

Janssen supports first-of-its-kind Asia Pacific Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition to improve patient outcomes across the region

- *In Asia, the incidence of prostate cancer and mortality rates are expected to double by 2030^{1,2}*
- *Men in Asia tend to get diagnosed in later stages of the disease leading to poorer prognosis³*
- *Prostate Cancer remains a low priority on the healthcare agendas of most Asian Countries⁴*

SINGAPORE, 29th November 2017 – Janssen Asia Pacific announced today it has supported the establishment of the first-of-its-kind Asia Pacific Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition with the goal to address the challenges faced by men living with prostate cancer and to improve patient outcomes across the region.

The newly formed **Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia PacificTM** which includes representatives from Australia, China, Korean, Japan and Taiwan, has marked Movember, a month dedicated to awareness around men's health with a focus on prostate cancer, with the launch of the *Prostate Cancer Asia Pacific Whitepaper Report – A united voice for change*.

Dr. Weng Ho Chow, Vice President, Asia Pacific Medical Affairs, said the company was proud to be a part of such an important and unique initiative. "Janssen is committed to supporting men living with prostate cancer and to help them achieve better health outcomes" said Dr. Chow.

"The formation of the independent Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific demonstrates the supportive role we can play in helping bring together advocates, patients and communities so they can share experiences and expertise and harness the power of many voices to make a difference to those living with prostate cancer and their families," added Dr. Chow.

The inaugural meeting of the Coalition took place earlier this year and was co-chaired by Dr. Koichiro Akakura, Department of Urology, Japan Community Health Care Organization, Tokyo Shinjuku Medical Centre, Japan, and Professor Damien Bolton, Clinical Professor, University of Melbourne, Department of Surgery and Head of Austin Urology Unit, Australia. The whitepaper was the outcome of the discussions from this meeting.

The *A united voice for change* whitepaper aims to take a collaborative approach and create a unified voice to drive change across the region to reduce the burden of prostate cancer.

Whilst each market has individual key areas of focus, the whitepaper establishes four priority calls to action:

- Improve public awareness of prostate cancer and its impact through stakeholder and community education
- Improve health care delivery and consistency of management of prostate cancer and shared decision making between patients and their healthcare professionals

- Advocate for prostate cancer becoming a priority area in national health policy
- Improve public awareness of the importance of testing for prostate cancer, especially amongst high risk groups

Dr. Akakura said that with incidence and mortality set to double across the region by 2030 there is a lot of work to be done. "With most of Asia facing an ageing population, the impact of prostate cancer for individuals, their families, communities and the health care system is set to increase significantly. We need to act now to ensure that we are well prepared to face this future burden of disease."

Professor Bolton added that the role that the patient voice can and should play in tackling these challenges should not be underestimated. "Currently the lack of awareness, understanding and stigma that can surround prostate cancer is silencing many men who should be playing more active roles in their health."

This is why I believe initiatives such as the Coalition are so important - as it allows us to work closely with those affected by the disease to initiate the change that is needed," said Professor Bolton.

The founding members of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific are:

- Prostate Cancer Patient Association, Korea, as represented by Dar Sook Lee, Chairman and Founder
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, as represented by Associate Professor Anthony Lowe, Chief Executive Officer
- China Primary Health Care Foundation, as represented by Hu Ningning, Deputy Secretary-General
- Senyu Club, Japan, as represented by Tsutomu Takeuchi, Board Chairperson
- Prostate Cancer Prevention Association, Taiwan, as represented by Hsu Tsai-Yun, Secretary General

The Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific, "A united voice for change" [whitepaper can be accessed here](#)

About Prostate Cancer in Asia

Prostate Cancer is the second most common cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths in men worldwide.⁵ In Asia, incidence rates have steeply increased over the past decades³ and are expected to almost double by 2030¹ due to an aging population, increasing urbanization and associated lifestyle changes.^{3,6} In addition, men in Asia tend to get diagnosed in later stages of the disease compared to populations in Australia, Europe and the United States, leading to a poorer prognosis and higher incidence to mortality ratio.³

Despite the significant and growing impact of prostate cancer,⁷ it remains a low priority on the healthcare agendas of most Asian countries⁴ leaving patients feeling less supported than those suffering from other cancers.

Developing national policies and providing increased support for men with prostate cancer is an urgent need that was highlighted in a recent Asian Men's Health Report.⁴

About the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific™

The Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific™ has agreed to implement a joint initiative on an annual basis to support patients across the region. It is hoped that this collaborative approach will provide a platform for the founding organizations to learn from each other, develop new ideas and approaches and exchange information on progress and best practice.

The Coalition is seeking further prostate cancer patient organizations from across the Asia region to join the Coalition and will be seeking additional sponsors to support their work.

About Janssen’s support of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific

The inaugural meeting of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific and the preparation and launch of the *A united voice for change* whitepaper were sponsored by Janssen Asia Pacific, a division of Johnson & Johnson Pte Ltd.

The whitepaper, prepared in consultation with the founding members of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific and with the co-chairs of the inaugural meeting of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific, reflects the independent opinions and views of the Prostate Cancer Patient Coalition – Asia Pacific and does not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsor.

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¹ GLOBOCAN. (2012) Prostate Asia. Number of new cancers. Available online: http://globocan.iarc.fr/old/burden.asp?selection_pop=7967&Textp=Asia&selection_cancer=24191&Text-c=Prostate&pYear=18&type=0&window=1&submit=%C2%A0Execute. Last accessed: 13 September 2017.

² GLOBOCAN (2012) Prostate Asia. Number of cancer deaths. Available online: http://globocan.iarc.fr/old/burden.asp?selection_pop=7967&Textp=Asia&selection_cancer=24191&Text-c=Prostate&pYear=18&type=1&window=1&submit=%C2%A0Execute. Last accessed: 13 September 2017.

³ Chen, R., Ren., S., Yiu, M.K., et al. (2014) Prostate cancer in Asia: A collaborative report, *Asian Journal of Urology*, 1 , 15-29.

⁴ Tan, H., Ng, C., Ho, C., & Teo, C. (2013). Asian Men's Health Report. Selangor.

⁵ GLOBOCAN (2017) Cancer Fact Sheets: prostate cancer. Available online: <http://globocan.iarc.fr/old/FactSheets/cancers/prostate-new.asp>. Last accessed: 13 September 2017.

⁶ Baade, P., Youlden, D.R., Cramb, S.M., et al. (2013) Epidemiology of prostate cancer in the Asia-Pacific region, *Prostate International*, 1 (2), 47-58.

⁷ Pakzad, R., Mohammadian-Hafshejani, A., Ghoncheh, M. et al. (2015) The incidence and mortality of prostate cancer and its relationship with development in Asia, *Prostate International*, 3, 135 – 140.