

## HistoIndex, ILBS launch CoE for R&D on NASH

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HistoIndex, Singapore and the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi, India have jointly launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to aid diagnostics and clinical trials focusing on NASH.

The CoE is HistoIndex's first Genesis Imaging Service (GIS) partner in India and joins the company's global network of medical, academic and referral laboratory partners who are involved in comprehensive clinical and scientific studies on NASH and other chronic liver conditions. The CoE was launched today during the Dr V. Ramalingaswami Oration and Hepatopathology Meeting 2019 at the ILBS.

The CoE - an integration of HistoIndex's AI-based digital pathology expertise and ILBS's superior position as a national clinical and research institute for Hepatology - will be recognised as a top-notch clinical and research facility that will ultimately benefit the treatment options of patients afflicted with NASH or similar liver conditions.

"ILBS is constantly working towards the mission of developing a facility with international standards, which consists of a comprehensive and modern setup for diagnosis and treatment, and an advanced centre for the dedicated research and training in the field of liver diseases, including liver transplantation, gall bladder and biliary diseases, and allied specialties. We are pleased to collaborate on the CoE in SHG imaging, which will be the first of its kind in India with immense potential to serve our country's healthcare sector." Said Professor Shiv Kumar Sarin, Director of the ILBS,

Distinguished guests in attendance at the launch included Professor Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commissioner of Singapore in New Delhi.

### **Large Clinical Interest for Advanced NASH Diagnostics**

HistoIndex's SHG digital pathology will be the core of the CoE, serving India's enormous clinical and research interests for better histopathological standards in the assessment of NASH, which is on the rise in the country. In addition, the CoE will be

the perfect training site for pathologists to equip themselves with the skills necessary to work with AI-based digital pathology. With the adoption of the technology, pathologists will be able to analyse and quantify NASH characteristics such as fibrosis, steatosis, ballooning and inflammation. This will:

- Determine treatment efficacies during clinical trials, where the data generated by the SHG imaging and algorithms will allow pharmaceutical and biotech companies to design their later stage clinical trials and develop new treatments.
- Allow clinicians to make critical decisions and potentially determine a patient's ability to receive or respond to treatment.

Mr Tay Lian Chew, Global Markets Director for South Asia, Enterprise Singapore said, "Enterprise Singapore works closely with Singapore companies to build their capabilities and expand overseas. Having connected Histoindex with ILBS, it is encouraging to see them partner each other to launch this CoE, which will be HistoIndex's first foray into the India market. The CoE is testament to how Singapore companies can partner Indian healthcare players to enhance healthcare delivery with innovative technology and solutions."