



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **AIC hosts Asia's first Advance Care Planning conference**

Asia's inaugural conference on Advance Care Planning (ACP) kicked off today in Singapore. Hosted by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), the 8th International Conference on Advance Care Planning (ACP-i) brings together more than 600 participants from 30 countries to discuss the challenges and opportunities in fostering person-centred care, as well as exchange best practices and new advances in the field.

2. With the theme of "ACP in Cultural Diversity: More Similar than Different", the conference features 40 thought leaders and renowned experts from 19 countries to share insights and practices of ACP across different cultures, religions, histories, and nationalities.

#### **Conference programme and topics**

3. The main ACP-i Conference is held over three days, from 25 to 27 May 2023. Second Minister for Health Mr Masagos Zulkifli attended the launch of the conference today as the Guest-of-Honour where he also delivered the Opening Address.

4. Four pre-conference workshops took place on 24 May 2023 for participants to engage in areas like shared decision-making in serious illness, compassionate communities and community engagement, ethics in ACP, as well as ACP in paediatrics.

5. The line-up of the ACP-i Conference covers diverse themes, ranging from the implementation of ACP in different cultures and countries, development of frameworks and policies, emerging trends and practices, and more. Through keynote addresses, plenary sessions, interactive workshops, and panel discussions, attendees can engage in thought-provoking discussions, exchange knowledge, and gain valuable insights into the latest advancements in the field.

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*Second Minister for Health Mr Masagos Zulkifli delivering the opening address*

6. As part of the conference opening, keynote speaker Dr Heather Richardson from St Christopher's Hospice in the United Kingdom mooted a new starting point for ACP where community members and groups become active participants. She also called for partnership between the public and professionals related to behaviour change.

7. Professor Amy Chow from the University of Hong Kong is the keynote speaker for the second day of the conference. She will discuss the development of a new tiered and multi-stage model of ACP that involves health-related behaviours and classification of disease prevention in public health.

8. "I am honoured that AIC has been chosen to host the 8th International Conference on Advance Care Planning here in Singapore. It is a testament to our nation's progress in the domain over years, and the strides we made for person-centred care, given Singapore's multi-culturalism where perspectives on health and advance care vary greatly. I am confident that with the collective effort of ACP professionals and the community, we can foster a stronger culture of open dialogue, empathy, and respect that empowers individuals to navigate their healthcare journey with dignity and autonomy," said Mr Tan Kwang Cheak, Chief Executive Officer of AIC.

### **Growth of ACP in Singapore**

9. ACP is not just a crucial aspect of healthcare in Singapore, but an essential practice that ensures each person's values, beliefs, and wishes about their healthcare choices are honoured. Through the process of planning for future health and personal

care options, the person's attending doctor and loved ones can understand the preferred treatment decisions when the person is unable to express his or her wishes.

10. Singapore's ACP journey began in 2011 when AIC was appointed the ACP National Office, with a primary goal to introduce and enable the local implementation of ACP in acute hospitals.

11. Since then, AIC has expanded its partnership to institutions from various care settings to introduce, implement and scale ACP across the healthcare continuum, with the longer-term plan to integrate ACP as part of every patient's routine care. This is done through establishing the national ACP framework, training healthcare and care professionals, expanding ACP recognition into the community, as well as advocating for IT enablement among many other initiatives.

12. In recent years, AIC has also expanded and upskilled our Community Care providers to normalise early discussions about healthcare preferences and bring ACP facilitation closer to the homes of seniors, caregivers and residents within the community.

13. To date, over 33,000 Singaporeans have completed their ACPs. This number is expected to rise alongside increasing levels of engagement events, health literacy, and general awareness of the benefits of completing an ACP.

## **About the ACP-i Conference**

14. The ACP-i Conference, spearheaded by the ACP-i Society, is held once every two years to bring together an international fraternity of ACP experts to share best practices on ACP. This conference also creates a platform for leaders and practitioners to network with potential partners.

15. "Advance Care Planning International (ACP-i) is delighted to partner AIC in hosting the 8th ACP-i Conference in Singapore, which also marks our first ACP conference in Asia," said Professor Tanja Krones, ACP-i President. "This event is an excellent platform for all participating practitioners and experts to learn from each other, establish new partnerships, and more importantly, strengthen their local and international networks. It is our hope that everyone will leave the conference with more knowledge, ideas, collaborations, and even new friends."

16. For more information about the conference, please visit the website: [www.acpi-conference2023.sg](http://www.acpi-conference2023.sg).

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### **About the Agency for Integrated Care**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) aims to create a vibrant care community for people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and supports efforts in integrating care to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We reach out to caregivers and seniors with information on staying active and ageing well, and connect people to services they need. We support stakeholders in their efforts to raise the quality of care, and also work with health and social care partners to provide services for the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more about us, please visit <https://www.aic.sg>.