

# Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute signs MOU on clinical trial collaboration with HKU and CUHK medical faculties (with photos)

The Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute (GBAICTI) today (May 21) held a collaboration meeting with the LKS Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong (HKUMed) and the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CU Medicine) to have an in-depth exchange on advancing clinical trial collaboration. The three parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on clinical trial collaboration after the meeting, marking a significant milestone in the development of clinical research in Hong Kong.

During the meeting, the GBAICTI Chief Executive Officer, Professor Bernard Cheung, had in-depth discussions with representatives of the two medical faculties on clinical trial collaboration. The two medical faculties are expected to launch more than 70 clinical trial projects in the coming year, covering innovative therapies in key areas including cancer, liver diseases, cardiovascular diseases, endocrine diseases, and rare diseases. The GBAICTI will provide comprehensive support, particularly in aspects such as co-ordinating multicentre cross-boundary clinical trials, connecting healthcare institutions across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and streamlining processes, to facilitate efficient implementation and execution of cross-boundary clinical trials. Moreover, the three parties will also strengthen talent training co-operation to further enhance Hong Kong's overall capability in clinical research.

After the meeting, Deputy Secretary for Health Ms Elaine Mak witnessed the signing of the MOU on clinical trial collaboration by representatives of the three parties. The MOU aims to establish a long-term, stable, and strategic partnership among the three parties, with a view to enabling the GBAICTI to better integrate Hong Kong's clinical trial resources and further enhance the city's international competitiveness in biomedical innovation, positioning Hong Kong as a clinical trial hub connecting the world and the Mainland.

Hong Kong possesses the advantages of internationally recognised clinical research institutions, professional teams, international experience and systems, extensive and standardised medical datasets, and more. Among these, both HKUMed and CU Medicine operate dedicated centres to co-ordinate clinical trial work, with extensive international collaboration experience, robust clinical research management systems, and comprehensive facilities and technology platforms to support clinical trials across different areas and development stages, playing a vital role in advancing the research and

development (R&D) of novel drugs and translational medicine. The GBAICTI will continue to deepen co-operation with other healthcare institutions, including the two medical faculties, to give full play to its function as a co-ordinating platform to consolidate clinical research resources, with a view to enhancing scientific research collaboration and accelerating the R&D and translation of innovative drugs, medical devices and technologies, thereby enabling R&D results to benefit patients and the public more rapidly, while promoting high-quality development of the life and health industry.

Established and wholly owned by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, the GBAICTI officially commenced operation on November 21 last year in the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, with the GBA International Clinical Trials Center in the Shenzhen Park also opening on the same day. Under the co-ordinated development of the "one zone, two parks" model, the "one institute, one center" will jointly establish the GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform to provide support to medical research institutions within and outside Hong Kong and actively promote cross-boundary clinical trial network co-operation, in particular in the GBA, with a view to co-ordinating Hong Kong and the Mainland to commence multicentre cross-boundary clinical trials that can meet both national and international standards.

