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# A new medical landmark

Raffles Hospital's new wing is set to enhance Raffles Medical Group's stable of services, providing patients with comprehensive and integrated multi-disciplinary care in a campus setting

By Hazel Tan

Every day, Raffles Hospital sees thousands of patients, a third of whom are foreign patients from as many as 100 countries. All of them come with one purpose — to seek out Raffles Hospital's medical facilities and its team of full-time staff specialists.

Come 2016, patients will be able to enjoy enhanced medical services and more seamless care when Raffles Medical Group's new one-of-a-kind medical complex is completed.

The \$310-million extension will be built on the site adjacent to the existing hospital on North Bridge Road. Combined, the new development and the existing hospital building will have a gross floor area of about 50,000 sq m, almost double its existing hospital facilities.

## Cultivating medical excellence

The proposed 20-storey extension building with two basements will have a patient-centric layout and house specialist outpatient clinics, an endoscopy and day surgery ward, advanced imaging and a radiotherapy suite.

This will further strengthen Raffles Hospital's current comprehensive range of specialist, medical and diagnostic services, so patients can benefit from greater convenience and accessibility to even more comprehensive medical care. The additional space will also allow the hospital to expand its healthcare education and clinical research activities by drawing on the resources and expertise of the physicians in its institutional group practice model.

Professor Walter Tan, Medical Director, Raffles Hospital, says: "The hospital will also develop even more centres of excellence such as for cancer, heart diseases, neuroscience, fertility, and spine and joints to strengthen the clinical breadth and depth of the hospital's services."

Dr Loo Choon Yong, Executive Chairman, Raffles Medical Group, says the expansion will offer Raffles Hospital a 10-year runway that will benefit patients in new ways.

"With this new development, we hope to meet the increasingly sophisticated healthcare needs of patients, provide higher customer value, and continued provision of high quality medical services that are integrated, peer-reviewed and medically audited," he says.

## Institutional group practice

Raffles Hospital was developed as a unique private tertiary hospital centred on a philosophy of institutional group practice. This model affords a structure of clinical governance and leadership, and a team of medical specialists sharing a common commitment to the highest quality of medical practice through service, teaching, and research.

As a group practice, its specialists work as a team to provide a holistic approach to integrated team-based care. Patients with complicated conditions are able to draw on the professional capabilities across disciplines and experience coordinated and seamless care.

The benefit of having all medical services under



When completed, the new integrated medical complex will meet the growing and changing healthcare needs of patients.

one roof cannot be understated. This is especially so for patients with complicated or multiple diagnoses, as they will be able to draw on the professional capabilities of the specialists across disciplines.

Take Madam Pham Thi Hoa, for example. The Vietnamese national from Hai Phong City chose to seek treatment with Raffles Hospital because of the hospital's multi-disciplinary collaboration among in-house specialists.

"My condition requires care from both an endocrinologist and oncologist," says the retiree who is currently undergoing chemotherapy and hormone treatment for pancreatic cancer in the hospital.

Her treatment plan is being co-managed by consultants at the Raffles Cancer Centre and Raffles Diabetes and Endocrine Centre.

Prof Tan says: "Patients who need to consult different specialists including doctors, nurse clinicians and allied health professionals at the same visit need not make multiple appointments as joint consultations via multi-disciplinary clinics may be held.

"To this end, Raffles Hospital is investing in technologies, including radiation therapy and nuclear medicine, which will avail to patients the convenience and co-ordinated application of these diagnostic and treatment modalities on site," he adds.

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