

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**31 July 2012, Tuesday**

### **IMH is the first mental health institution to be internationally recognised as a provider of quality continuing nursing education programmes**

1. The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) has been awarded the American Nurse Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Accreditation with Distinction, the highest accolade from ANCC and becoming the only institution outside the USA to receive this recognition. IMH is also the first mental health institution in the world to receive this accreditation.
2. With this newly acquired accreditation, IMH's Nursing Education Department is now certified to provide high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE) to upgrade the clinical skills of nurses who work in mental health settings and to improve their care delivery.
3. Three CNE courses currently offered by IMH Nursing Education Department - Nursing Management of Acute Psychiatric Patients, Nursing Management of Elderly Patients with Mental Illness, and Management of Disturbed, Aggressive and Violent Patients with Mental Illness, have fulfilled all of ANCC's criteria for this accreditation.
4. "It is a great honour to receive the ANCC accreditation with distinction as it shows IMH's nursing continuing education has exceeded world class standards. The recognition will aid our Nursing Education Department in building mental healthcare capabilities and strengthening mental health clinical competencies of

nurses in IMH, Singapore, the region and globally,” said A/Prof Premarani Kannusamy, Director, Nursing Administration, IMH.

5. As the ANCC online directory of accredited organisations will reflect this special designation, it will inevitably place IMH on the global map, thus moving it closer to its vision to be a world leader in mental healthcare.
6. The accreditation will also act as a catalyst in the establishment of strategic partnerships with world-renowned mental healthcare or research institutions. This will provide IMH nurses with ample opportunities to learn best practices and also afford IMH the opportunity to position itself as a tertiary centre of excellence and global leader in mental healthcare.
7. Three new CNE programmes - Specialist Mental Health Course, Management of Chronic Medical Conditions for Mental Health Nurses, and Nursing Management of Patient with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disability, are in the pipeline. IMH’s Nursing Education Department is currently developing these programmes as part of the institution’s commitment to beef up the standard of mental healthcare and these programmes will be opened to nurses in Singapore, the region and around the world.
8. As the only tertiary psychiatric institution in Singapore, IMH has continued to build on its tradition of training and nurturing the next generation of mental health nurses which began in the 1950s. Every year, trainee nurses from the NUS Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education attend the internship programme at IMH. More than 4200 of these trainee nurses have been trained in mental healthcare in IMH in the last two years. Besides training nurses, IMH also plays a key role in training undergraduate and post-graduate medical students, allied health professionals, and staff of community agencies in mental health.

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***About the Institute of Mental Health***

*The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) is the only tertiary psychiatric care institution in Singapore. Located on the sprawling 25-hectare campus of Buangkok Green Medical Park in the north-eastern part of Singapore, IMH offers a multidisciplinary and comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and counseling services. The 2010-bedded hospital aims to meet the needs of three groups of patients – children and adolescents (age below 19 years), adults and the elderly. IMH also runs mental health education programmes for the general public. These programmes aim to promote mental wellness and raise awareness of the importance and benefits of prevention, early detection and treatment of mental disorders.*

***About the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC)***

*ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization, and a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA). It seeks to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programmes. Internationally renowned for its credentialing programmes to certify and recognise nurses in specialty practice areas, ANCC also recognises healthcare organisations for promoting safe, positive work environments; and accredits continuing nursing education organisations. For more information, please visit ANCC's website at: <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/>*

Institute of Mental Health

心理卫生学院

American Nurse Credentialing Center

美国护士资格认证中心

Director, Nursing Administration

护理主任