



Galen Centre
for Health and Social Policy

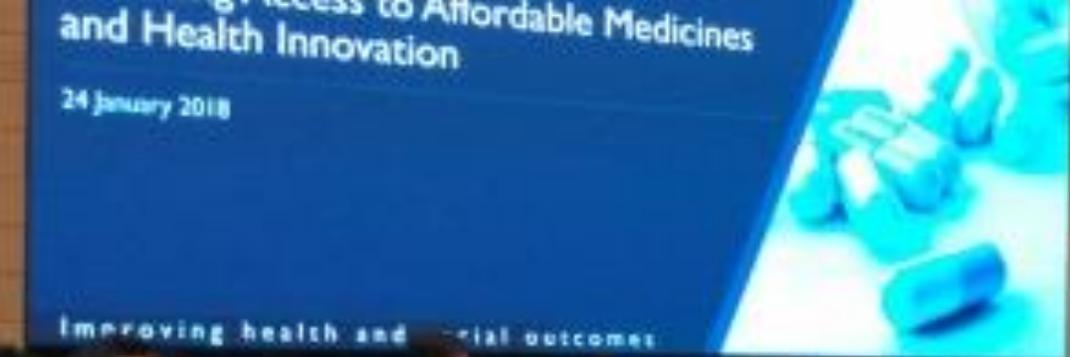
Corporate Profile

improving health and social outcomes

January 2024

Health is not just a priority.

Our mission is to ensure that our clients are **part of the change** to improve health, advance equity and achieve better outcomes.



The Galen Centre is a health advisory and advocacy communications consultancy



Headquartered in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**



An independent and non-partisan agency grounded in the realities of the Southeast Asia region



Supporting **evidence-based interventions** centred around individual freedom, choice, and innovation.

Our services



GALEN CENTRE'S SERVICES

Galen Centre is a health advisory and advocacy communications consultancy helping public, private sector and civil society organizations to be catalysts and enablers for change and progress by navigating contemporary challenges, acting with agility, anticipating social risk, building relationships and developing solutions to succeed.

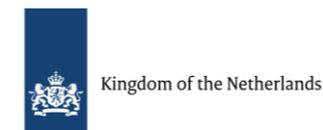
Our clients benefit from Galen Centre's leaders who have the pulse of the dynamically changing local and regional environments that define the marketplace; the first-hand experience of having faced significant issues or opportunities; the ability to harness the power of data, insights and technology; and the commitment to deliver results.

Whether it's working to increase access to quality treatment, responding to the threat of infectious diseases or raising awareness about a critical social humanitarian issue, we craft programmes aimed to achieve improved outcomes.

Our client mix is diverse and allows us to connect, collaborate and partner different stakeholders with each other



Baxter



Oncology Summit 2023

Where are we on closing the cancer care gap in Malaysia?



The Challenge

Three key areas for attention and action to reduce the impact of cancer on Malaysians:

- More people need to be screened and diagnosed at an earlier stage of their cancer when treatment is most effective, and the chance of survival is at its highest.
- Timely, effective and innovative treatment should be made available when it is needed to avoid the burden of undertreated cancer. Not all cancers can be detected early, and the health system must not leave behind those diagnosed with advanced cancer.
- The financing and governance of cancer care needs to be optimised to steer towards better survival, reduced burden from cancer, and overall better health outcomes.

The Solution

The Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy organised a two-day oncology summit with support from Takeda (Malaysia), which focused on the abovementioned areas and the contemporary challenges which affect access and coverage of effective cancer treatment and care in Malaysia. This project sought to strengthen existing engagement, advocacy for increased awareness, support, and commitment for improved access to cancer treatment and care of cancer survivors in Malaysia. It was able to increase collaboration and strengthen partnerships among policy and strategic stakeholders involved in the cancer space, and provided a coherent platform to highlight key concerns in oncology and increase the level of visibility, comprehension, and support for improvements in cancer care treatment

The Result

This event highlighted the urgent need for public and private healthcare to implement improved cancer control and prevention strategies in reducing incidence, mortality and improving cancer survival. This hybrid event was attended by more than 150 healthcare professionals, clinical researchers, patient advocacy groups, pharmaceutical professionals, and caregivers.



Increasing institutional capacity in using health technology assessments in health policy and decision-making



The Challenge

Understanding and using Health Technology Assessment (HTA) are critical for evaluating and appreciating the value of new medicines, particularly in terms of their safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. They can help identify potential benefits and risks associated with new medicines and compare them with existing treatments. By doing so, HTAs can help decision and policy makers to prioritize the most effective and efficient interventions and make informed decisions about funding and reimbursement.

The effective conduct and uptake of HTAs depend on a well-functioning ecosystem of stakeholders' adept at commissioning, generating and understanding policy relevant HTA research. It involves developing and utilising rigorous technical, transparent, and inclusive methods and processes, and a strong multisectoral appetite for the use of evidence to shape and inform policy. Stakeholders need opportunities for capacity-building in these key areas.

The Solution

This project involved a one-day workshop to provide an opportunity to assist Malaysian public healthcare stakeholders in building their capacity in planning, developing, and conducting health technological assessments. It focused on officers of the Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS), Pharmacy Services Programme, National Institute of Health and other related institutions.

The Result

The event was organised with support from Boehringer Ingelheim (Malaysia), and attended by over 50 healthcare professionals, clinical researchers, and pharmaceutical experts. The workshop equipped participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for effectively collecting Real World Data (RWD) to support drug reimbursement decision-making. It also enabled participants to address challenges and seize opportunities associated with the utilisation of RWE in HTA. It fostered a profound understanding of the application of RWE in rare diseases, with a focus on regulatory and reimbursement aspects.



Integrating treatable rare diseases into newborn screening programmes in Malaysia



The Challenge

The Malaysian new-born screening program currently screens for a limited number of rare diseases, including congenital hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria, and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency. However, there are many other rare diseases that are not currently included in the screening program.

As medical knowledge and technology advance, it may be necessary to review and update the list of rare diseases screened in the Malaysian new-born screening (NBS) programme to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. Regular review and updates to the screening program will ensure that all treatable rare diseases are identified, included, and managed appropriately, thereby providing the possibility of improving outcomes for affected individuals and their families.

The Solution

Two workshops and a symposium were planned under this initiative to build foundations of confidence and public trust in the benefits of screening for treatable rare diseases as part of national new-born screening programmes. The sessions would discuss the need for including treatable rare diseases into existing new-born screening programmes.

The Result

The sessions were well attended and supported by the International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI) and the Malaysian Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (MyPOPI). Attendees including stakeholders from relevant government ministries, private sector organizations and patient support groups, patient advocates and academicians. It resulted in a call for action among key government and non-government stakeholders to conduct a review of relevant NBS policies and to provide future opportunities for discourse, policy shaping and implementation of key recommendations.



Multi – Stakeholder Summit

Leaving no one behind: Advancing care for older patients with rare diseases



The Challenge

Providing treatment for older patients living with rare diseases poses unique challenges due to the intersection of advanced age and the rarity of their conditions. In the current context of competing healthcare resources, rare diseases often face significant disadvantages. These disorders are often overlooked by health systems due to the perception that they primarily affect a limited portion of the population and are classified as non-communicable. The situation is often compounded by the lack of comprehensive data regarding their prevalence and impact. This is currently the situation in Malaysia.

Besides currently lacks a proper registry for rare diseases (RD), the regulatory framework in Malaysia does not currently include specific legislation pertaining to orphan drugs. According to available data, Malaysian patients with rare diseases face significant challenges, which include delayed diagnosis, restricted availability of genetic medicine services, and the financial burden associated with costly therapy. Combined these may present formidable obstacles to access effective therapies. However, older people is generally absent from the narrative concerning people living with rare disease. Existing policy frameworks are skewed towards infants, adolescents, and working-age adults.

The Solution

The Galen Centre of Health and Social Policy is providing support to Pfizer (Malaysia) for the implementation of its “Collaboration – Working together for adult rare diseases” project. This involves the organising of a roundtable discussion on rare diseases and aging, and the development of a White Paper. The latter document is intended for submission to the Government of Malaysia and for use in advocating for the improvement of care and treatment for those who are aged and living with rare diseases.

The Result

A roundtable discussion has been convened prior to developing the White Paper to discuss critical elements of the provision of care for adults living with rare diseases. It brought together policy makers, patient advocates, caregivers, healthcare professionals, academia, and other related stakeholders who shared and discussed challenges, gaps and opportunities for improvement of care for adults living with rare disease. The document is being drafted to present and provide comprehensive policy recommendations aimed at government and non-government decision-makers.



Advocating and lobbying for passage of new anti-tobacco and anti-vape legislation

Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Bill 2023

The Challenge

In 2023, Parliament was presented with the opportunity to consider passing the Control of Smoking Product for Public Health Bill 2023 (formerly known as the *Tobacco And Smoking Control Bill 2022*). This proposed piece of omnibus legislation, tabled in 2022 by the previous government, was revised and amended based on inputs and suggestions from MPs and a parliamentary select committee. Due to the government's decision in April 2023 to remove gel and liquid nicotine used for e-cigarettes and vape from the list of scheduled substances under the Poisons Act 1952, a vacuum or a lacunae in the law was created. Children could now legally purchase nicotine vape products. Malaysia needed to bring its tobacco-related legislation and regulations in line with those of other countries such as Australia, Thailand, and Singapore. It needed a separate law which acts as primary legislation not just for tobacco products but also for vape and other future nicotine delivery systems. The passage of this legislation was not a certainty. It was unpopular with the public, legislators and industry.

The Solution

The Galen Centre of Health and Social Policy mobilized its resources in health communications and advocacy to conduct an aggressive campaign to galvanise and strengthen support among the public and legislators. The campaign complemented existing and ongoing efforts with similar objectives. This initiative was implemented through mainstream and online media, public forums, roundtable discussions, and direct lobbying and engagements with members of Parliament. This campaign continued throughout 2023.

The Result

The Control of Smoking Product for Public Health Bill 2023 was successfully passed through the Houses of Parliament in December 2023.



Sample Deliverables

POLICY BRIEF

No. 26, June 2023

Control of Smoking Product for Public Health Bill 2023

Overview and FAQs

The Government is expected to table Control of Smoking Product for Public Health Bill 2023 in the Dewan Rakyat during the 15th Parliament for debate.

Highlights of the Bill include:

- Legislation to **regulate the distribution and sales of tobacco and vape**
- Restrictions regarding **promotion and sponsorship** of tobacco and vape
- Prohibitions against **sale and advertising of items resembling tobacco products and smoking items** other than tobacco products
- Restrictions on **smoking in restricted areas**
- A **generational ban on smoking and vaping** for those born after 2007

This is a piece of legislation that if implemented properly and effectively, will help save the lives of thousands of Malaysians each year.

It can potentially make a serious dent in smoking prevalence and regulate vape which has gone out of control.

Background

In the upcoming session in June, Parliament will have the opportunity to consider passing the Control of Smoking Product for Public Health Bill 2023 (formerly known as the Tobacco And Smoking Control Bill).

This proposed piece of omnibus legislation, tabled last year by the previous government, has since been revised and amended based on inputs and suggestions from MPs and a parliamentary select committee.

Why is the Bill needed?

Malaysia does not have a primary law which governs the sale, use, and promotion of tobacco products such as cigarettes or vape.

The government depends on the Control of Tobacco Product Regulations 2004, its amendments and sub regulations. These are parked under the Food Act 1983 and subject to the powers and limits of that legislation.

"Electronic cigarettes and vaping...is a trap. Kids are being recruited at early age. Then they get hooked for life. And most actually move into regular cigarette smoking. But e-cigarettes and vaping itself is also harmful."

"To all countries, please protect your citizens, especially your children."

- In response to news that Malaysia had deregulated liquid and gel nicotine used for vapes and e-cigarettes

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General, World Health Organisation
2 June 2023 press conference

Understanding unmet needs in treatment and care of generalized pustular psoriasis (GPP) in Malaysia

A Report

Draft 6



White Paper Preventing Pneumococcal Disease Through Healthier And Safer Workplaces

Measuring Impact

Working Together

The Galen Centre understands the need to demonstrate impact.

From the outset, we will hold an expectations setting meeting with our clients to discuss everything from how you prefer to communicate and the roles of people in your organization, to how often we should meet and what information you want to see.

Typically, we will have regular meetings; establish timelines with key deliverables; define metrics for our work with key checkpoints along the course of the project; and provide regular updates.



The Team



Azrul Mohd Khalib
Chief Executive Officer
Project Lead

With an education in genetics and public health policy, **Azrul** has worked as a health development programme specialist for more than 21 years. He has experience working on issues related to social welfare, public health, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, gender based violence, and humanitarian assistance.

Previous positions have been with the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC).

He is a writer and was a columnist with two Malaysian publications, the Malay Mail and China Press.



Dr. Navittra Gunasagaran
Research and Projects Officer

Navittra is a Medical Doctor, Disaster Preparedness Instructor, Health Promoter and Educator with a passion for health policy.

With extensive experience working with multiple organizations and NGOs, she has developed expertise and works in the areas of non-communicable diseases (NCD), health accessibility, health inequalities, and health education. Navittra's dedication to improving health outcomes is reflected in her work to address systemic issues, and she continues to drive meaningful change through her work.

She firmly believes that every member in healthcare is a key player in managing healthcare crises and by collaboratively taking shared responsibilities, she believes we can build a much resilient healthcare system.



Gurkiret Kaur
Research Officer

Gurkiret is a Medical Bioscience graduate from Monash University Malaysia. Her passion for the medical field has led to her pursuing a career in the public health sector. She has worked in the cancer space as an intern at a cancer NGO advocating for access to holistic cancer care and building a well-integrated community. While working as a medical lab scientist at a Malaysian medical centre, she was part of the COVID team that ran RT-PCR tests for diagnostic purposes.



Dr. Suan Ee Ong
Senior Fellow

Suan is a Senior Advisor at Research for Impact Singapore, a think-and-do tank focused on social, behavioural, health, and systems research and evaluation. She studied political science and international relations in Australia and France, and obtained her graduate degrees in public health from the National University of Singapore.

She works on health systems and policy research with a focus on evidence synthesis, policy analysis, and qualitative methods.

She is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore.

The Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy is an independent public policy research and advocacy organisation based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia committed to the development of patient-centric and community focused health and social sectors.

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