



## **National Healthcare Group and Trendlines Medical Singapore Ink New Deal and Expand Collaboration Scope**

*This renewed agreement extends their successful strategic partnership for co-developing innovative healthcare solutions*

**Singapore, 23 November 2020** – Trendlines Medical Singapore Pte Ltd (“**Trendlines Medical**”), a subsidiary of The Trendlines Group Ltd. (“**Trendlines**”) (SGX: 42T; OTCQX: TRNLY), an investment company focused on developing innovation-based medical and agrifood companies, and National Healthcare Group (“**NHG**”), a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, and recognised locally and globally for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities, medical education and research, jointly announced today the renewal and expansion of a Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**). The new MOU extends the strategic partnership between NHG and Trendlines Medical on co-developing innovative healthcare solutions in the following areas: Dermatology, Infectious Diseases, Population Health, Chronic Diseases, Ageing and Rehabilitation.

In November 2017, Trendlines Medical and NHG entered into the first MOU and over the past three years have worked closely to identify the clinical needs, and collaborated on refining creative ideation, facilitated by the NHG Centre for Medical Technologies and Innovations. The close partnership has resulted in the establishment of nine companies, which are incubated by Trendlines Medical. Three of these companies are involved in upcoming clinical studies at NHG Institutions that seek to solve some of the most acute clinical challenges today. [Medulla Pro](#) is developing an ultrasound-guided, real-time imaging lumbar puncture system; [Szone](#) is developing an easy-to-use, accurate, real-time, and non-invasive hydration monitoring device; and [interVaal](#) is developing a urinary catheter to address the problem of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). (*Please see Annex for more information.*)

**Eric Loh, CEO of Trendlines Singapore**, commented, “The initial three years of collaborating with NHG have been very engaging and fruitful. The partnership has benefitted from both the strong clinical standing of the hospitals and physicians of NHG, as well as the market knowledge and engineering/technological expertise of Trendlines. We have jointly identified

development projects that serve substantial unmet clinical needs and refined the development through clinical validation of solutions within NHG. To date, the progress made by our portfolio companies is a strong indication of the value of this partnership in ensuring that our healthcare solutions are practical and market focused. The collaboration has also laid a strong foundation for us to deepen it further and expand the partnership with new initiatives such as establishing focus groups and collaborating with our in-house innovation group, Trendlines Labs – in Singapore and Israel – on upstream research projects which enable us to scale up in the next phase of our partnership.”

**Todd Dollinger, Chairman of Trendlines Medical and CEO and Chairman of The Trendlines Group Ltd.**, said, “We are very pleased with the achievements of Trendlines Medical under the partnership with NHG. Capitalising on the strong healthcare infrastructure in Singapore, the collaboration with NHG has enabled us to expand our scope of technology development, adding value to the medical technology start-up ecosystem in Singapore. As the new chapter of the partnership unfolds, Trendlines Medical and NHG have identified new initiatives to accelerate the process of developing innovative solutions into commercial products to benefit patients in Singapore and beyond, fulfilling our mission of improving the human condition.”

**Associate Professor Thomas Lew, Clinical Director of NHG’s Centre for Medical Technologies and Innovations (CMTi), and Group Chief Data and Strategy Officer, NHG**, commented, “We appreciate the strong partnership between NHG and Trendlines Medical. This public-private collaboration has allowed us to successfully translate research into medical devices, where our clinicians combine their valuable clinical knowledge and understanding of patients’ needs with the technical expertise of industrial partners to co-create innovative technological solutions. This enables us to address immediate healthcare needs, improve patient care outcomes, and deliver better care to our population.”

**Dr Benjamin Seet, Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research) and Group Chief Research Officer of NHG**, commented, “The outcome speaks for itself – nine novel projects leading to the formation of nine new companies in just three years. This reflects the innovation potential here at NHG, and how our partnership with Trendlines Medical has accelerated projects into the clinic, where they will start to make a difference to patients and healthcare providers. I look forward to the next stage of this fruitful and exciting partnership.”

**Johnny Teo, Executive Director for Food, Healthcare and Biomedical, Enterprise Singapore** said, “For Singapore to become a vibrant and successful medtech hub, it is

important that our players in the ecosystem find ways to collaborate and cocreate, and develop long-term partnerships that can address the healthcare opportunities in Singapore and overseas. The renewed MOU between Trendlines and NHG and the fruits we have seen are testaments to this. We look forward to more of such partnerships, and also the opportunity to deepen the bilateral linkage with innovation hubs like Israel.”

### **Expanded Objectives of the MOU for the next phase of the partnership**

The renewed MOU specifies two new objectives of the partnership:

1. To establish focused group studies comprising NHG physicians, Trendlines’ executives and other invited guests to exchange knowledge on current clinical practice, innovation trends and commercial opportunities in selected medical fields so as to channel translational research into implementable products, and
2. To leverage the research and development capabilities within Trendlines Labs in Singapore and Israel on upstream research projects that enable a streamlined approach leading to stronger opportunities to translate the research into commercial outcomes.

These objectives complement the MOU’s original aims, which will continue:

3. To identify joint development projects based on emerging clinical needs from NHG clinicians/healthcare professionals; and
4. To establish collaborative projects between the relevant NHG entities and Trendlines Medical that leverage on the clinical expertise of NHG clinicians/healthcare professionals and engineering/technological expertise of Trendlines and/or its portfolio companies.

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### **About Trendlines Medical Singapore Pte Ltd**

Trendlines Medical Singapore is a medical technology start-up incubator established by Trendlines and B. Braun, one of the world's leading medical device companies. Trendlines Medical Singapore discovers, invests in, incubates, and provides broad-ranging support to nurture and develop our Singapore-based novel medical device and companies with a view toward success in the global market.

### **About The Trendlines Group**

Trendlines is an investment company focused on developing innovation-based medical and agri-food companies to fulfil its mission to improve the human condition. As intensely hands-on investors, Trendlines is involved in all aspects of its portfolio companies from technology development to business building. Trendlines' shares are traded on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX: 42T) and in the United States as an American Depositary Receipt (ADR) on the OTCQX (OTCQX: TRNLY).

### **About National Healthcare Group**

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care.

NHG's vision is "Adding Years of Healthy Life". This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 20,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective. As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations. Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in Adding Years of Healthy Life to all concerned. More information is available at [www.nhg.com.sg](http://www.nhg.com.sg).

### **About NHG Centre for Medical Technologies and Innovations**

The NHG Centre for Medical Technologies and Innovations (CMTi) plays an integral role in the innovation ecosystem to help facilitate the development of innovative MedTech solutions that can address unmet healthcare needs and contribute to positive health outcomes. CMTi's vision is closely aligned with NHG's vision and River of Life philosophy. Together, we ceaselessly search for better and innovative ways to improve the delivery of healthcare to the population, enabling our population to live well.

CMTi actively engages NHG clinicians to better understand the clinical needs and context. With an oversight of these clinical challenges at a cluster level, and knowledge of our innovation partners' cutting-edge technologies and expertise, CMTi helps to create opportunities and facilitate meaningful collaborations to co-develop innovative and implementable solutions that can address healthcare needs. NHG takes pride in its strong

innovation culture and its collaborative approach with various strategic partners from industry, academia, research and government sectors. Many of these innovation and collaborative efforts have been successfully scaled up and translated into implementable products and services accessible to patients and healthcare service providers both locally and worldwide.

## **ANNEX**

### **About Medulla Pro**

Lumbar puncture (LP) - also known as the spinal tap –is performed to either extract a sample of fluid that surrounds the spinal cord, also known as cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for laboratory diagnosis or to inject therapeutic agents. Despite the high success rate of ultrasound-guided LP, its use is not always efficient, as the probe blocks direct needle-in-plane entry. Palpation methods and “blind” lumbar puncture, which physicians have relied on, result in high procedural failure of 20 to 35 per cent. This figure is increased in patients who are obese or have spinal deformities. Medulla Pro enables real-time and hands-free ultrasound-guided tracking of the needle during its insertion, through accurate deflection of ultrasound waves. The company is working closely with clinicians from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) to adapt the system for clinical use and to better meet patient needs. The system will be undergoing a clinical trial in 2021 to investigate its effectiveness and safety.

### **About SZONE**

Patients with kidney failure or cardiovascular heart disease often need to monitor and manage their day-to-day fluid intake, as they may develop complications from under- or over-hydration. To address fluid overload control, an unmet clinical need, SZONE is developing an easy-to-use, accurate, real-time, and non-invasive hydration monitoring device, which utilises bioimpedance analysis (the resistance of an electric current through tissues) to determine the body’s hydration level via the tongue, similar to a thermometer. SZONE’s device is more accurate and objective than existing methods of fluid restriction and dry weight measurement. The company is working closely with clinicians from Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) to test the device’s effectiveness and safety in a clinical trial in early 2021.

### **About interVaal**

Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) are among the most commonly reported hospital-associated infections, accounting for 75 per cent of Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) in hospitals. Despite existing solutions, such as anti-microbial coatings on urinary catheters, CAUTI remains unabated. interVaal is working on a uniquely-designed catheter, UriGuardian™ which utilises buffer zone and pressure accumulation features to flush the urinary tract and mitigate the removal of bacteria, which in turn helps minimise and prevent CAUTI. It is working with urologists from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) and Woodlands Health Campus (WHC) to design a clinical study protocol to investigate effectiveness and safety as well as participate in an upcoming clinical trial in 2021.

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