

MEDIA RELEASE

4 November 2023

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CANCER INSTITUTE, SINGAPORE (NCIS) CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANCER CARE AND TREATMENT INNOVATION

*Ms Jane Ittogi will take part in the celebrations as the Guest of Honour
alongside cancer survivors*

SINGAPORE — National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) proudly marks its 15th anniversary as a national centre for cancer with the launch of "NCIS Celebrates Life," a weekend family carnival dedicated to honouring our journey in cancer care and cutting-edge translational research.

Graced by Guest of Honour, Ms Jane Ittogi, "NCIS Celebrates Life" commemorates NCIS' remarkable journey over the past 15 years, setting new standards of cancer care in Singapore. The two-day family carnival, held on 4 and 5 November 2023 at Suntec City Atrium (Tower 3 & 4), aims to highlight NCIS' collective achievements, honour our cancer survivors, educate the public on cancer treatment and developments, as well as raise funds to advance cancer research.

Setting new standards of cancer care

"By tracing our own journey as a national centre setting new standards of cancer care, our aim is for NCIS Celebrates Life to inspire hope and raise awareness about the ongoing fight against cancer. It is a reflection of our dedication to advancing cancer research and treatment, propelling us towards a future where every patient finds hope and healing," said Adjunct Associate Professor Chee Cheng Ean, who took over the helm of NCIS as Executive Director in September 2023.

Through its 15-year history, NCIS has been at the forefront of cancer care in Singapore. Having started out as an oncology department within the National University Hospital more than 30 years ago, NCIS has established itself as a major national specialist centre for cancer under the National University Health System (NUHS).

Today, it is the only public cancer centre in Singapore providing end-to-end care for adults and children in one facility, thus enabling NCIS clinicians to take a multidisciplinary, comprehensive and personalised approach for each cancer patient. Currently, NCIS serves approximately one in three cancer patients within Singapore's public healthcare system.

Led by a dedicated team of clinician-scientists and clinician-investigators, NCIS is also home to a wide range of clinical trials, running over 200 clinical trials at any given point.



One such trial that taps on the NCIS Cancer Fund, a sub-fund of the NUHS Fund, involves using technology to predict a cancer patient's response to drug combinations prior to putting him or her through treatment.

Dr Yong Wei Peng, Associate Director (Research) and Senior Consultant, Department of Haematology-Oncology, NCIS, said this can save up to 70 per cent of patients from unnecessary treatments that have little impact on their cancer. These patients would have undergone multiple cancer treatments previously.

A trial on six patients with advanced gastric cancer demonstrated that testing drug combinations on their cancer cells in the laboratory yielded the same results as that of administering the drugs directly to these patients.

Dr Yong said: "This outcome highlights the potential of using patient-derived cancer cells to deliver personalised medicine to our patients. This will increase the likelihood of patients getting the right drug combinations while reducing their risk of side effects from treatment."

Here are some other examples of the pivotal, ground-breaking trials that NCIS has embarked on in recent years:

- In 2022, NCIS launched a quadratic phenotypic optimisation platform (QPOP), an AI-driven platform that identifies patient-specific drug combinations to help doctors make better clinical decisions when treating cancer patients.
- NCIS also developed the Haplo-17 protocol, a new technique that makes haploidentical, or non-full-matched, transplants a feasible treatment option for blood cancer patients who are unable to find perfectly-matched stem cell donors. About 70 per cent of the patients had favourable outcomes, with no remaining signs of cancer or any experience of transplant-related complications like rejection.
- NCIS will be beginning the first-in-human trial for CAR-T cell therapy using cells from healthy donors. One of the most remarkable and promising cancer treatments in recent years, the trial will test new therapy on patients with lymphoma, multiple myeloma, colorectal, lung, liver or ovarian cancer.

Making cutting-edge cancer care accessible

In the rapid advancement of cancer science, clinical trials are a beacon of hope.

They represent the epicentre of innovation, rigorously testing novel therapies, devices and treatment approaches. Clinical trials play a pivotal role in accelerating the development of new, more effective cancer treatments.

By participating in these trials, patients gain access to ground-breaking treatments that might otherwise be out of reach due to limited options in standard care. Clinical trials are also tailored to specific cancer types, offering a glimmer of hope for individuals whose conditions may not respond to conventional therapies. This personalised approach holds promise for improved outcomes and quality of life.

A/Prof Chee said: "The NCIS Cancer Fund, with support from industry collaborators, patients and donors, has significantly contributed to cancer research for the last decade. These clinical breakthroughs will lead to better health outcomes for cancer



patients in the decades to come. At NCIS, we're striving for a new era of effective and value-driven cancer care, making it accessible to all. While there's no one-size-fits-all cure for cancer, having personalised therapies will ensure that NCIS continues setting new standards for cancer care in Singapore."

The NCIS Cancer Fund also plays a pivotal role in making cancer care more accessible to those in need. This vital financial resource is dedicated to various initiatives aimed at reducing the barriers that patients face when dealing with cancer.

The NCIS Cancer Fund has helped 440 patients with close to \$1.8 million since it was set up in 2016. Through the NCIS Celebrates Life carnival and other fund-raising platforms, NCIS seeks to raise \$20 million over the next five years.

"At NCIS, we are committed to delivering incredible treatment and the compassionate care every individual affected by cancer deserves. We want to empower our patients and the community to take charge of their health and we do this through robust education campaigns. Fighting cancer is a long journey, and it requires a collective effort from the community and broader society," A/Prof Chee added.

As part of this mission, NCIS announced the launch of **NCIS Fights Cancer**, a specially commissioned web-based mobile game to raise funds for NCIS Cancer Fund while educating players on cancer prevention and screening.

In this free web game, players aim to obtain high scores by avoiding obstacles and collecting objects. Players can acquire more game attempts by taking actions such as donating to the NCIS Cancer Fund or sharing a cancer-related health tip.

From now to 31 December 2023, the top scorers on the leaderboard will stand a chance to win attractive prizes sponsored by Razer, among others. Winners will be announced on the NCIS Facebook and Instagram pages in January 2024.

Everyone is welcome to play the game at www.ncis.com.sg/LetsPlay.

For more information on NCIS Fights Cancer, please refer to Appendix A.

For more information on NCIS Celebrates Life, please refer to Appendix B or via this link [here](#)

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Appendix A






NCIS Fights Cancer is a free web-based game where players aim to obtain high scores by avoiding obstacles and collecting objects. Players can acquire more game attempts by taking actions such as donating to the NCIS Cancer Fund or sharing a cancer-related health tip.

As part of NCIS' 15th anniversary, NCIS has commissioned this web-based mobile game, developed by home-grown gamification marketing company Sqkii, to raise funds for NCIS Cancer Fund while educating players on cancer.

Example of in-game objects and their related facts

	<p>Cigarette smoke contains about 40 different cancer-causing substances.</p>
	<p>Limit your alcohol intake to no more than two standard drinks a day - approximately two cans of beer, two glasses of wine or two measures of spirits</p>
	<p>Chemicals found in salted or preserved food, such as salted fish or pickled vegetables, may lead to stomach and nasopharynx cancers. Always remember to eat in moderation!</p>

	Be active and exercise for at least 30 minutes, five times a week, to maintain a healthy weight and reduce your risk of cancer
	Did you know that orange and yellow fruits such as cantaloupes and grapefruits, contain more vitamins and minerals that can help you reduce the risk of colorectal and stomach cancers?
	Vegetables contain fibre and vitamins, which can help to reduce your risk of developing colorectal and stomach cancers. Add them to your daily meals!

Play NCIS Fights Cancer at www.ncis.com.sg/LetsPlay.

Media assets on NCIS Fights Cancer can be found [here](#).

NCIS Fights Cancer giveaway

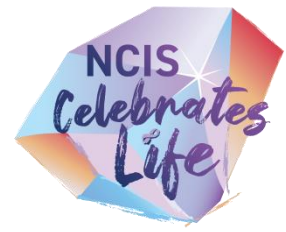
From now to 31 December 2023, the top scorers on the leaderboard will stand a chance to win attractive prizes sponsored by Razer, among others. Winners will be announced on the NCIS Facebook and Instagram pages in January 2024.

Prizes for the first seven weeks' leaderboards (ending on 12 Nov, 19 Nov, 26 Nov, 3 Dec, 10 Dec, 17 Dec and 24 Dec) are as follows:

1st prize	Razer Kraken V3 X Headphones
2nd prize	1 pair of GV Gold Class vouchers
3rd prize	NCIS Wellness merchandise
4th prize	\$70 worth of NTUC vouchers
5th prize	\$50 worth of NTUC vouchers

At the end of the season, the top 20 highest scorers in the final leaderboard ending on 31 December 2023 will win the following prizes:

1st prize	Razer DeathAdder V3 Pro Wireless Mouse + Razer Kraken Kitty V2 Headphones
2nd prize	Razer Hammerhead True Wireless Earbuds + \$100 worth of NTUC vouchers
3rd prize	Nespresso Vertuo Pop coffee machine
4th and 5th	1 pair of GV Gold Class vouchers each



prizes	
6th to 10th prize	\$70 worth of NTUC vouchers each
11th to 20th prize	\$50 worth of NTUC vouchers each



Appendix B

*Everyone is invited!
Admission is free!*

NCIS Celebrates Life

National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) 15th Anniversary!

Join us at our weekend family carnival to celebrate NCIS' incredible journey as a national cancer centre since 2008.

Hear from our healthcare team on the importance of staying well, early screening and cancer prevention. Be inspired by our courageous survivors and their caregivers who show us what it means to be resilient.

4 & 5 November 2023
10am – 6pm
Suntec City Atrium (Tower 3 & 4)

Opening Ceremony
4 November
11am – 12pm

Guest-of-Honour
Ms Jane Ittogi

Special live performances by Singaporean artiste **Joanna Dong**

Fight Cancer!


NCIS Fights Cancer with the launch of a new, specially-commissioned interactive mobile game! Battle it out and stand to win exciting prizes from Razer!

Be Inspired!

Meet our cancer survivors as they share their inspiring stories! Show your support by leaving uplifting messages for our patients, cancer survivors and healthcare team on our Tree of Life!

Stay Well!

Learn more about the latest in cancer prevention, treatment, and research from our expert panel of NCIS specialists.



Support our Fundraising!

Gift of Hope
Buy a coupon booklet for \$20 in support of the financially disadvantaged cancer patients, cancer research, and the education and advanced training of healthcare professionals:

Redeem a goodie bag filled with treats from our kind sponsors!

Enjoy exciting carnival games, Nespresso coffee and snacks!

Create a unique instant photograph keepsake!

Other exciting activities:

- Live performances by NCIS' healthcare heroes in support of our patients
- Food booths and scrumptious bakes
- Invigorating Zumba workouts



NCIS Celebrates Life is a weekend family carnival marking the 15th anniversary of the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS). It takes place on 4 and 5 November at Suntec City Atrium (Tower 3 & 4), and is open to everyone.

Join the Opening Ceremony with Guest of Honour Ms Jane Ittogi and cancer survivors. Witness the bell-ringing ceremony, symbolising the start of a new chapter filled with hope and resilience for cancer patients and survivors. Singaporean artiste Joanna Dong will also make a guest appearance with a special live performance on the first day of the carnival.

Support cancer research and help financially disadvantaged patients by purchasing a coupon booklet for \$20. Each booklet purchase entitles you to a goodie bag filled with treats from our generous sponsors. Use the coupons at our booths to enjoy fun carnival games, delicious baked goods and create instant photo keepsakes.

NCIS Celebrates Life will also see the launch of NCIS Fights Cancer, a web-based mobile game where players embark on exciting missions while learning valuable facts on preventing cancer. Swing by the NCIS Fights Cancer booth to find out how you can win attractive prizes, including Razer gadgets. All proceeds from in-game purchases will go towards the NCIS Cancer Fund.

During the two-day carnival, experts will give talks on reducing cancer risk through diet, fighting cancer with exercise, and managing cancer-related fatigue. You can also meet our cancer survivors and hear their inspiring stories. Show your support by leaving uplifting messages for our patients, survivors, and healthcare team on our Tree of Life!

Event Details

Date: 4 & 5 November (Saturday & Sunday)

Venue: Suntec City Atrium (Tower 3 & 4)

MRT: City Hall / Esplanade / Promenade

Time: 10am - 6pm (Day 1), 10am - 5pm (Day 2)

Admission: Free

More details can be found [here](#).

Chinese Glossary

National University Health System (NUHS)	国立大学医学组织 (国大医学组织)
National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS)	新加坡国立大学癌症中心 (国大癌症中心)
NCIS Celebrates Life	国大癌症中心庆祝活动
NCIS Cancer Fund	新加坡国立大学癌症中心癌症基金
NUHS Fund	国立大学医学组织基金
Adjunct Associate Professor Chee Cheng Ean Executive Director National University Cancer Institute, Singapore	徐清燕客座副教授 总主任 新加坡国立大学癌症中心
Dr Yong Wei Peng Associate Director (Research) Senior Consultant Department of Haematology-Oncology National University Cancer Institute, Singapore	杨维平医生 副主任(研究) 高级顾问医生 肿瘤血液科 新加坡国立大学癌症中心

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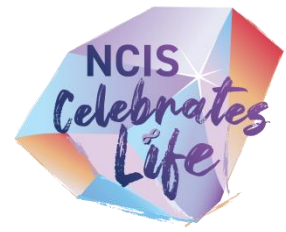
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About the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS)

The National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) is an academic, national specialist centre for cancer 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.

As one of two national cancer centres in Singapore, NCIS (*pronounced as "n-sis"*) offers a broad spectrum of cancer care and management from screening, diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation and survivorship, as well as palliative and long-term care. NCIS' 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.



NCIS provides the full suite of specialised oncology and haematology services at the NUH Medical Centre at Kent Ridge, Singapore, including those by the NCIS Chemotherapy Centre, NCIS Radiotherapy Centre and NCIS Cellular Therapy Centre.

NCIS also offers cancer services at other hospitals in Singapore:

- NCIS Cancer & Blood Clinic @ Ng Teng Fong General Hospital
- NCIS Radiotherapy Centre @ Tan Tock Seng Hospital
- NCIS Radiotherapy Clinic @ Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

To bring cancer care even closer to our patients, our NCIS on the Go programme delivers a range of cancer services at clinics within the community for their convenience. For more information, please visit www.ncis.com.sg.