

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SINGAPORE

Opening Remarks by Guest of Honour, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Ceremonial Induction of Singapore Translational Cancer Consortium (STCC) Contingent Into A Global Cancer Immunotherapy Research Network, 24 July 2024, 2pm to 3.30pm

Distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues. I am delighted to join you this afternoon as we celebrate this key milestone in Singapore's ongoing commitment to advancing cancer research and its translation. The induction of the Singapore Translational Cancer Consortium (STCC) into the Roche Immunotherapy Centers of Research Excellence (imCORE) network marks a significant highpoint in our efforts to enhance cancer clinical research and treatment.

2 Singapore has long recognised the critical importance of R&D in driving innovation and improving healthcare and health outcomes.

3 Our vision is to be a leading global biomedical hub, and a key site where scientific discoveries are translated into clinical applications that benefit patients and the wider population.

4 We have placed a strong emphasis on cancer research and translation because cancer remains one of the most pressing healthcare challenges we face today. In Singapore, as in many parts of the world, it is a leading cause of death and morbidity. The rising incidence of cancer highlights the urgent need for innovative solutions and effective treatments that can bring hope to more patients.

5 To better address this complex challenge, research teams and institutions need to work even more closely and synergistically together, bringing complementary resources and capabilities to tackle major research and translational questions. This was the key motivation for setting up the Singapore Translational Cancer Consortium (STCC) in 2020.

6 The STCC brings together the major clinical cancer centres and key cancer research programmes in Singapore under one organisational umbrella. STCC's core research funding

helps forge deeper collaborations between research and clinical experts and teams across the institutions in Singapore, and the greater sharing of research resources and capabilities.

7 In turn, STCC has allowed us to more seamlessly bring together our healthcare and research institutions for imCORE — National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), National University Hospital (NUH), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).

8 Such collaborations with international partners is essential to advancing innovation for a disease as complex as cancer. However, the partnership with Roche and the imCORE network is especially important. Roche's leadership in cancer research and the collective expertise of the imCORE network will provide invaluable expertise and resources that will significantly enhance our research and accelerate the development of novel treatments.

9 Being part of the imCORE network allows Singapore to tap into a global pool of knowledge and technological innovation. At the same time, Singapore's diverse ethnic population, representing 80% of Asia's genetic diversity, offers unique advantages for studying various cancer subtypes and responses to treatments. This will contribute significantly to the global understanding of cancer biology and hence, the development of more effective therapies.

10 Our partnership with imCORE is also well aligned with Singapore's broader goals of advancing precision medicine and personalised healthcare. By leveraging advanced technologies and data analytics, we aim to develop tailored treatments, that have potential to address the specific needs of individual patients. This approach can enhance treatment efficacy while at the same time, reducing adverse effects, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

11 Beyond the benefits to patient care, this partnership will also contribute to the growth of innovation and economic value creation in Singapore. STCC's induction into the Roche imCORE network will create high-value research roles and help attract top talent to Singapore's biomedical sector. This private-public partnership will help strengthen the development of Singapore as a leading global hub for research and development.

12 In closing, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to Roche and all our institutional partners who have made this collaboration possible. I wish the partnership every success and look forward to the insights and innovations that it will generate. I am confident that this collective endeavour will make a significant impact and contribute significantly to global efforts to combat cancer and improve public health. Through your efforts, we are indeed taking further big strides ahead, for excellence in cancer research and treatment, to transform cancer care.

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