

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Thomson Medical Centre Delivers 1<sup>st</sup> Set of Identical Triplets**

**Singapore, 11 January 2008** - Thomson Medical Centre is pleased to announce that a set of identical triplets, who was conceived naturally, was delivered at Thomson Medical Centre on the Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

It is believed that the delivery of the triplets is the first from a Spontaneous Monochorionic Triamniotic pregnancy in Singapore. This is a very rare occurrence estimated to be conservatively, approximately 1 in 100,000 births.

A Spontaneous Monochorionic Triamniotic pregnancy occurs when a fertilized egg splits itself into three genetically identical parts, each having its own amnion<sup>1</sup> but sharing one chorion<sup>2</sup>.

Most of the reported triplet pregnancies have been conceived by in-vitro fertilization and therefore not identical. However, this set of triplets was conceived naturally. The parents, Mr Joey Chiew Hseng Kiat and Mdm Gladys Lim Pek Yun, both in their 30s, have a 16-month old girl who was also conceived naturally.

The babies, all boys, were delivered by caesarean section at 34 weeks gestation and weigh 1.510kg, 1.425kg and 1.38kg.

“It is a natural cloning except one embryo splits itself into three. Spontaneous Monochorionic Triamniotic has an increased risk for pregnancy complications but thankfully Mdm Lim’s pregnancy has been complication-free throughout. At 34 weeks of gestation, the foetuses have developed till near-term,” said Dr Cheng Li Chang, Executive Deputy Chairman of Thomson Medical Centre Ltd, who is also a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist managing Mdm Lim’s pregnancy.

Such pregnancies are extremely high-risk with limited guidelines and knowledge for the handling of such cases. A high level of ultrasound expertise is required to monitor fetal growth and well-being.

With all continuing to fare well, the triplets are expected to be home in about a month’s time.

<sup>1</sup> Amnion : the innermost of the embryonic or fetal membranes; also called amniotic sac

<sup>2</sup> Chorion: The outermost membrane enclosing the embryo

### **About Thomson Medical Centre Limited**

*Listed on SGX SESDAQ in January 2005, Thomson Medical's principal activities include that of hospital operations and ancillary services; and specialised and other services.*

*The hospital operations comprise the provision of integrated medical healthcare facilities and services for primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, with focus in the areas of O&G and paediatric services. Its ancillary services include fetal assessment services, diagnostic laboratory services, diagnostic imaging services, anti-aging services, health screening services and parentcraft services such as childbirth education, childcare education, breast-feeding counselling and home care nursing.*

*The Group also rents out medical suites within Thomson Medical Centre. Its tenants are mainly O&G specialists as well as paediatricians, and dental surgeons.*

*Its specialised and other services include those provided by Thomson Fertility, Thomson Pre-Natal Diagnostic, Thomson Women's Clinic, Thomson International Health Services and Thomson Aesthetic Services.*

*For more information, please visit Thomson Medical's corporate website at [www.thomsonmedical.com](http://www.thomsonmedical.com)*

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For more information, please contact

Elsie Chua  
Manager, Corporate Services  
Corporate Development Department  
Thomson Medical Centre Ltd  
Tel: 6499 1973  
HP: 9828 8671  
Email: [echua@tmc-sin.com.sg](mailto:echua@tmc-sin.com.sg)