

**20 July 2016**

**News release  
For immediate release**

**THOMSON MEDICAL AND TMC LIFE SCIENCES SIGN MOU WITH TOP IRISH UNIVERSITY TO EXPLORE HEALTH SCIENCES TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

*Signing is part of larger strategic vision for a Pan-Asian integrated healthcare platform*

**Dublin, 20 July 2016** – Singapore’s Thomson Medical Pte Ltd (Thomson) and its associated company in Malaysia, TMC Life Sciences Berhad (TMCLS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with University College Dublin (UCD) to enter into discussions to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a health sciences training and education platform.

2. The signing of a MOU marks the culmination of the first phase of discussions. Thomson and TMCLS will now enter into more in-depth studies with UCD to provide a high quality education and training platform for medical, allied health and nursing professionals. This is in response to the strong demand for high quality healthcare in the region and the need to have a pipeline of well-trained medical and healthcare professionals to deliver the care and services needed.

3. The first iteration of this health sciences education and training platform will be located at the proposed Vantage Bay Healthcare City in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The strategic location of the 11-hectare Vantage Bay Healthcare City site just north of the Causeway will enable the platform to directly serve the needs of both Malaysia and Singapore.

4. Vantage Bay Healthcare City is a purpose-designed integrated healthcare location with a medical services hub comprising of a 500-bed general hospital supported by a specialist hospital and community and step-down care facilities; a wellness hub providing therapeutic care and lifestyle-related services, including age-friendly assisted-living residences; and an education and training hub where the proposed platform will be sited. This is the first fully-integrated health sciences platform to be developed in the region.

5. Mr Roy Quek, Chairman of Thomson and concurrently Executive Director/Group Chief Executive Officer of TMCLS said: “The demands of modern healthcare are growing rapidly. As one of the fastest-growing private healthcare groups in Singapore and Malaysia, we want to keep pace with the growing demands

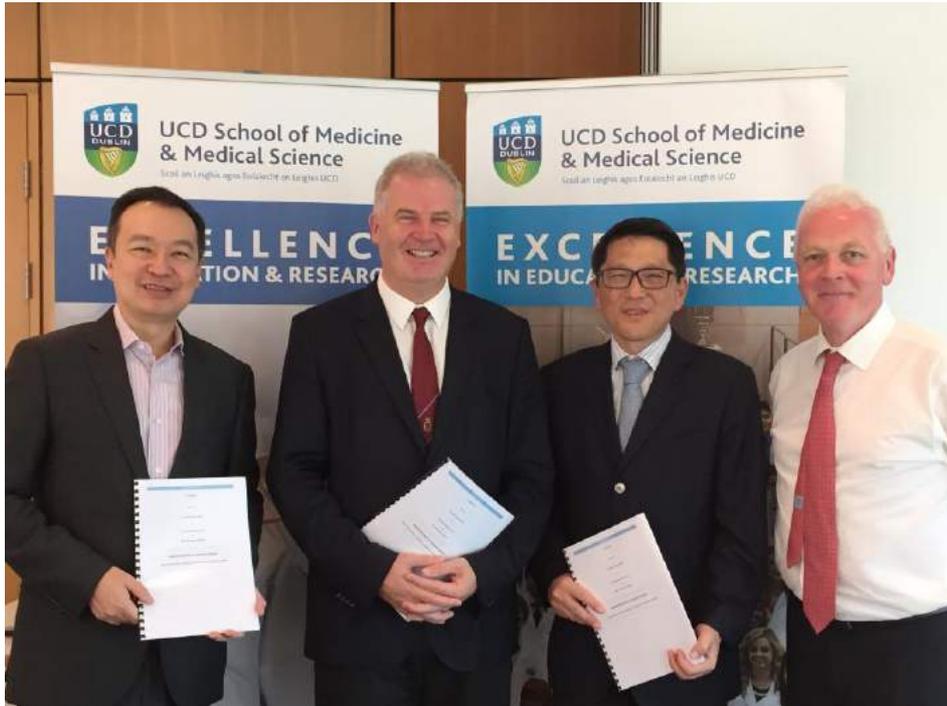
and stand ready to provide the type and quality of care that is required. We foresee the need to accelerate the integration of care, while also moving upstream to develop new and better pathways for education and training. We are delighted that UCD shares the same vision. With their strong tradition of the highest quality health sciences education and training, we are confident that our proposed platform in Vantage Bay Healthcare City will play a significant role in redefining the quality of health sciences training and service provision in the region.” Mr Quek added that aside from UCD, Thomson is in ongoing discussions with other prospective partners in developing research and development capabilities in the biomedical and health sciences space. These developments will complement the proposed education and training platform.



*Artist impression of Vantage Bay Healthcare City*



*Artist impression of “Iskandariah Hospital” at the Thomson Iskandar medical hub in Johor Bahru*



*From left to right: Mr Roy Quek, Chairman of Thomson and Executive Director/Group Chief Executive Officer of TMCLS, Professor Patrick Murray, Dean of Medicine, UCD School of Medicine, Dr Chan Boon Kheng, Group President, Thomson, and Dr Patrick Felle, Associate Dean of Medicine (International), UCD School of Medicine after inking the MOU in Dublin.*

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## **ABOUT THOMSON MEDICAL PTE LTD**

Incorporated in 1977, Thomson Medical is one of Singapore's leading providers of healthcare services for women and children. It owns and operates Thomson Medical Centre, a fully integrated hospital that provides a comprehensive range of facilities and services with a focus on obstetrics and gynaecology (O&G) and paediatric services.

Over the years, Thomson Medical has expanded its operations to include new areas of specialties and services to care for women beyond maternity and their families across generations. These include an island-wide network of Thomson Women's Clinics and related specialty centres: Thomson Chinese Medicine, Thomson Dental Centre, Thomson Diagnostic Imaging Centre, Thomson Diagnostic Ultrasound Centre,

Thomson Fertility Centre, Thomson Lifestyle Centre, Thomson Paediatric Centre, Thomson ParentCraft Centre, Thomson Pre-Natal Diagnostic Laboratory, Thomson Specialist Dentistry, Thomson Specialist Skin Centre, Thomson Well Women Clinic and Thomson Women Cancer Centre.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.thomsonmedical.com/>

## **ABOUT TMC LIFE SCIENCES BHD**

TMC Life Sciences Berhad (TMCLS) is one of the fastest growing healthcare groups in Malaysia. It has been listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad since 2005. Its flagship 200-bed hospital Tropicana Medical Centre in Kota Damansara (TMCKD) is strategically located in the golden triangle of Petaling Jaya, and houses more than 100 consultant specialists. TMCKD's multi award-winning and internationally renowned Centre of Excellence - TMC Fertility Centre - was recently named the "Best Fertility Centre 2016" by Frost & Sullivan Malaysia; "Fertility Service Provider of the Year 2016" by Global Health & Travel and; "International Fertility Clinic of The Year 2016" by International Medical Travel Journal.

TMCLS has embarked on a major expansion programme, with significant additional capacity and capabilities projected to come on stream by 2019. The plans include expanding TMCKD onsite to a 600-bed hospital with additional critical care units and specialist centres. A new integrated medical hub – Thomson Iskandar – will be developed in the proposed Vantage Bay Healthcare City in bustling Johor Bahru. Located just off the Causeway linking Johor and Singapore, Thomson Iskandar will house a 500-bed tertiary hospital, specialist medical suites and related health and wellness facilities.

For more information on TMCLS, log on to [www.tmcclife.com](http://www.tmcclife.com)

## **ABOUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN**

UCD is Ireland's leading research-intensive university with over 160 years' history in education. It is currently ranked within the top 1% of educational institutions worldwide with more than 30,000 students from over 120 countries. UCD has the largest medical and health sciences faculty in Ireland and is actively looking to enlarge its educational and training footprint on a global scale. For more information on UCD School of Medicine, please see [Annex A](#).

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## **UCD School of Medicine (Established 1845)**

### **Overview**

As Ireland's leading medical school, the *UCD School of Medicine* offers more than 60 educational programmes at undergraduate, graduate and continuous professional development level building on a tradition of producing healthcare leaders for over 160 years. Our programmes are delivered by a young, vibrant and experienced academic faculty within a modern health science centre and across a large clinical training network comprising over twenty-five acute, specialist or general hospitals and 170 primary care centres across Ireland.

We are more than just a Medical School. We are a community of research scientists, clinicians, students and graduates committed in our dedication to society and determined in our mission to improve the lives and health of our patients.

We offer five undergraduate degree programmes in Medicine (Direct Entry and Graduate Entry), Physiology, Radiography and Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences. Our graduate education portfolio comprises thirty-seven graduate taught programmes ranging from certificate to masters degree awards and a further twelve graduate research programmes at masters or doctoral level with over 500 graduate students. Our portfolio of biomedical, clinical and translational research has over 75 principal investigators, 100 post-doctoral scientists and 285 doctoral students with grants under management worth over €85 million and research income of approximately €15 million *per annum*.

Together with *Mater Misericordiae University Hospital* and *St Vincent's Healthcare Group*, the School has established Ireland's first academic health centre, *Dublin Academic Medical Centre* and these institutions are partners in Ireland's largest acute hospital group, *Ireland East Hospital Group*. Our clinical training programmes are delivered at six major Dublin teaching hospitals and across the country through sixteen affiliated acute, general or specialist hospitals. The School also has a nationwide primary care clinical training network comprising over 150 general practitioners supporting our academic programmes. Our Radiography and Diagnostic Imaging Group provides Ireland's only undergraduate radiography degree programme and is the national training centre for graduate education in specialist medical imaging.

### **Programmes**

With over 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the *UCD School of Medicine* is one of Ireland's largest medical schools and is first choice for medicine among Irish students. The School offers both direct school leaver entry and graduate entry to four, five and six year medicine programmes and provides Ireland's only undergraduate training in diagnostic imaging through a four year Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Radiography. The School also offers a highly competitive four year B.Sc in Biomedical Health & Life Science which provides a thorough understanding of disease aetiology and pathogenesis and provides graduates with

advanced biomedical research expertise. School staff also contributes to many UCD Science degree programmes including physiology, pharmacology, and neuroscience.

### **Staff**

The School has a complement of over 175 academic staff, 200 funded research investigators and an adjunct faculty comprising some 400 hospital consultants and over 300 junior doctors in training. Our clinical training programmes are delivered at six major Dublin teaching hospitals and across the country through sixteen affiliated acute, general or specialist hospitals. The School also has a nationwide primary care clinical training network comprising over 150 general practitioners. Many of our hospital partners are recognised as regional and national centres of excellence for the treatment of specific diseases. Hence our students have access to best healthcare practitioners and are exposed to the practice of medicine in a variety of clinical settings.

### **Students**

With over 2,300 students, the School has a large and ethnically diverse student body comprising school leavers, graduates and healthcare professionals within 57 undergraduate, graduate taught or graduate research programmes. A number of our programmes support continuous professional development of doctors, radiographers, paramedics, and scientists within generalist and specialist medicine careers. Although our students come from primarily three continents (Europe, South Asia and North America), there are in excess of 55 different nationalities among, and international students represent 25% of our current student cohort. Our students are enthusiastic participants of University life and they continue to maintain a healthy work/life balance whilst undergoing specialist training at our clinical sites. The UCD Medical Society is among one of the University's leading student societies.

### **Research**

The *UCD School of Medicine* is committed to research that enhances our understanding disease with the ultimate aim of improving human health. It has over 75 principal research investigators with research grants under management to the value of approximately €90million and annual research income of over €15 million.

Our research is focused on key thematic areas of Inflammation and Infection, Vascular biology and Diabetes using many approaches including cellular and molecular biology, bioinformatics and proteomics, through whole organism disease models to patient-based clinical and population studies. This multidisciplinary strength provides a stimulating environment in which scientists and clinicians can interact in relevant translational research.

### **Research Institutes & Centres**

The School is a principal stakeholder in Ireland's premier biomedical research institute, the *UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular & Biomedical Research* which is focused on developing a better understanding of the causes of disease, simpler and more reliable diagnostic tests, and more effective treatments. The *UCD Charles Institute for Dermatology* aims to become a leading international centre of excellence in dermatology research and training and is the first academic institute in Ireland devoted to dermatology. The Institute's vision is to become a world leader in

dermatology research and training, which will lead to improved patient care through the discovery of new treatments and therapies.

As part of our strategy to build multi-investigator research of scale and with international collaborations, the School has formalised a number of research centres including:

- Academic Centre for Bioinformatics
- Academic Centre for Human Reproduction
- Academic Centre for Paediatric Research
- Academic Centre for Rare Diseases
- Centre for Biomedical Engineering (in collaboration with the UCD College of Engineering)
- Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases
- Diabetes Complications Research Centre
- UCD Systems Biology Ireland

The School also has principal investigator-led research groups including:

- Biomedical Proteomics Research Group
- Centre for Colorectal Disease
- Clinical Bioinformatics Group
- Diagnostic Imaging Group
- gHealth Research Group
- HIV Molecular Research Group
- Maternal & Fetal Health Group
- Obesity & Immunology Research Group
- Rheumatology Research Group
- SPHERE Research Group
- SVUH Neurology Group
- Tissue Engineering Research Group

The School has also built dedicated state-of-the-art clinical research units on several hospital sites to provide an integrated infrastructure for clinical and translational research. This clinical research centre supports approximately 50 clinical trial, biocollection or observational studies annually with over 5,000 patient contacts comprising both investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored studies. The UCD Clinical Research Centre has built strong links with both the biopharmaceutical sector and with international clinical research organisations and has developed a number of bespoke educational programmes on clinical translational research methods.

Our large and experienced academic faculty, innovative programmes and state-of-the-art facilities provide a stimulating education and research environment for students. These academic activities aim to improve patient healthcare by purposefully linking treatment, teaching and research capability.