

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ride Across Britain to raise S\$150,000 for Breast Cancer Foundation**

- *Paralympian Dr William Tan to raise awareness for breast cancer detection and funds for Breast Cancer Foundation through the Ride Across Britain project*
- *The Ride Across Britain is a nine-day ride from 5 to 13 June 2019 that will cover 1,600 kilometres over Britain*

**Singapore, 8 May** – Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF), announced today that Singaporean Paralympian and medical doctor, Dr William Tan, will be riding across Britain to raise awareness on the importance of early breast cancer detection and to raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr Tan chose to adopt BCF as the recipient of the fundraising efforts, as BCF's cause is one that is close to his heart. From a close-knit family, Dr Tan's very own two sisters were diagnosed with breast cancer, and while one sister managed to successfully battle the cancer and is now a survivor, his other sister succumbed to the cancer.

The fundraising ride will see Dr Tan covering a distance of 1,600 kilometres across Britain over a period of nine days, from 5 to 13 June 2019. Dr Tan hopes to raise awareness on how critical it is for women to conduct self-checks and go for mammograms, as he feels that most women do not realise how early detection of breast cancer could possibly save their lives. Hundred per cent of the funds raised through this ride will be donated to BCF, where the money will go towards the Foundation's many programmes and services, including the Mammobus, a mobile screening centre.

Dr William Tan said, "Breast cancer can happen to anyone, and early detection of the condition is crucial for all women regardless of background. My hope is that through my ride, I would be able to raise the awareness for early cancer detection not only among women but among the men as well. Men can play a part in getting cancer detected early by encouraging the women in their lives to go for a mammogram screening. An hour out of your day for a mammogram screening could possibly save your life."

Mr David Fong, GM, BCF said, "Dr William Tan is an inspiration to us because he has never let adversity stop him from pursuing his passions in life or lending his support to causes he has a personal affinity with. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in Singapore. Beyond raising breast cancer awareness, the community must take action as early detection saves lives. Breast cancer is a societal issue that impacts the family unit, the workplace

and the community-at-large. BCF is grateful to be the recipient of Dr Tan's Ride Across Britain's fundraising efforts and funds raised will go towards BCF's extensive programmes which include free mammograms to low income women as well as Befriending and Support Group programmes for those afflicted."

Ride Across Britain will complement BCF's extensive efforts to encourage early detection of breast cancer. Women in Singapore seeking support for mammogram screenings can continue to participate in BCF's Community Mammobus Programme (CMP), launched with Singapore Cancer Society (SCS) and NHGD in 2018. Under the programme, mammogram screenings are made free for first-time Singaporean screeners, and subsidised for repeat screeners who are Permanent Residents. Since 2013, low income women in Singapore have also been receiving free mammograms under the BCF Encouragement for Active Mammograms (BEAM) programme.

BCF also has established counselling and psychosocial Befriending and Support Programmes for survivors and caregivers. Other services include BCF Education and Empowerment Programmes, Positive Appearance Scheme, Wig Loan Programme, Healing Through The Arts and BCF Paddlers in the Pink. Addressing the growing number of younger women afflicted with the disease, the Young Women's Support Group was launched in 2018.

A veteran in the fundraising scene, Dr Tan has fronted over 50 fundraising campaigns since 1986. Ride Across Britain will start out at Land's End, Cornwall, passing through Okehampton, Bath, Ludlow, Golbourne, Penrith, Edinburgh, Kingussie, Laird, and finally ending North at John O'Groats, Scotland. Dr Tan will be accompanied by about five cyclists from the United Kingdom. Updates on the progress of Dr Tan's Ride Across Britain can be found via BCF's [Facebook](#).

To support Dr Tan's Ride Across Britain, please go to [www.giving.sg/campaigns/ride\\_across\\_britain](http://www.giving.sg/campaigns/ride_across_britain).

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## About BCF

Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF) is a non-profit organisation with the mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Set up in 1997, BCF is committed to raising awareness about breast cancer through talks, events and publications that advocate early detection through regular screening, as well as supporting survivors and their families through various befriending and training activities. As one of the few advocacy groups in the world with a Men's Support League that was integrated with Caregiver Support Group in year 2017, BCF aims to encourage greater male participation in society's fight against this affliction.

For more information, please visit [www.bcf.org.sg](http://www.bcf.org.sg). For updates on BCF's latest work and initiatives, follow BCF at @bcf.pink (Facebook) and @bcfsg (Instagram).

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