6 February 2003

Dear Editors,

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SURGICAL OPTIONS IN HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT

The Heart Institute, National Healthcare Group (NHG) is organising the International Symposium on Surgical Options in Heart Failure Management on Monday, 10 February and Tuesday, 11 February 2002 at the NUH Kent Ridge Wing Auditorium. The two-day symposium will highlight some of the latest development in the field of cardiac surgery. Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Minister of State for Health and Environment, is the Guest-of-Honour for the official opening of the symposium.

CARDIAC FAILURE IN SINGAPORE

Cardiac Failure is the number one cause for hospital admissions for patients above age 65. It is the most important major disease affecting an ageing population. To address this rising trend in the health landscape, the medical community seeks to prevent heart disease caused by lifestyle choices and ways to alleviate the pain and suffering of cardiac patients. There is a limit to drug treatment of advanced heart failure; surgery has over the past 3 years become an increasingly important option and is on the cutting edge of treatment. The ultimate aim is to help cardiac patients maintain a better quality of life.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SURGICAL OPTIONS IN HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT

The programme include lectures to be delivered by several renowned clinicians in the area of cardiothoracic and cardiovascular surgery.

The main aim is to develop surgical techniques in NUH for advanced heart failure. This area is a new and exciting field. NUH aims to develop this type of surgery with the help of international experts. This is to enable the patients in Singapore and the region to have opportunity to benefit from the latest techniques in heart surgery.

“The National Healthcare Group (NHG) manages 4 hospitals (Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, and Institute of Mental Health/Woodbridge Hospital), Johns Hopkins-NHG International Medical Centre, 2 National Centres (National Neuroscience Institute and National Skin Centre), 3 Speciality Institutes (The Cancer Institute, The Eye Institute and The Heart Institute), a chain of 9 polyclinics (Ang Mo Kio, Bukit Batok, Choa Chu Kang, Clementi, Hougang, Jurong, Toa Payoh, Woodlands, Yishun), NHG College, and 3 Business Divisions (NHG Diagnostics, NHG Pharmacy, and Netcare Internet Services). Our vision is “Adding years of healthy life to the people of Singapore”.”

Page 1 of 2
Dr Hisayoshi Suma, a Cardiac Surgeon from Kanagawa, Japan and Director of the Hayama Heart Centre will give a lecture on “The Left Ventriculoplasty For Endstage Heart Failure.”. Dr Suma is well known for cardiothoracic procedures on volume and shape modification of the pumping chamber of the heart. This new technique, which involves surgically changing the shape of the heart, had been shown to improve the contraction, efficiency and function of the heart. This would improve heart failure symptoms in advanced heart failure, allowing a better and longer life to the patient.

Professor Wolfgang Konertz will give a lecture on “Assist Devices for Heart Failure”. Prof Konertz is the Surgeon in Chief and Chairman of the Department of Cardiac Surgery in Humboldt-University, Berlin, Germany. He is also the Honorary Chairman of the Shenyang-W F Konertz Cardiovascular Centre, Shenyang, People’s Republic of China. He brings with him extensive experience and skills in the area of surgery for heart failure patients, especially volume reduction and modification surgery, heart assist devices as well as tissue engineering of heart valve and blood vessels.

THE HEART INSTITUTE, NATIONAL HEALTHCARE GROUP

The Heart Institute, National Healthcare Group (THI, NHG) provides cardiac services in NHG institutions like NUH, TTSH and AH. It brings together the combined resources, expertise and capabilities in the area of cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery of the whole NHG cluster to better meet the needs of the growing number of patients with heart diseases. The cardiac units within the NHG group of hospitals also work closely with NHG Polyclinics and GP members of NHG Partners to ensure seamless and quality care for patients with heart problems. This is co-ordinated with undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, training of specialised groups involved in the care of patients, combined with high level research to seek state of the art treatment.