

Moving forward

# FORGING A ROBUST COMMUNITY



NCIS extends its expertise and friendship to healthcare practitioners from Asia, even as it continues to train new generations of oncologists. By Low Jat Leng



Participants attended case presentations and PIPAC training in a hands-on session

NCIS plays a key role in fostering a robust cancer healthcare community in Singapore and beyond. It partners hospitals in Asia as well as medical and pharmaceutical companies to develop healthcare professionals from the region. In sharing knowledge and extending its friendship, NCIS has also established itself as a centre of excellence for cancer care and education. We showcase recent training highlights.

**Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) and Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT) Course**  
In November 2017, NCIS organised the fifth IMRT/IGRT course for regional radiation therapy practitioners, in partnership with Elekta, a leading provider of machines and technologies for radiation therapy. The course saw faculty members from NCIS' Department of Radiation Oncology provide educational training for users from ASEAN and India.

The inaugural course was held in August 2015, and had four participants. The third course in February 2017 came with an additional IGRT component. Since its launch up till November 2017, the IMRT/IGRT course has welcomed 28 radiation and clinical oncologists, physicists and radiation therapists from Vietnam, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.  
A small team of NCIS radiation oncology faculty members also visited hospitals from the region



Attendees at the fifth IMRT/IGRT course for regional radiation therapy practitioners

**Training the next generation of oncologists**  
Another key mission of NCIS is the education, training and mentoring of each generation – past, present and future – of healthcare professionals in oncology. Our haematologists and oncologists all undergo training through our gynaecologic oncology, haematology, medical oncology, paediatric haematology-oncology, radiation oncology, and surgical oncology sub-specialty programmes and fellowships.

participants came from, including Vietnam's Hue Hospital in November 2016 and K Hospital in April 2018. The team followed up on participants' learning progress, and taught wherever required.  
A total of nine delegates – three from India, four from Thailand and two from the Philippines – attended the sixth course from 8 to 12 May 2018.

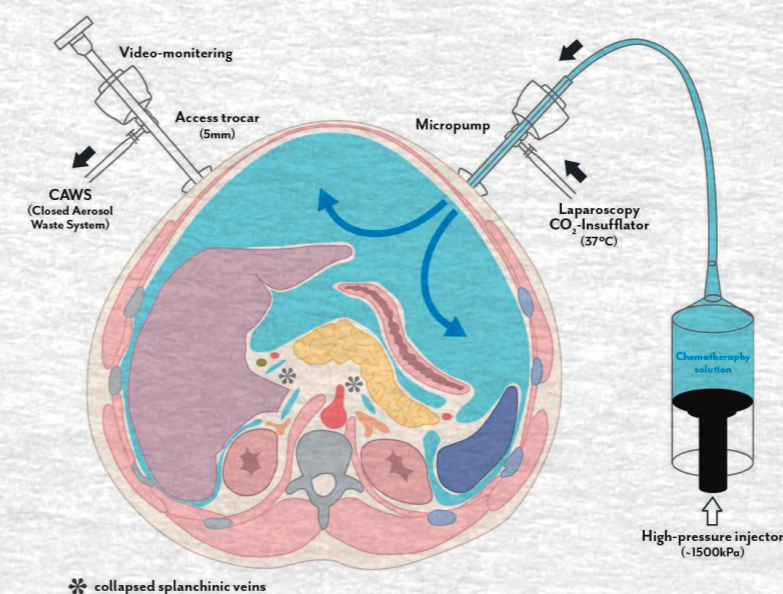
**PIPAC Symposium**  
In 2016, NCIS/NUH became the first in Asia Pacific to perform Pressurised Intra-Peritoneal Aerosol Chemotherapy (PIPAC), a novel treatment for peritoneal carcinomatosis and metastases from stomach, colon and ovarian cancers. The chemotherapy drug is delivered as an aerosol

directly into the peritoneal cavity using a micro-pump, where it is distributed evenly and penetrates the cancer cells deeply, with reduced side effects.  
From 9 to 10 November 2017, NCIS held the first Asia-Pacific PIPAC Symposium and Hands-on Course at NUH. Six international academics, including Prof Marc Reymond, a PIPAC pioneer from Tübingen, Germany, headlined the workshop. The other 24 participants came from the USA, Europe and Asia Pacific, among others.  
Participants shared the latest in peritoneal carcinomatosis management, attended case presentations and received PIPAC training in a hands-on session. The symposium culminated in two live

PIPAC surgeries performed by Prof Jimmy So and Dr Kim Guowei. The symposium's success consolidated NCIS' position as the regional leader in peritoneal carcinomatosis management and PIPAC.

**Multiple Myeloma Daycare Preceptor Programme**  
The Multiple Myeloma Daycare Preceptor Programme workshop – a collaboration with Xi-an Janssen Pharmaceutical – was held from 9 to 10 October 2017 at NUHS. NCIS hosted 18 doctors and nurses from China's top haematology centres, who gained insights from NCIS' nursing, operations, pharmacy and allied health teams on the treatment and care of multiple myeloma patients, the preparation of chemotherapy drugs and patient wellness programmes. Delegates also observed the operations at NCIS' clinics and wards, and together with their NCIS counterparts, participated in a panel discussion with lively exchange of ideas.

Diagram of PIPAC procedure



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