



# ASIAN CENTRE FOR LIVER DISEASES & TRANSPLANTATION

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## ASX-listed, Singapore-based ACLDT formalises partnership with US healthcare giant UPMC to set up Comprehensive Transplant Centre

**Singapore, 29 October 2012** – Singapore-based and Australia-listed Asian Centre for Liver Diseases & Transplantation (“**ACLDT**”) announced today that it has formalised an agreement with The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (“**UPMC**”), a US\$10-billion integrated global health enterprise headquartered in Pittsburgh, U.S.A, to develop a Comprehensive Transplant Centre (“**CTC**”) in Singapore to treat liver, kidney, stem cells and bone marrow diseases.

The Asian American Medical Group Inc. (“**AAMG**”, formerly known as ACLDT Inc.), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ACLDT, entered into agreement with the world-renowned UPMC, under which UPMC will provide specialised services needed to set up such a CTC while AAMG will spearhead the development of the AAMG and UPMC collaboration in Asia and beyond.

The formal agreement comes approximately ten months after an interim service agreement between UPMC and ACLDT, following which UPMC began sharing its advanced medical expertise and technologies, including telemedicine, electronic medical records and management skills, with ACLDT, which operates out of Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore.

ACLDT is one of Asia’s foremost Liver Centres with outpatient facilities and a dedicated in-patient Liver Ward and Intensive Care Unit (“**ICU**”) to complement its successful Living Donor Liver Transplantation (“**LDLT**”) Programme, thus providing seamless care for patients with liver diseases. It is the first private medical centre in South-east Asia to have performed 200 LDLTs.

The agreement with UPMC is part of ACLDT’s strategic direction to offer specialised treatment and transplantations for organs other than the liver, and to develop a full-fledged CTC in Singapore to serve the pan-Asia and Middle East markets. The CTC will specialise in transplant immunology, transplant, infectious diseases and ICU of immune-suppressed patients.

In line with the development of the CTC, AAMG plans to set up a centre for stem cell and bone marrow transplantation at Gleneagles Hospital under its wholly-owned subsidiary, Asian Centre for Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation Pte Ltd (formally known as ALC Management Consultancy Pte Ltd). A Haematologist will be recruited to oversee the clinical and operational aspects of the new centre and, together with a new team of trained and experienced nursing staff, will commence work early next year.

Under the agreement UPMC will assist AAMG in expanding its current capacity to provide clinical services for patients, as well as with clinical and translational research. UPMC and AAMG will collaborate in the planning and design of the CTC. UPMC will continue to assist AAMG with the clinical service programmes for the areas of collaboration offered by the CTC.

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UPMC and AAMG may extend services beyond the CTC Hub in Singapore through “spokes” to establish a clinical network in South-east Asia and other countries. Such spokes will serve as diagnostic/referral/post discharge patient centres, or refer patients to the Singapore-based CTC Hub.

UPMC, with renowned centres of excellence in transplantation, cancer, neurosurgery, psychiatry, rehabilitation, geriatrics, and women’s health, is ranked No. 10 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 di Alta Specializzazione (“ISMETT”) in Sicily is one of the leading organ transplant centres in Italy and the Mediterranean.

UPMC will provide the hub-and-spoke services which will include, but are not limited to, assistance in planning and implementing the expansion of existing and new clinical activities and programmes related to the collaboration, support of day-to-day clinical services, assistance in establishing quality control and improvement initiatives, and assistance in planning and implementing educational programmes.

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

**Asian Centre for Liver Diseases and 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 helped start the Liver Transplant Programme at the King’s College Hospital London, the UK. Dr Tan performed many pioneering operations in the UK including the first ‘split-liver’ transplant, first auxiliary liver graft and completed a pilot study of living donor liver transplantation.

ACLDT is the first private medical centre in South-east Asia to have performed 200 living donor liver transplants as at 30 September 2012. 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.

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\$10 billion global health enterprise with more than 55,000 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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