



# ASIAN CENTRE FOR LIVER DISEASES & TRANSPLANTATION

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## ASX-listed, Singapore-based liver centre ACLDT and US healthcare leader UPMC to collaborate on Comprehensive Transplant Centre (CTC) in Singapore

**Singapore, 15 December 2011** – Singapore-based and Australia-listed Asian Centre for Liver Diseases & Transplantation (“**ACLDT**”) and UPMC (“**UPMC**”), a US\$9 billion world-renowned healthcare enterprise based in Pittsburgh, USA, announced today that they have signed an interim service agreement to collaborate to establish a Comprehensive Transplant Centre (CTC), to be owned and operated by ACLDT, to serve Asia and the Middle East.

The proposed CTC will offer transplantation capabilities in liver, kidney, stem cell and bone marrow. This partnership will improve and enhance the existing capabilities of ACLDT in liver diseases and further offer kidney, stem cell and bone marrow transplant programmes with the technological expertise of UPMC. Being the first of its kind, the establishment of a Singapore-based CTC will advance and transform the way healthcare is provided in Asia.

ACLDT is one of Asia’s foremost Liver Centres with out-patient facilities and a dedicated in-patient Liver Ward and Intensive Care Unit to complement its successful Living Donor Liver Transplantation Programme thus providing seamless care for patients with liver diseases. Based in Gleneagles Hospital, it is the first private medical centre in South-east Asia to have performed close to 190 living donor liver transplants.

UPMC is an integrated global healthcare enterprise based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With renowned centres of excellence in transplantation, cancer, neurosurgery, psychiatry, rehabilitation, geriatrics, and women’s health, it is ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” by *U.S. News & World Report*. UPMC’s Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in Pittsburgh is considered a pioneer in solid organ transplant procedures and it has performed more than 17,000 such operations, including liver, heart, kidney, multi-visceral and hand. UPMC’s **Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (ISMETT)** in Sicily is one of the leading organ transplant centres in Italy and the Mediterranean.

Under the interim agreement, UPMC aims to share its expertise in delivering world-class healthcare, advanced technologies, including telemedicine and electronic medical records, and management skills with ACLDT.

Amongst a number of public and private medical companies in Singapore, this collaboration is recognition of ACLDT’s work and reputation in Asia in delivering high quality and standard of service to patients with liver and gastro diseases.

“UPMC is world-renowned for its solid organ transplant expertise and advanced technology. ACLDT is greatly honoured to collaborate with one of the top medical institutions in the US. I believe this collaboration will elevate the quality of medical care

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and telemedicine in the region,” said Dato’ Dr Tan Kai Chah, ACLDT’s lead surgeon and Executive Chairman.

Dr Tan added that he expects the collaboration to help increase ACLDT’s ability to handle more patients from the region, including the Middle East, widen its scope of transplant activities, raise the quality of clinical outcomes and improve operational efficiencies.

“We are excited at the prospect of working with ACLDT’s fine team of surgeons and physicians to establish comprehensive transplant care for more patients. This partnership in a new country for UPMC will generate knowledge and resources that support our healthcare mission in western Pennsylvania and beyond,” said Mr Charles Bogosta, president of UPMC’s International and Commercial Services Division.

Mr Ted Tan, Deputy Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore said, "The partnership between ACLDT and UPMC is testament to Singapore small and medium enterprises (SMEs) having built up the necessary capabilities and reputation to partner world-renowned enterprises. A key feature of this partnership is the cross-sector synergy between a healthcare provider like ACLDT and technology expertise in UPMC. Through ACLDT's strong foundation in liver transplants and UPMC's strength in clinical excellence, technology and innovation, both enterprises will reach out to a wider international market. SPRING Singapore hopes to see more SMEs exploring such collaborations for business growth and global excellence."

“By strengthening capabilities through professional exchanges and access to innovation in medical technology, the collaboration between ACLDT and UPMC will broaden and deepen the suite of advanced medical care treatments for both local and international patients in Singapore. In addition, this partnership is expected to further entrench Singapore’s reputation as a quality healthcare destination for advanced and patient-centric medical care,” said Ms Melissa Ow, Assistant Chief Executive of the Singapore Tourism Board.

The collaboration with UPMC is not expected to have any material impact on the Group’s earnings and net assets for the financial year ending 31 August 2012.

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### **About Asian Centre for Liver Diseases & Transplantation**

**Asian Centre for Liver Diseases & Transplantation (“ACLDT”)** was established in 1994 in Singapore. Today, it is one of Asia’s foremost Liver Centres with out-patient facilities as well as a dedicated in-patient Liver Ward and Intensive Care Unit to complement its highly successful Living Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT) Programme.

ACLDT is led by renowned hepatobiliary expert and liver transplant surgeon, Dr Tan Kai Chah (Dr K C Tan), who started the Liver Transplant Programme at the King’s College Hospital London, the UK. Together with a multi-disciplinary team of experienced specialist physicians and surgeons, Dr Tan developed it into one of the largest in Europe and performed many pioneering operations including the first ‘split-liver’ transplant from a single donor to two recipients.

ACLDT is the first private medical centre in South-east Asia to have performed close to 190 living donor liver transplants as at 30 Nov 2011. Dr K C Tan has personally performed more than 600 liver transplants. On average, ACLDT treats 8,000 patients a year, of which over 90% are international patients from South-east Asia, South Asia, Indochina, the Middle East and Russia.

With a team of highly-trained specialists, state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, ACLDT is a one-stop specialist medical hub that provides seamless and comprehensive treatment for adults and children with liver and gastro diseases. Given the vast experience of ACLDT and its highly successful LDLT Programme, it has also become an important referral centre for treatment of acute liver failure and liver transplants.

ACLDT was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in September 2009 (ASX:AJJ).

It opened its first overseas liver centre in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in September 2010.

For further information, please visit [www.asianlivercentre.com.sg](http://www.asianlivercentre.com.sg)

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### **About UPMC**

UPMC is a US\$9 billion global health enterprise with more than 54,000 employees headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA., and is transforming healthcare by integrating more than 20 hospitals, 400 doctors’ offices and outpatient sites, a health insurance services division, and international and commercial services. Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC is redefining healthcare by using innovative science, technology, and medicine to invent new models of accountable, cost-efficient, and

patient-centered care. For more information on how UPMC is taking medicine from where it is to where it needs to be, go to [www.UPMC.com](http://www.UPMC.com).

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