

Transforming Healthcare through Innovation: Addressing Unmet Healthcare Needs in Asia Pacific

Medical Technology Experts Convene for Asia Pacific MedTech Forum 2017

7-9 November 2017, The Star Performing Arts Centre, Singapore

SINGAPORE, 7 NOVEMBER 2017 – Asia’s leading healthcare representatives gathered today in Singapore for the start of the third annual Asia Pacific MedTech Forum, hosted by the Asia Pacific medical technology Association (APACMed). The Forum brings together regional and global senior medical device executives, regulators, policy makers, healthcare providers, payers and investors to explore **the transformation of the healthcare ecosystem through innovation**.

Key to addressing unmet needs in Asia Pacific is a collaborative, value-based approach to deliver high quality care for all. **Vladimir Makatsaria, Company Group Chairman at Johnson & Johnson and Chairman of APACMed**, opened the Forum and emphasised the power of true innovation and development in creating possibilities in healthcare: “Innovation is equally about creating new technologies to improve the quality of healthcare for patients, as well as devising innovative ways to improve access to healthcare for those who need it most”.

Thought leaders tackled the real-life impact of digitisation on improving access, including technological advancements such as mixed reality computing, and the ramifications for patients. Experts also addressed the constraints of developing market-appropriate products and services, and how through ingenuity the sector can turn adversity into opportunity. A debate on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare brought together experts from both AI development and clinical practice to explore whether AI could one day provide better patient care than a doctor.

Asia Pacific is home to more than half of the world’s population, yet the region remains enormously diverse in terms of healthcare access, regulations and practices. It is therefore critical for stakeholders to come together to share best practice and co-develop innovations that meet the needs of patients from both developed and emerging markets.

Summing up the day’s discussions, **Fredrik Nyberg, Chief Executive Officer, APACMed** said: “The MedTech industry is undergoing unprecedented transformation. Traditional medical device companies are overhauling their longstanding business models and developing creative approaches to delivering care. We are encouraged to hear new ideas and thinking today which will lead to radical, but strategic change in our healthcare systems. The MedTech Forum is a unique opportunity to bring together all stakeholders and further drive access to quality healthcare, and, ultimately, the lives of patients across Asia Pacific.”

Tomorrow’s agenda opens with a case study on Japan delivered by **Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki**, the country’s Chief Medical and Global Health Officer and **Vice-Minister for Health, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan**. He will discuss Japan’s pro-innovation policies, and the future direction MHLW will take to successfully balance innovation and sustainability in healthcare.

PRESS RELEASE



For more information, including the full two-day programme and speaker list, please visit <https://medtechforum.asia/web/home>.

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Notes to the editors:

Key plenary speakers include:

- Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki, Chief Medical & Global Health Officer and Vice-Minister for Health, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan
- José (Joe) E. Almeida, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Baxter International
- Michael F. Mahoney, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Boston Scientific
- Dr Simon Kos, Chief Medical Officer, Microsoft
- Rahul Khosla, Chairman Max Healthcare, India
- Dr Allan Lai, Senior Vice President, ACT Genomics; and Dr Lawrence Wee, Chief Data Scientist, Allianz
- Runa Khan, Founder, Secretary and Executive Director, Friendship
- Roberta Lipson, Founder & CEO of United Family Healthcare
- Professor Gerry George, Dean of Singapore Management University & Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Dr Anurag Mairal, Consulting Associate Professor of Medicine Director, Global Exchange Programme, Stanford Byers Centre for Biodesign, Stanford University

About the Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association:

Founded in 2014, the Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association (APACMed 亚太医疗技术协会) is the first and only regional association to provide a unified voice for the medical technology industry in Asia Pacific. APACMed works proactively with bilateral, regional and local government bodies to shape policies, demonstrate the value of innovation and promote regulatory harmonisation. APACMed engages with medical device associations and companies in Asia Pacific to jointly advance regional issues, code of ethics and share best practices. Learn more about the association at www.apacmed.org

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