



ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

PATRON: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PRESS RELEASE

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ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE LAUNCHES COLLEGE OF CLINICIAN SCIENTISTS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL BIOMEDICAL INITIATIVE – 1ST RESEARCH EVENT AIMS TO ADDRESS GAPS IN INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED TRIALS AND ADVANCE SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES OF ASIAN RESEARCHERS

24 August 2016, SINGAPORE – With the objective of addressing the gaps in knowledge and experience in Investigator-Initiated Trials (IIT), the College of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore is holding its first formal research training event, the Investigator-Initiated Trials Workshop, on 26 August at the National Dental Centre of Singapore.

The resolution to form the College of Clinician Scientists was passed unanimously at the Annual General Meeting of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore on 11 June 2016 but the College will be publicly launched on 26 August just before the Workshop commences. The formation of the College was initiated by Fellows of the Academy, who are established clinician-scientists with considerable experience in the development of academic programmes including collaborative initiatives with the biomedical and pharmaceutical industry. Their vision was that a professional body within the Academy would provide collective identity for clinician-scientists, advise relevant authorities on the training of clinician-scientists, and be the academic voice of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.



Investigator-initiated trials are held in high esteem in Science as they are independent of non-scientific vested interest and address crucial needs which might be of less interest to industry. In spite of its crucial scientific role, initiating and managing IITs remain very challenging as few doctors have the experience, training and expertise to do so. Many IITs do not commence or remain uncompleted for various reasons.

Recognising these gaps, the workshop aims to provide insights into the vital role investigator-initiated trials play in the healthcare landscape and the key opportunities and challenges they offer; identifying important clinical gaps and formulating research questions that will interest collaborators; understanding the goals, research areas and review processes for IITs within industry and the benefits of partnerships between industry and researchers; and much more.

A major feature of the workshop includes the sharing of experiences, perspectives and advices by clinician scientists from the College who are accomplished in IITs. These clinician-scientists are also potential mentors for clinicians who intend to embark on IITs. Participants for the workshop also include investigators from overseas such as China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand.

“While clinician-scientists are the core of biomedical research, we are still significantly short of the number of clinician-scientists that the country needs. Most existing clinician-scientists amongst us are fortunately Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. We have thus initiated the formation of the College of Clinician Scientists within the Academy to provide professional identity and a source of mentorship to up-and-coming clinician-scientists who will need all the help they can get. In addition, the College is also a repository of valuable and unique biomedical research expertise that industry and government can tap on,” said Professor Pierce Chow, President, College of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

The Investigator-Initiated Trials workshop is held in collaboration with National Medical Research Council; Quintiles, a leading biopharma services company; and the Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma (AHCC) Trials Group.

INVITATION: PRESS CONFERENCE

Members of the media are invited to a Press Conference before the commencement of the workshop for the launch of the College of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore. More details of the workshop will also be presented and there will be interview opportunities.

Date: 26 August 2016 (Friday)
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Venue: National Dental Centre Singapore
Auditorium, Level 8, 5 Second Hospital Avenue
Singapore 168938

PROGRAMME

12:50 pm Media and Guests to be seated

1:00 pm Welcome Address by Professor Pierce Chow
President, College of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

1:05 pm Address by Professor Lim Shih Hui
Immediate Past Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

1:10 pm Address by Ms Tricia Huang
Executive Director, National Medical Research Council

1:20 pm Address by Dr Senthil Sockalingam
Vice-President, Head of Medical & Therapeutic Science and Strategy Unit,
Asia, Quintiles

1:30 pm Questions & Answers

2:00 pm End of Programme

For media enquiries, please contact:

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About College of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

The College of Clinician Scientists under the Academy of Medicine, Singapore aims to create a corporate identity for the clinician scientists' community, to serve as a source mentorship for prospective clinician scientists and to provide a platform through which clinician scientists can more easily interface with industry and the wider academia. The College also aims to contribute and support the initiatives by the Ministry of Health Singapore to promote excellence in translational and clinical research, and nurture a vibrant research culture and community.

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore is a professional institution of medical and dental specialists devoted to advancing the art and science of medicine in Singapore through postgraduate specialist training; maintenance of high standards of competency and ethical integrity through continuous professional development. With the vision of being a leading institution for postgraduate medical education in the region, the Academy is now the largest specialists' organisation of over 3,000 members in 12 Colleges and 4 Chapters. www.ams.edu.sg

About National Medical Research Council

The National Medical Research Council (NMRC), established under the Ministry of Health in 1994, provides competitive research funds to publicly funded healthcare institutions; awards competitive research funds for thematic programmes and developmental projects, provides support for critical infrastructure for clinical research, and is responsible for the development of clinician scientists through awards and fellowships.

In 2006, the Ministry of Health established a new mandate to support translational and clinical research (TCR). Taking on the expanded role, NMRC is now leading, promoting, coordinating and funding TCR efforts in Singapore, with special focus on areas which Singapore has strengths in. NMRC-funded research has led to inter-disciplinary partnerships and international collaborations. The Council also evaluates the outcomes of the research projects and facilitates the commercialisation of research findings. Since its inception, it has built up the medical research capabilities in Singapore through the funding of more than 1100 individual research projects and 13 national research programmes. www.nmrc.gov.sg

About Quintiles

Quintiles (NYSE: Q) helps biopharma and other healthcare companies improve their probability of success by connecting insights from our deep scientific, therapeutic and analytics expertise with superior delivery for better outcomes. From advisory through operations, Quintiles is the world's largest provider of product development and integrated healthcare services, including commercial and observational solutions. Conducting operations in approximately 100 countries, Quintiles is a member of the Fortune 500 and has been named to Fortune's list of the "World's Most Admired Companies." www.quintiles.com

About Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma Trials Group

The Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma (AHCC) Trials Group is a collaborative group formed in 1997 by clinicians treating hepatocellular carcinoma in major medical centres in the Asia-Pacific region. The aims of the trials group are to conduct preventive and therapeutic trials in hepatocellular carcinoma, to carry out basic and translational research in this field and to develop training and educational programs pertaining to HCC. The AHCC completed its 6th multi-centre trial in 2016. <http://www.scri.edu.sg/crn/asia-pacific-hepatocellular-carcinoma-ahcc-trials-group/about-ahcc/>

INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED TRIALS WORKSHOP

TIME	SESSION TITLE AND OVERVIEW	PRESENTER
2.00 PM	WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF PIERCE CHOW <i>President, College of Clinician Scientists</i>	
2:05 PM	INTRODUCTION: THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED CLINICAL TRIALS Brief introduction to investigator-initiated research including the vital role it plays in the healthcare landscape, and some of the key opportunities and challenges to be addressed through this workshop.	A/PROF TEOH YEE LEONG <i>CEO, Singapore Clinical Research Institute</i>
2:20 PM	HOW TO SECURE FUNDING AND COST STUDIES Securing funding is key to getting an IIT started. Speakers will share their experience on how to attract and secure funding and how to cost clear and well thought-out budgets. Commons mistakes made in investigator-initiated trial budgeting.	A/PROF TOH HAN CHONG <i>Snr. Consultant & Deputy Director, NCCS</i>
2.35 PM		A/PROF CHRISTOPHER CHEN <i>Snr. Consultant, NMRC</i>
2:50 PM	COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY Investigator-initiated research has become a key means of collaboration between industry and academia and is a key source of potential funding that investigators can explore for support. Industry will share their perspectives on the kinds of proposals that interests them, who and how to approach industry, the existing review processes, and the benefits of various partnerships with industry to address your research questions.	CHRIS KING <i>Head of Oncology, China and South-East Asia, IMS Health Asia Pte Ltd</i>
3.05 PM		DR MARK BACH <i>VP, Asia Pacific Medical Sciences China Innovation Leader, Janssen Research & Development</i>
3:20 PM	TEA BREAK	
3:30 PM	RESEARCH QUESTIONS, STUDY CONCEPTS AND PROTOCOL DESIGN Key tips and tricks for identifying clinical gaps and formulating good research questions that will interest collaborators as well as potential sponsors in industry and public funding bodies. Using examples, we will also explore the commonly-used study designs and fundamental elements such as inclusion/exclusion criteria to ensure your protocols directly address your developed hypotheses.	DR SENTHIL SOCKALINGAM <i>VP, Head of Medical & Therapeutic Science and Strategy Unit, Asia</i>
3.40 PM		A/PROF DAVID LYE <i>Snr. Consultant, TTSH</i>
3.50 PM		A/PROF LOUIS TONG <i>Snr. Consultant, SNEC</i>
4:00 PM	DATA MANAGEMENT AND BIOSTATISTICS In essence, trials aim to collect necessary data to address a specific research question. Collecting and assessing this data can be a complex issue given the number of database platforms, guidelines, and steps involved. This session will run through an example study to describe the data management process from database and CRF design, compliance, cleaning, right through to biostatistics analysis of data and reporting to address the hypothesis.	KRIPESH KRISHNAN <i>Assoc. Director, Global Data and Safety Monitoring Clinical Data Management, Quintiles</i>
4:15 PM	CLINICAL MONITORING STRATEGIES Clinical monitoring is an important step in protecting patient well-being and ensuring the data collected is valid and complete, however there are a number of strategies that can be employed to accomplish successful monitoring. This session will provide a brief overview of clinical monitoring before detailing the various types of monitoring strategies which can be used on studies of different sizes and complexities as well as determining key data points to be verified on-site.	LISA MARIE SALDANHA <i>Director & Head, Academic Research Group, Quintiles</i>
4.30 PM	TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS – ROADMAP TOWARDS BETTER CROSS BORDER COLLABORATIONS	A/PROF JOHN CHIA <i>Snr. Consultant, NCCS</i>
4:40 PM	CONCLUSION AND MEETING SUMMARY Final summary of key learnings from the workshop along with locations of further resources and closing comments.	PROF PIERCE CHOW <i>President, College of Clinician Scientists</i>