

Enhancing healthcare education and research

Raffles Hospital's extension will contribute to the country's overall healthcare system performance

By Mike Lee

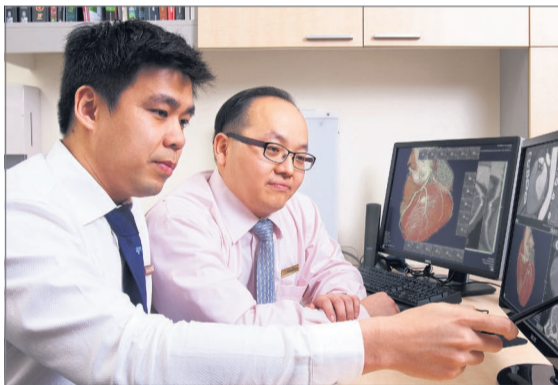
The \$310-million Raffles Hospital extension will boost healthcare education and research, on top of bringing about more comprehensive specialist services to patients.

Dr Loo Choon Yong, executive chairman, Raffles Medical Group (RMG) says: "It will enable Raffles Healthcare Institute (RHI) — the Group's training arm — to expand its training programmes for doctors, nurses, allied health personnel and healthcare managers."

Set up in 2013, RHI supports the Group's growing manpower development needs, and contributes to training of local and foreign healthcare professionals to increase competency and professionalism.

Mr Lawrence Lim, Director of RHI, says: "RHI brings together all the training initiatives of the Group under one umbrella, leveraging on the institutional group practice model and the expanding base of clinical and management expertise and resources of Raffles Hospital and the network of specialists, family medicine and dental clinics."

The Institute offers a wide palette of programmes including continuing medical education, clinical attachments for medical, nursing and allied health students, courses and workshops related to clinical skills and healthcare management, medical lectures,



Raffles Hospital's team of medical specialists under the institutional group practice shares a common commitment to the highest quality of medical practice through service, teaching and research.



The new extension lobby features a generous triple volume space, giving visitors and patients a grand sense of arrival.

hospital rounds, and annual scientific meetings.

This year, RHI expects to have provided more than 250 clinical placements for students from partner universities and other tertiary institutions. Among university partners is the Duke-NUS which RHI collaborates with on a clinical attachment programme in family medicine. It also partners with the National University of Singapore, Institute of Technical Education, Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic to provide clinical attachments for their nursing, radiography, physiotherapy, and pharmacy students.

Mr Lim adds: "As a private healthcare institution, RHI is also able to value add to the educational experience of each trainee by providing not only clinical experience in a private setting, but also exposure to private sector standards of service excellence and business management."

Aside from training, research will also be given a boost. RMG's research arm — Raffles Research Labs — will expand research activities in addition to the clinical trials currently managed through its Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), says Dr Loo.

CTU, which was set up in 2012, serves as a one-step resource centre to match potential sponsors with clinician researchers, and provides support to clinicians to conduct high quality clinical trials.

Dr Prem Kumar Nair, General Manager of Raffles Hospital, says: "Clinical trials now constitute an integral component of patient management especially in the fields of haematology and oncology.

"These trials allow patients' access to novel drugs and help expand the hospital's armamentarium against certain challenging diseases and form a

critical basis for innovation in disease treatment."

Adds Dr Nair: "Education and research, together with patient service, constitute the pillars of a great medical institution. An expansion of Raffles Hospital's participation in education and research will contribute in some measure to enhancing the overall healthcare system performance."

One-stop medical hub

Patients will benefit the most as the extension will enable the hospital to provide even more comprehensive services such as nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and new Centres of Excellence to better serve patients.

Dr Loo says: "The medical hub's value proposition is to offer a one-stop medical destination for patients. This means, in view of the hospital's comprehensive range of specialist, medical and diagnostic services, patients will benefit from the greater convenience and accessibility to specialist care. By integrating essential clinical facilities and services within the hospital, patients will be better able to experience a coordinated and integrated multi-disciplinary care and services.

"The expansion of Raffles Hospital will grow our patient volume and increase our service offerings to provide more for our patients. By increasing the capacity of our existing facilities, we are also able to provide more comprehensive services to meet the growing needs of our patients, both local and foreign as well as our growing corporate clientele. With this, we expect the expansion to drive long-term growth for the company."