

## ***Press Release***

### **New Hope in Pancreatic Cancer Treatment**

*Gleneagles Hospital Singapore Continues 'Operation Yellow' Campaign to raise Awareness of the Importance of Early Detection of Hepatobiliary related conditions*

**Jakarta, March 11, 2016 – Gleneagles Hospital Singapore** continues its effort to generate public awareness of early diagnosis and treatments of Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) disease through the '**Operation Yellow**' campaign that has been launched since August 2015. This year, Gleneagles Hospital is bringing back Dr Cheah Yee Lee from Asian American Liver Centre, Gleneagles Hospital to share information about **Pancreatic Cancer Treatment** with journalists at Energy Cafe, SCBD Jakarta. Dr Cheah Yee Lee specialises in liver transplantation and hepatopancreatobiliary surgery (surgery of the liver, pancreas and bile ducts).

The lack of prominent symptoms in the early stages of most HPB diseases causes the diseases to become one of the most deadly cancers. For many patients, symptoms only show up when they progress into the advanced stages and as such, regular health screening is a good way to detect problems early. Through the 'Operation Yellow' Campaign, Gleneagles Hospital would like to emphasise the importance of early detection of HPB diseases and the importance of treatment from the very beginning to enable better recovery.

CEO of Gleneagles Hospital Singapore, Dr. Vincent Chia shared that Gleneagles Hospital is committed to delivering the best clinical outcomes and care, raising hope for patients. "Gleneagles Hospital has an excellent living donor liver transplant (LDLT) programme and we have been doing LDLT for close to 20 years. Four years ago, we set up Parkway Asian Transplant Unit (PATU) which houses a dedicated inpatient ward with Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities for the management of liver transplantation and patients at end-stages of liver failure. Fully equipped with sophisticated medical equipment, PATU supports seamless patient care between the ICU and general wards, and enables our team of specialised surgeons and dedicated nurses to guide the patients through their entire process to recovery," said Dr. Chia.

"With this transplant unit, our specialists are well-supported by facilities and a good nursing team to manage critical care and offer the best outcomes for our patients. In fact, we have expanded our expertise to cover not only liver-related treatment but looking into hepatopancreatobiliary problems as a whole," Dr. Chia added.

**Dr. Cheah Yee Lee**, who had shared about liver cancer and its treatment last year, comes back with the latest information about pancreatic cancer and the different types of treatment. “Pancreatic cancer is a malignant cancer where patients do not experience any symptom; therefore, it has no warning sign during the early stages of the disease. Pancreatic cancer can only be treated optimally with early detection and surgical resection,” says Dr. Cheah.

The initial symptoms suffered by patients may include weight loss, yellowing of eyes and skin (jaundice), and pain in the upper abdomen or back. Patients experience these symptoms when the cancer grows and blocks the bile duct leading to jaundice, or invades surrounding structures or nerves leading to pain.

“It is very important for patients to seek medical help when they have any unusual symptom. Symptoms such as weight loss, nausea and vomiting can be caused by other general medical conditions, but there is a possibility that these symptoms can be due to deadly diseases. With the help of medical professionals, patients may detect these diseases early,” Dr. Cheah Yee Lee stresses.

The results of a medical examination will determine the extent of pancreatic cancer. The stage is determined by the size and extent of the spread of cancer. For pancreatic cancer, at the initial stages, where there has been no dissemination to other organs, the best chance for cure is surgical removal of the cancer. In some cases of pancreatic cancer, patients are advised to undergo neoadjuvant chemotherapy in order to shrink the tumor before surgery is possible.

Although the results of pancreatic surgery have improved over the past few decades, early detection of pancreatic cancer is key in order to achieve cure.

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### **About Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore**

Located in one of Singapore's prime residential areas and close to the heart of the local shopping district, Gleneagles Hospital provides a wide range of specialist, diagnostic, and imaging services. This 270-bed hospital houses an extensive range of medical and surgical specialties including Oncology, Cardiology, General Surgery, Gastroenterology, Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore is accredited by the [Joint Commission International \(JCI\)](#) an internationally recognised standard for patient and staff safety, since 2006, thus reflecting the organisation's commitment towards being a quality healthcare provider.

### **Parkway Asian Transplant Unit (PATU)**

In addition to a team of experienced multidisciplinary specialists, Gleneagles Hospital has a dedicated inpatient facility – the Parkway Asian Transplant Unit (PATU). It is jointly managed by Asian American Liver Centre (AALC), Asia's leading centre for liver diseases and liver transplantation where patients can get comprehensive and specialised liver care including liver cirrhosis treatment, liver dialysis, hepatitis C treatment and hepatitis A and B vaccines.

PATU, which consists of seven Intensive Care Units (ICU) and 12 patient rooms, is specially designed to provide personalised and comprehensive medical care for HPB and transplant patients. Fully equipped with sophisticated medical equipment, including various types of liver dialysis machines, monitoring devices and ventilators, it supports seamless patient care between the ICU and the general ward, and enables our team of specialised surgeons, doctors and nurses to guide patient and their families through the entire process from surgery to post-transplant monitoring and recovery. The medical and nursing teams are specially trained to care for such patients, including both adults and children.

### **About Asian American Liver Centre**

Since 1994, Asian American Liver Centre (AALC), formerly known as Asian Centre for Liver Diseases and Transplantation Pte Ltd, is one of Asia's foremost and largest private liver centres for the treatment of liver, pancreas and bile duct diseases in adults and children. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the SGX-listed Asian American Medical Group.

Led by Dr. Tan Kai Chah, together with a multidisciplinary team, AALC's dedicated outpatient and inpatient facilities offer a comprehensive suite of services for both its local and international patients and ensures that patients receive the best possible treatment and care.

AALC has performed more than 230 Living Donor Living Transplantation (LDLT) procedures to-date, with consistently positive clinical outcomes. AALC enjoys direct access to one of the world's most widely recognised solid organ transplantation programmes at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). With its vast experience and successful LDLT Programme, AALC is an important referral centre for liver transplants and the treatment of acute liver failure.

**For more information on HPB diseases and treatment options, please visit:**

**<https://www.gleneagles.com.sg/operasi-kuning>**

**For consultation or to book an appointment with our specialists, please contact:**

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