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Ang Mo Kio - Thye Hua Kwan Hospital Celebrates 20 Years of Community Service as one of Singapore's First Community Hospital

Minister of Health Ong Ye Kung graces Anniversary Gala Dinner as Guest of Honour

SINGAPORE, 18 November 2022 – Since its beginnings in 1993, Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital (AMK-THKH) has recorded many firsts in its 20-year illustrious healthcare service to the community. From being the first private hospital to put up isolation wards for recovering patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) during the outbreak in 2003, to being the first community hospital to set up inhouse dialysis services in 2013, AMK-THK is proud to mark the milestone today with Guest of Honour, Minister of Health Ong Ye Kung, partners, donors and staff at its 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner Celebrations.

The culturally-themed event will be attended by more than 500 industry partners from government agencies, healthcare and financial sectors as well as donors and staff who have journeyed with AMK-THKH and made it possible for the hospital to continue to provide community and specialised healthcare services in rehabilitation and geriatric care.

AMK-THKH Chief Executive Officer Ardi S. Hardjoe shared, “Caring for the unwell, those needing rehabilitation, dialysis and those facing ailments associated with aging is not for the faint-hearted. I am proud of the commitment to serve mankind that is at the heart of who we are and what we do at AMK-THK hospital, and which is evident through our growth as a community hospital providing integrated rehabilitation services and dialysis.”

At the hospital’s gala dinner, AMK-THK Hospital CEO Ardi S. Hardjoe will announce the upcoming establishment of a new dialysis centre with double the current patient load from the current capacity of 14, by end of 2022. The Dialysis Centre will host a comprehensive community renal care (CRC) programme that would ensure a more seamless and complete model of care under one roof.

In honour of its long-serving staff for their dedication and contributions, Guest of Honour Minister Ong will also present AMK-THKH employees with long-service awards for 5, 10, 15 and 25 years of service respectively.

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About Ang Mo Kio–Thye Hua Kwan Hospital

Established in 1993, AMK-THKH is one of Singapore's first community hospital. The hospital provides specialised rehabilitation, geriatric, transitional and home care services, and also houses Singapore's first acupuncture clinic located within its premises. With a vision *To Serve Mankind*, AMK-THK Hospital seeks to reach out to our patients, their families and the community regardless of race, colour, creed, language, culture or religion. To rehabilitate and heal with commitment and professionalism in an environment of continuous learning and growth.

Key Milestones:

- 1993 - Ang Mo Kio Community Hospital, Singapore's first government-built community hospital, began its operations in June 1993 and was officially inaugurated on 17th of December 1993 by Minister of Health and Community Development, Mr Yeo Cheow Tong.
- 2000 - Singhealth took over the operations from Ministry of Health (MOH)
- 2002 - Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (THKMS) took over the operations from SingHealth. The management of AMKCH was transferred from SingHealth to Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and Chee Hoon Kog Moral Society. The move was in line with the government's push for Voluntary Welfare organisations to run step-down care institutions
- 2003 - In 2003, AMKCH became the first private hospital to put up isolation wards for patients recovering from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This halfway arrangement for patients helped to ease the load on the government hospitals.
- 2006 – Officially, the name of the hospital was changed and registered from Ang Mo Kio Community Hospital to Ang Mo Kio Thye Hua Kwan Hospital.
- 2011 - The hospital has always worked to expand its services as well as capacity. The hospital started offering Paliative care to assist the patients suffering from end-of-the life conditions with the required medical intervention, nursing care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support and caregiver training.

The typical daily routine revolved around the bed as the centre of activity for the patient, with maybe an hour (or two in fortunate patients) of supervised therapy in a gymnasium settings. Patients take their meals sitting in bed or in an adjacent chair, are wheeled to the toilets for assisted baths but otherwise spend most of their time in bed. Under Integrated Rehab programme (IRP), patients are engaged in various rehabilitation activities for an average of 3 hours per day. It is safely carried out by therapy assistants, caregivers and volunteers who were provided training. The practice strategy was to

eliminate disciplinary boundaries and create a holistic and functional goals incorporated in patient's daily activities during the stay. Patients who participate in IRP are engaged in group therapy, various activities and exercises throughout the day, including morning exercises and walks, bedside exercises, sitting out for meals, standing group activities, seated group activities (including art & craft, Bingo, Karaoke) and cooking classes.

- 2012 - In 2012 we expanded our repertoire of services and started to offer Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) treatment for patients as a supplement to its step-down and rehabilitative care. The Clinic is run in partnership with the Singapore College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The team treats medical conditions such as Stroke, Pain Relief, Neuro-muscular Disorders, Urinary Incontinence and Chronic Rhinitis with treatment methods such as Tuina and Acupuncture.

As the demand for Community Hospital beds were soaring, AMK THKH added 51 beds especially for sub-acute patients including Negative Pressure Isolation room.

- 2013 - A dialysis service in the community is an important component of the care of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients. However, such services have not been fully developed. AMK-THKH positioned itself as a key provider of community dialysis care and started offering haemodialysis services to meet the needs of dialysis patients and their families in partnership with B Braun.

The Healing Hub was created on the ground floor to cater to patients' needs for medical and rehabilitation supplies like wheelchairs and dressing sets. Bedside counselling and dispensing of medicine are provided for the patients' convenience. Upon request, rehabilitation equipment can also be delivered to their bedside. The pharmacy also allows special orders to be taken for non-formulary medicines. Milk feeds and other dietician products are also available.

- 2014 - AMK-THKH strived to carve a niche for herself in Stroke Rehab and entered into "tripartite collaboration with TTSH and NNI to develop the services.

The objective of the "Stroke Unit – GET BACK TO LIFE" is to establish AMK-THKH as the Speciality Centre "Community Hospital of Choice for Stroke Patients". To achieve this objective, the Management propose the following:

- a. Setting up of a Stroke Unit with a new model of rehabilitation
- b. Promote – Promote AMK-THKH hospital Stroke Unit and its services;
- c. Education – Educate our patients / caregivers / general public about "Stroke and Life after Stroke" and
- d. Collaboration – with partner organisation to provide more holistic Person Centred Care.

The team introduced some new ideas like:

Group Circuit Therapy , ipad Video Project, Multidisciplinary Stroke Rounds, Urinary management for stroke patients with an aim to wean off diapers in stroke patients, Stroke Rehab Unit trial, external collaborations, new technology and early supported discharge etc

- 2015 - Our average bed occupancy running around 90% and the demand for Community Hospital beds were still high, AMK-THK Hospital expanded its capacity by adding 110 beds in a short span of 9 months.

- 2016 - CHC @ AMK-THKH offers the convenience of affordable health services to complement the medical care provided by the General Practitioners (GPs). Services available at the CHC included: Diabetic Retinal Photography, Diabetic Foot Screening, Dietetic Service, Nurse Counselling & Education.

- 2020 - Responding to the nation's need, AMK-THKH accepted more than 50 Chronic Sick patients from Bright Vision hospital so that BVH could take in recovering Covid patients. AMK-THKH helped with maximising the efficient use of hospital resources and allowed our healthcare system to better cope with surge in new cases.

- 2022 - As part of nation's drive towards "One patient - One medical record", AMK-THK Hospital adopted New Generation Electronic Medical Record (NGEMR) this year. NGEMR is a new electronic medical record system being adopted nation-wide. The impact so far has been positive on virtually every aspect of the organisation's daily operations, resulting in more efficient care management and delivery; collection of more detailed information for medical education and research and population management; increased collaboration between healthcare professionals; and stronger patient empowerment and participation. Capability building and better integration with upstream healthcare organizations to facilitate safer, better care delivery to our patients; eventually impacting our clinical service delivery in a positive way.

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