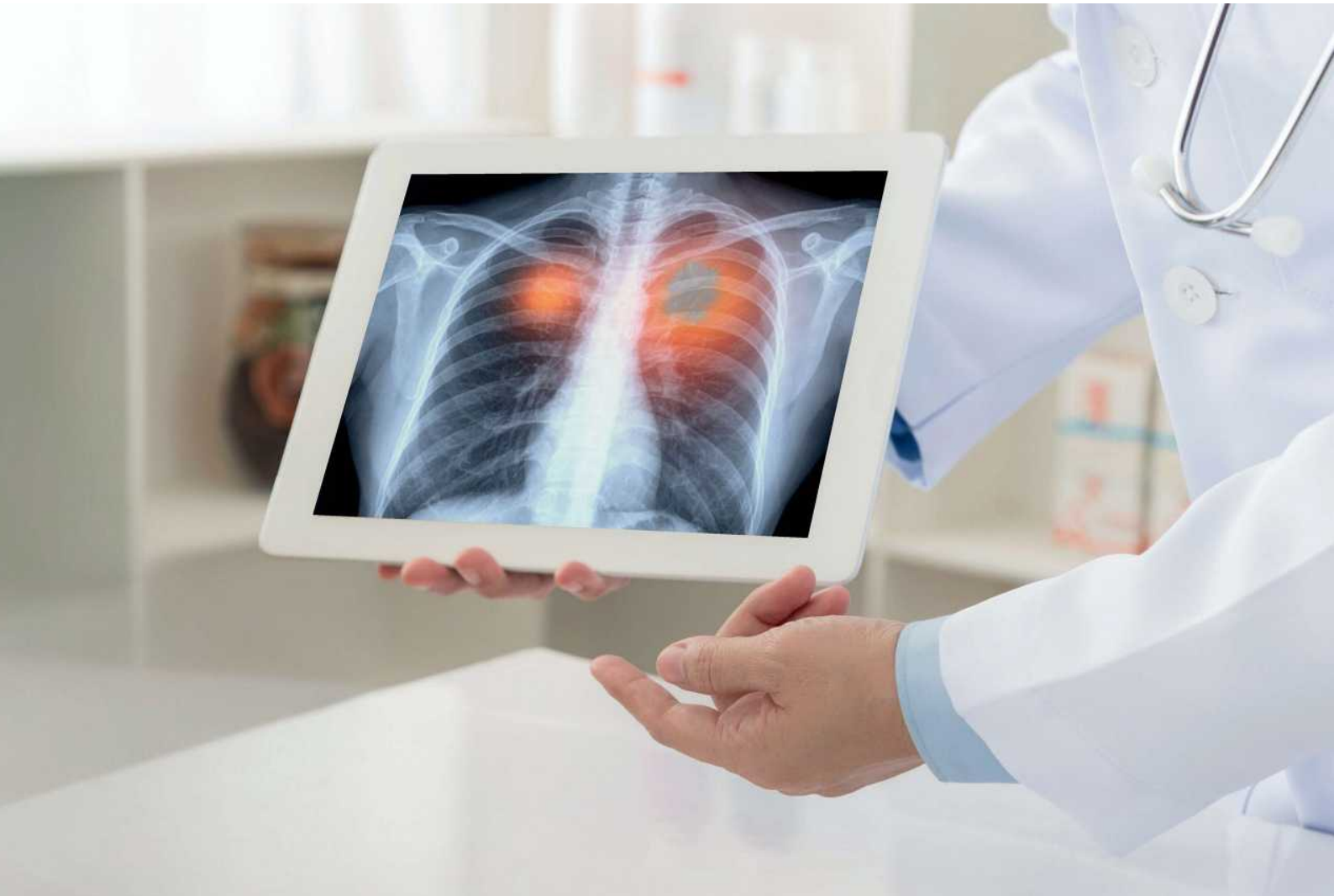
To address this challenge, NCIS researchers led by Dr Soon Yu Yang undertook the OUTRUN clinical trial, which contributed to the landmark STARLET study — the first international randomised trial to evaluate whether targeted brain radiation should be used alongside a modern targeted therapy called osimertinib for patients with Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR)-mutant non-small cell lung cancer and brain metastases.

The study brought together researchers and patients from Singapore, Australia and Canada, comparing outcomes between patients who received osimertinib alone and those who received a combination of stereotactic radiosurgery and osimertinib.

The findings showed that many patients with small, minimally symptomatic brain metastases could achieve effective disease control with osimertinib alone, sparing them from additional treatment and potential side effects without compromising outcomes.

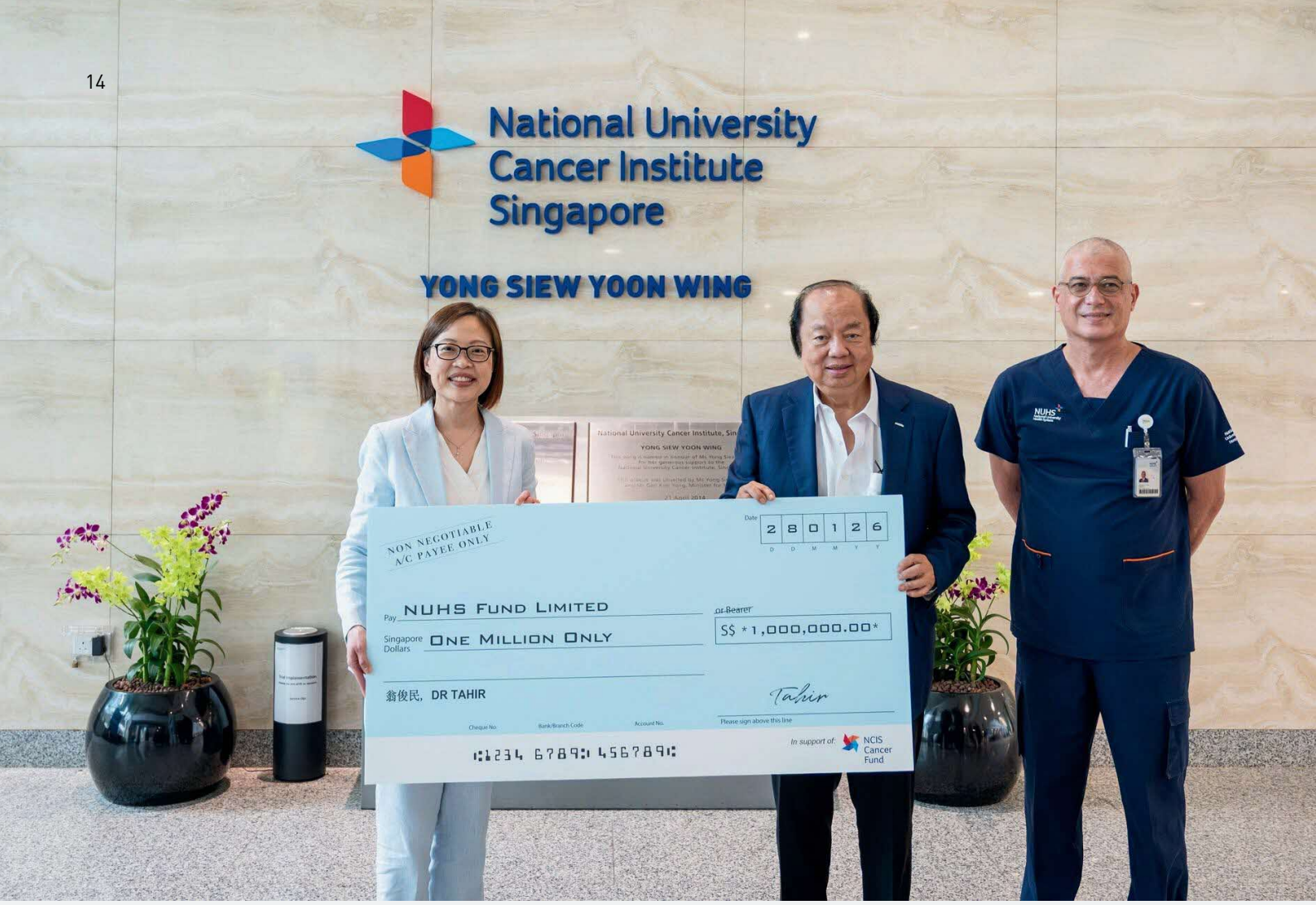
Published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology, the study provides the first prospective randomised evidence supporting this treatment approach and is expected to help guide clinical decision-making worldwide.

The research highlights how sustained support for cancer research enables NCIS scientists to generate evidence that can improve care, quality of life and treatment options for patients in Singapore and beyond.



Catalysts for Extraordinary Change

Some gifts have the power to transcend the moment in which they are given. Through exceptional acts of generosity, our donors are accelerating medical innovation, enriching the patient experience, and creating enduring impact across the cancer care journey. From pioneering technologies to restorative environments and transformative support, these contributions are redefining hope for those affected by cancer.



Creating an enduring impact on cancer patients

A visit to Singapore to accompany a friend undergoing cancer treatment inspired Indonesian entrepreneur and philanthropist Dato' Sri Dr Tahir, founder of the Mayapada Group, to make a transformative gift to the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS).

In FY2025, Dr Tahir made a landmark $1 million gift to the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) through the Dr Tahir Foundation Cancer Patient Assistance Fund. The contribution reflects not only his commitment to philanthropy, but also his deep belief in helping those facing life's greatest challenges.

Dr Tahir's connection to NCIS began years earlier when he accompanied a close friend from Indonesia to Singapore for cancer treatment. During that experience, he gained first-hand insight into the physical, emotional and financial burdens faced by patients and their families. Moved by what he witnessed and inspired by the care provided at NCIS, he resolved to make a meaningful difference.

> **When you help others, you are actually helping yourself. This is my philosophy. I believe that the blessings and abilities we possess are gifts from God. Whenever I know there are people in need, I will do my best to help.**
>
> Dato' Sri Prof. Dr. Tahir
> President and CEO, Mayapada Group, Jakarta

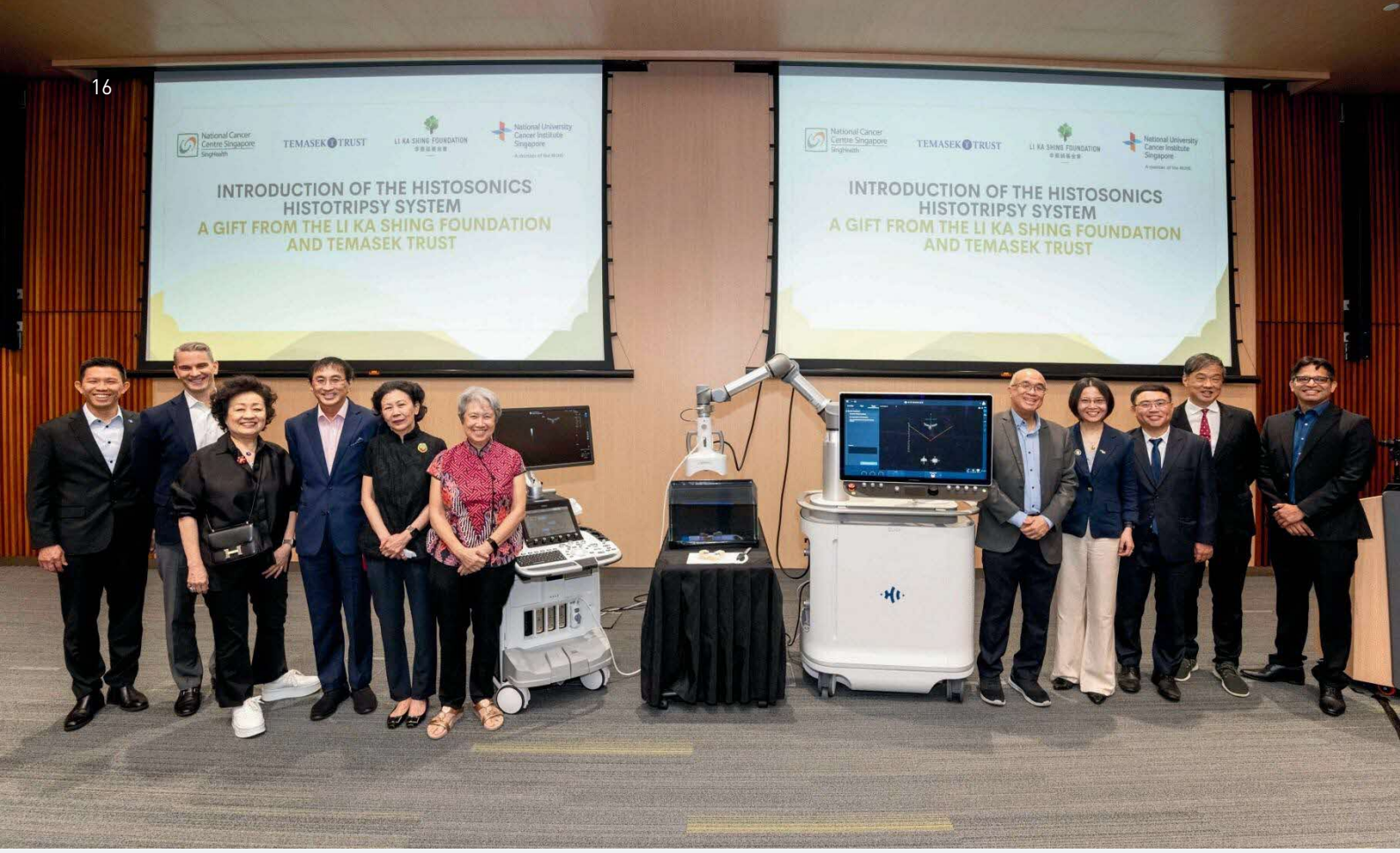
Today, his generosity is helping to ensure that financial hardship does not become a barrier to care. The Dr Tahir Foundation Cancer Patient Assistance Fund provides timely financial support to patients who are struggling with treatment-related expenses, alleviating some of the stress associated with a cancer diagnosis and allowing patients to focus on what matters most — their recovery and wellbeing.

For many families, this support provides much-needed relief during an already difficult period, offering not only practical assistance but also hope and reassurance that they are not facing their cancer journey alone.

Beyond direct patient assistance, Dr Tahir's gift strengthens NCIS' ability to advance innovative clinical research, education and patient-centred care initiatives. By investing in both immediate patient needs and the future of cancer care, his contribution creates a lasting legacy that will benefit countless patients for years to come.

The impact of a single gift extends far beyond today — creating healthier futures and touching countless lives across generations.

NCIS Executive Director Adj A/Prof Chee Cheng Ean presents a token of appreciation to Dato' Sri Prof. Dr. Tahir in recognition of his generous donation to NCIS.



Transforming cancer care through innovation

For patients with liver, kidney and pancreatic cancers, treatment options can be limited — particularly when tumours are difficult to access or surgery is not possible.

A landmark gift from the Li Ka Shing Foundation (LKSF) and Temasek Trust (TT) is helping to change that, bringing a groundbreaking new cancer treatment to Singapore and offering new hope to patients across the region.

In April 2025, LKSF and TT committed S$12 million to introduce histotripsy, an innovative non-invasive cancer therapy that uses focused ultrasound waves to destroy tumours at the cellular level without surgery, radiation or heat.

The gift funds two histotripsy systems — the first in Southeast Asia — with one system deployed at NCIS and the other at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS). It also supports clinical trials for patients with liver, kidney and pancreatic cancers, advancing cancer research and innovation in Singapore.

Histotripsy uses focused ultrasound to generate microscopic bubbles that rapidly expand and collapse, creating shock waves that break down tumour tissue while preserving surrounding structures. The technology has the potential to create new treatment possibilities for patients who may not be suitable for conventional approaches.

The gift enables NCIS clinicians and researchers to evaluate histotripsy's effectiveness in a Southeast Asian population and build evidence for its future use.

> **We at TTFA are delighted to have the Li Ka Shing Foundation and Temasek Trust come together to catalyse this important initiative, to study this innovative non-invasive ultrasound-based cancer therapy in Southeast Asia. We are privileged to work alongside NCCS and NCIS to support clinical research and trials to use this novel modality that targets important cancers.**
>
> Dickson Lim
> Head of TT Foundation Advisors (TTFA)

A garden of hope and healing

Cancer care is about more than medical treatment. Throughout the cancer journey, patients and families often need spaces where they can find comfort, connection and moments of respite amidst the physical and emotional demands of care.

Thanks to a generous $500,000 gift from China Classic Pte Ltd, a sister company of Far East Organisation, NCIS is transforming its Wellbeing Garden into a therapeutic green sanctuary that supports the emotional wellbeing of patients, caregivers and staff.

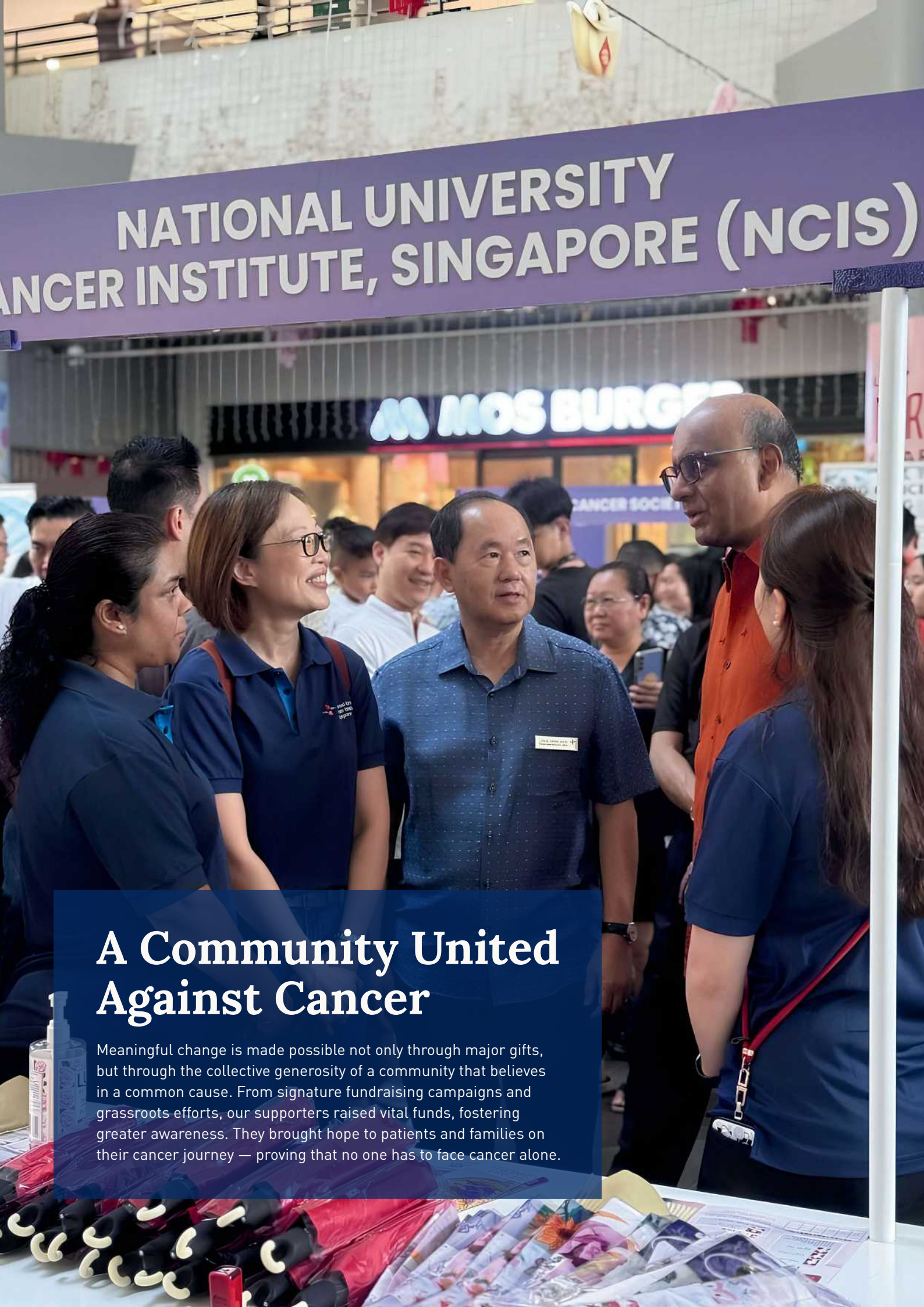
A further $500,000 gift will be received in FY2026 to support the garden's long-term maintenance and community programmes, ensuring its benefits can be enjoyed by patients for years to come.

Scheduled to open in early 2027, the enhanced garden will extend the impact of the NCIS Wellbeing Centre, which opened in 2025 on level 8 in the NUH Medical Centre, to provide holistic support services for patients and caregivers.

Inspired by growing evidence on the healing benefits of nature and designed with accessibility and inclusivity in mind, the garden will serve as a welcoming space for activities that promote mindfulness, emotional resilience, rehabilitation and meaningful social connection for patients and caregivers.

More than a garden, this gift represents a lasting investment in compassionate, person-centred cancer care. It will help ensure that future generations of patients and caregivers have access to a restorative environment that nurtures healing, hope and wellbeing beyond the walls of the hospital.

A groundbreaking ceremony at NCIS Wellbeing Garden was held on 28 May 2026. It was attended by Mrs Dorothy Chan (left), former executive director of Far East Organisation, and other distinguished guests.



A Community United Against Cancer

Meaningful change is made possible not only through major gifts, but through the collective generosity of a community that believes in a common cause. From signature fundraising campaigns and grassroots efforts, our supporters raised vital funds, fostering greater awareness. They brought hope to patients and families on their cancer journey — proving that no one has to face cancer alone.

Purple Hope 2025: Honouring journeys, inspiring hope

Hosted by the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), Purple Hope was a special event dedicated to bringing together cancer survivors, families, clinicians, researchers and supporters for a gathering of reflection and hope.

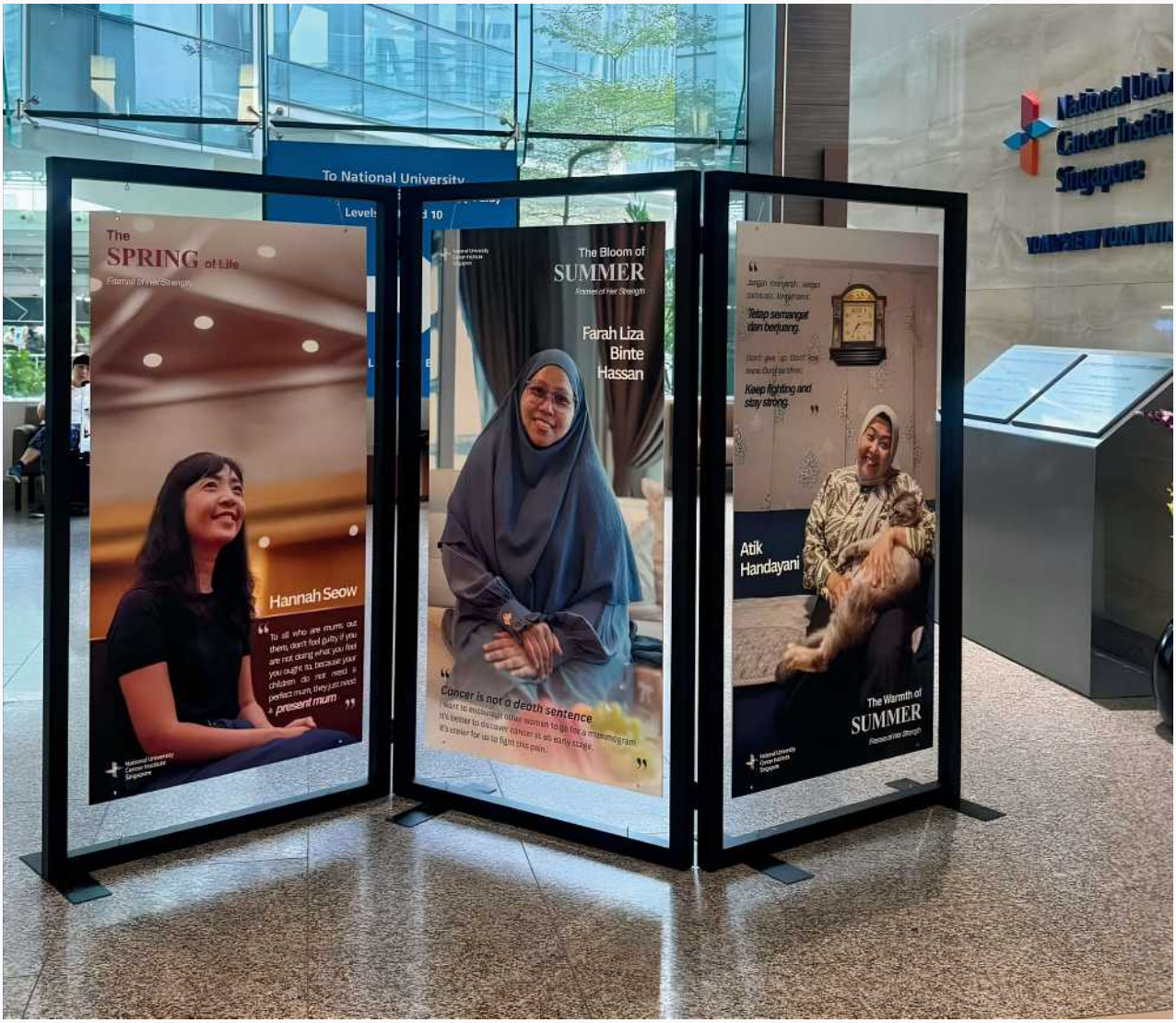
We are grateful to Ms Elaine Robinson, the evening's guest of honour, whose generous sponsorship of the event venue helped make the meaningful event possible.

Through shared stories and experiences, the event shone a spotlight on progress in pancreatic cancer care and research while inspiring continued collaboration to improve patient outcomes.

The programme featured a clinician sharing on advances in pancreatic cancer care and research, a patient sharing on his cancer journey, a poem reading, and vocal and piano performances.

Together, these segments reflected the challenges faced by patients and their families while celebrating the resilience, strength and hope that define the pancreatic cancer community. The event raised almost $28,000 to support pancreatic cancer research and patient care programmes.

More than a fundraising event, Purple Hope 2025 served as a powerful platform to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and the need for sustained support. The generosity of donors, partners and supporters reflected a shared commitment to improving outcomes for patients and their loved ones.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025: Celebrate her strengths

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) 2025 brought together the community to raise awareness and support for breast cancer through a month-long series of education, advocacy and fundraising initiatives.

Anchored on the theme "Celebrate Her Strengths", the campaign spotlighted the resilience of breast cancer survivors while encouraging early detection, improving survivorship outcomes and strengthening community support. Through the generosity of donors, partners and supporters, BCAM 2025 raised more than $6,000 for the NCIS Cancer Fund.

A key highlight of the campaign was the support of corporate partners TOMORO COFFEE, Burnt Cones and Simple Wellness, whose fundraising collaborations enabled members of the public to contribute to the cause through everyday purchases. A portion of proceeds from their specially-curated products was donated to the NCIS Cancer Fund, helping to support cancer research and patient care programmes.

Beyond fundraising, BCAM 2025 engaged the public through awareness activities including the Frames of Her Strength photography exhibition, which featured stories of five breast cancer survivors, as well as educational outreach programmes that promoted the importance of breast health and regular screening.

NCIS Dream Makers: Making dreams come true

As a separate sub-fund of the NUHS Fund, the NCIS Dream Makers Fund enables patients and their loved ones to create meaningful memories during challenging moments. Dream Makers was launched in 2018 to mark NCIS' 10th anniversary to help patients with advanced cancers fulfill their dreams.

Mr Lin's dream was a simple one, a birthday celebration shared over dinner with his loved ones, including his wife, three sons, and their girlfriends. He wanted nothing elaborate, just the warmth of family around him and a photograph to remember the moment by.

Though circumstances led to Mr Lin being transferred to Assisi Hospice, the Dream Makers team ensured that his wish was honoured. A simple yet thoughtful birthday dinner was arranged for him and his family, complete with decorations, a birthday cake, and a heartfelt rendition of the birthday song.

What unfolded that evening was quietly beautiful.

The family shared a meal together, exactly as Mr Lin had hoped for. For a man of few words, he expressed his gratitude in a way that moved everyone present. He was appreciative of every detail, every gesture, every moment.

Perhaps the most telling sign of all was his smile. Mr Lin, who rarely smiled in photographs or during visits from doctors, nurses, or even family, was photographed that evening with the widest smile on his face.

It was a simple dream. But for Mr Lin and his family, it meant everything.

Let's cross the finish line together

Shape the future of Cancer Care with us

Every year, the NCIS Cancer Fund provides financial assistance to about 60 financially-disadvantaged cancer patients. Your generous gift will also help us develop better methods to diagnose and treat the disease, improving the survival rates of cancer patients.

To give a gift

Visit online giving platform Giving.sg at
www.giving.sg/nuhs-fund-limited/nciscancerfund
or scan the QR code.

For further enquiries on the NCIS Cancer Fund, please email us at ncis@nuhs.edu.sg.

© 2026, National University Cancer Institute, Singapore. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or shared without prior permission from National University Cancer Institute, Singapore.