

MEDIA RELEASE

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NUH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR TRAUMA AND KKH LAUNCH NATIONAL INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE TO ALIGN ACCIDENT PREVENTION EFFORTS

The conference brings together various stakeholders to tackle three critical areas of paediatric, workplace and road traffic safety

SINGAPORE — The National University Centre for Trauma at the National University Hospital (NUH) and KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) have jointly launched the inaugural National Injury Prevention Conference (NIPC) 2025, spearheading concerted efforts in injury prevention across three critical domains: paediatric injury prevention, workplace safety and road traffic safety. The conference is supported by the National Trauma Unit, Ministry of Health (MOH).

Both NUH and KKH play a vital role in trauma care, research, and injury prevention. NUH houses the National University Centre for Trauma, one of Singapore's key trauma centres serving both adults and paediatric patients, while KKH is the national specialist centre for women's and children's health. NIPC 2025 highlights the robust partnership between the NUH National University Centre for Trauma and KKH, and represents a shared commitment to injury prevention – a pressing issue that affects individuals of all ages.

Trauma remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, with incidence of trauma injuries rising by approximately 10 per cent between 2021 and 2023, according to the National Trauma Registry, Singapore. This growing trend highlights the urgent need for a coordinated, multisectoral approach to injury prevention.

A unified approach to injury prevention

Officially opened by Professor Kenneth Mak, Director-General of Health, MOH, NIPC 2025 brings together different stakeholders across government agencies, public healthcare institutions and councils, pooling resources, data and expertise with the aim of shaping a **broad, high-level roadmap for injury prevention**. The conference includes closed-door breakout sessions, where experts from NUH, KKH and other institutions will develop targeted strategies for each safety track.

“The burden of trauma is significant – impacting individuals, families, communities, and the healthcare system,” says Adjunct Assistant Professor Dr Raj Menon, who is the Centre Director of the NUH National University Centre for Trauma. “Through NIPC 2025, we hope to create a forum where stakeholders can come together to share best practices and drive a coordinated national approach to reduce preventable injuries and fatalities.”

“Child injuries are a significant threat to children’s health and well-being, with far reaching impact on families and society. Yet, traumatic injuries are highly preventable. Because our children’s safety is a shared responsibility, NIPC 2025 enables us to foster collaboration both within and outside healthcare, to develop innovative solutions for a safer Singapore,” said Clinical Assistant Professor Ronald Tan, Senior Consultant, Department of Emergency Medicine, KKH, and Chairman of the KKH Injury Prevention Working Group.

By co-leading the first NIPC, the NUH National University Centre for Trauma and KKH aim to pave the way for greater collaboration between stakeholders and a unified approach to injury prevention at the national level.

Protecting the little ones

Due to their young age and smaller builds, children are particularly vulnerable to trauma-related incidents and injuries. Trauma is among the leading causes of death among the younger population, according to the KKH Child Injury Surveillance Report 2024, with drowning, falls from height and road traffic injuries being the top three causes of child injury deaths¹.

Falls alone account for almost half of all childhood injuries, most of which occur at home. The paediatric safety track will focus on preventing falls from height, encouraging the use of window grilles and improving playground safety.

Drowning, which makes up more than 10 per cent of trauma incidents involving children, will be addressed through a multi-pronged approach. The breakout focus group discussion, jointly led by clinicians from NUH and KKH, will include enhancing swim education and reinforcing the importance of adult supervision, as vital efforts in tackling this problem.

Staying safe on the roads

Among both children and adults, vehicular accidents are the second most prevalent cause of injuries, at over 26 per cent and about 16 per cent respectively², underscoring the pressing need to enhance road safety awareness and enforcement measures.

To reduce the risks of child road traffic injuries and encourage the use of child car restraints, KKH recently introduced the KKH Newborn Car Seat Programme. The initiative offers complimentary car seats for babies born at the hospital, alongside car seat “check-ups” to ensure that car seats are properly installed.

The importance of using safety gear is further reinforced in the road safety track at NIPC 2025 which will focus on strategies to encourage rear seatbelt use, especially in private hire vehicles, enforcing child seat usage for children, achieving effective road separation of vehicles and vulnerable road users such as cyclists, and promoting the use of helmets among cyclists.

¹ [KKH Child Injury Surveillance Report 2024 - KK Women's and Children's Hospital](#)

² <https://www.moh.gov.sg/others/resources-and-statistics/trauma>

Cultivating safety in everyone

Mdm Liau Mei Ling's son was cycling across the road when his bicycle collided with a double-decker bus. The impact threw him off the bicycle and he fell headfirst to the ground. He was not wearing safety gear at the time of the incident.

As a result of the impact, the boy was rushed to KKH's Children's Emergency where he was found to have sustained severe traumatic brain injury and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. He was hospitalised for 12 days.

Mdm Liau had frequently reminded her son to be mindful of safety while cycling. However, as he was familiar with the route and it was a hot day, he opted not to put on a safety helmet. The boy had also observed other cyclists not wearing safety gear.

Thankfully, Mdm Liau's son has made a good recovery and is now healthy and doing well.

Creating a safe workplace

A 26-year-old worker's workday took an unexpected turn when steel beams collapsed onto him. He suffered severe injuries and was initially hospitalised for acute management at NUH, and subsequently transferred to Alexandra Hospital³ for rehabilitation, totalling over three months.

Today, he is recovering well under the care of the multidisciplinary trauma team at the NUH National University Centre for Trauma. He is currently undergoing rehabilitation to regain his physical functions and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) is investigating the incident. Such incidents are particularly more common in higher-risk sectors such as Construction, Manufacturing and Transportation & Storage.⁴

Immediate action and timely evacuation can be lifesaving for an injured worker. MOM and Workplace Safety and Health Council⁵, have published a circular that outlines the steps for appropriate and timely response when attending to a worker injured at work, including recognising medical emergencies and calling 995 for emergency medical services⁶.

The NUH National University Centre for Trauma has, since its launch in July last year, continued to ramp up its outreach efforts, conducting its workplace injury response workshops at migrant worker dormitories. At NIPC 2025, data on injury subtypes and emergency evacuation procedures will be presented to guide the formulation of a training framework for workplace injury prevention.

³ Alexandra Hospital and National University Hospital are both part of the National University Health System (NUHS). As part of NUHS's integrated healthcare system, patients receive care across its institutions based on their medical needs.

⁴ <https://www.mom.gov.sg/-/media/mom/documents/safety-health/reports-stats/wsh-national-statistics/wsh-national-stats-2024.pdf>

⁵ With inputs from Singapore Civil Defence Force, MOH's Unit for Pre-hospital Emergency Care and National Trauma Unit

⁶ <https://www.mom.gov.sg/-/media/mom/documents/safety-health/circulars/2025/circular-20250212-advisory-on-emergency-response-injured-workers.pdf>

While NIPC 2025 marks the first iteration of the conference, plans are in place to establish it as an annual platform for continued knowledge sharing, strategic development and refinement of injury prevention efforts nationwide.

Chinese Glossary

National University Hospital (NUH)	国立大学医院
National University Centre for Trauma	国立大学创伤中心
Alexandra Hospital (AH)	亚历山大医院
KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH)	竹脚妇幼医院
KKH Injury Prevention Working Group	竹脚妇幼医院伤害预防工作小组
KKH Newborn Car Seat Programme	竹脚妇幼医院婴儿安全座椅计划
National Injury Prevention Conference	全国创伤预防大会
Dr Raj Menon Adjunct Assistant Professor Centre Director National University Centre for Trauma	Dr Raj Menon 客座助理教授 中心主任 国立大学创伤中心
Clinical Assistant Professor Ronald Tan Senior Consultant, Department of Emergency Medicine, KK Women's and Children's Hospital Chair, KKH Injury Prevention Working Group	陈明仁临床助理教授 资深顾问医生 急诊科部门 竹脚妇幼医院 竹脚妇幼医院伤害预防工作小组组长

For media enquiries, please contact:

TOH Wei Shi
Group Communications
National University Health System
Email: wei_shi_toh@nuhs.edu.sg

Janelle KOH
Corporate Communications
KK Women's and Children's Hospital
Email: media@kkh.com.sg

About the National University Hospital

The National University Hospital (NUH) is Singapore's leading university hospital. While the hospital at Kent Ridge first received its patients on 24 June 1985, our legacy started from 1905, the date of the founding of what is today the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. NUH is the principal teaching hospital of the medical school.

Our unique identity as a university hospital is a key attraction for healthcare professionals who aspire to do more than practise tertiary medical care. We offer an environment where research and teaching are an integral part of medicine, and continue to shape medicine and transform care for the community we care for.

We are an academic medical centre with over 1,200 beds, serving more than one million patients a year with over 50 medical, surgical and dental specialties. NUH is the only public and not-for-profit hospital in Singapore to provide trusted care for adults, women and children under one roof, including the only paediatric kidney and liver transplant programme in the country.

The NUH is a key member of the National University Health System (NUHS), one of three public healthcare clusters in Singapore. For more information, visit www.nuh.com.sg

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About KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH)

KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) is Singapore's largest tertiary referral centre for obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics and neonatology. The academic medical centre specialises in the management of high-risk conditions in women and children.

Driven by a commitment to deliver compassionate, multidisciplinary care to patients, KKH leverages research and innovation to advance care. In 2021, the hospital launched the SingHealth Duke-NUS Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) to support the growth of every woman and child to their fullest potential, and transform national health in the region.

Some of the hospital's breakthroughs include uSINE[®], a landmark identification system for the administration of spinal epidural, the discovery of new genetic diseases like Jamuar Syndrome, and a series of guidelines for women and children to improve population health.

The academic medical centre is also a major teaching hospital for Duke-NUS Medical School, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. In addition, KKH runs the largest specialist training programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Paediatrics in Singapore.

Founded in 1858, KKH marked its centenary as a maternity hospital and welcomed its 1.6 millionth baby in 2024. For more information, visit www.kkh.com.sg

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