

Press release
For Immediate Release

“One Institute, One Centre” Collaborate to Develop an International Health and Medical Innovation Hub

Deepening Greater Bay Area Collaboration to Advance Clinical Research and Medical Innovation

Hong Kong, 28 September 2026 — The Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute (GBAICTI) today held a press conference together with the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trials Center (BAY TRIAL) under the theme “Deepening Greater Bay Area Collaboration to Advance Clinical Research and Medical Innovation”. The press conference presented the latest progress in clinical research and medical innovation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) under the “one institute, one centre” collaboration model, and shared a number of achievements in cross-boundary collaboration.

The First Five-Year Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026–2030) (the “Hong Kong Five-Year Plan”), under the policy direction of “Develop a Healthcare Innovation System”, creates a clinical trial and medical innovation ecosystem, driving the high-quality development of medical innovation in the GBA by deepening the “one institute, one centre” collaboration on clinical research in the Hetao area. The 2026 Policy Address of the Chief Executive further states that the Government is expediting Hong Kong’s development into an international health and medical innovation hub, progressively enhancing the drugs and medical devices industry chain through the establishment of the Centre for Medical Products Regulation (CMPR) and the phased implementation of the “primary evaluation” mechanism for new drugs. Leveraging the synergies of the “one zone, two parks” and “one institute, one centre” models in the Hetao area through the “Greater Bay Area Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform”, GBAICTI is promoting exemplary multi-centre clinical trials while enhancing clinical trial infrastructure. In conjunction with the reform of the evaluation and approval mechanism for drugs, this provides one-stop support for innovative pharmaceutical and medical device enterprises.

The press conference highlighted the collaborative outcomes of the Greater Bay Area Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform, jointly established by GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL in December 2025. Through the collaboration mechanism, the “one institute, one centre” provides one-stop support services tailored to the needs of different projects, ranging from regulatory strategy consultation and matching with research sites across the GBA, to the coordination of multi-centre cross-boundary clinical trials and participant recruitment. The Greater Bay Area Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform will continue to actively promote exemplary multi-centre clinical trial projects and further enhance regional clinical trial infrastructure.

The press conference also invited academic and industry partners to share their experience and achievements in cross-boundary clinical trial collaboration. Assistant Professor Eva Cheung of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, School of Clinical Medicine, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine,

at The University of Hong Kong and Dr Peng Qiyu, Senior Researcher at Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, introduced a wearable brain positron emission tomography (PET) system project. The project demonstrates the synergistic strengths of research teams in Hong Kong and the GBA in translational research, helping to shorten the process from laboratory prototype development to clinical validation in neuroscience and neurodegenerative disease research.

Dr Xia Jin, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Yicura BioMed, shared how the company is working with GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL under their MOU signed in July 2025 to advance its HIV therapeutic vaccine pipeline as a cure strategy for HIV infection, with support in facilitating the carrying out of a Phase I clinical study at Chinese University Phase I Clinical Trial Centre in the Prince of Wales Hospital as well as the planning and initiation of 2 cross border Phase II clinical trials involving multiple trial sites in Beijing, Tianjin, Zhengzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and locally in Hong Kong.

Professor Dennis Lam, Founder of Health Hope Pharma Limited, discussed the MOU signed with GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL in July 2026, under which two therapies for metastatic breast cancer and age-related macular degeneration are being taken forward as multi-centre cross-boundary trials. He highlighted the value of industry participation in clinical research collaboration, and how access to the GBA's patient population through the “one institute, one centre” changes the feasibility and efficiency of trials for Hong Kong enterprises. Together, these cases show how academia and industry, with facilitation from GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL, are turning cross-boundary collaboration into concrete projects, and show that the collaborative foundation of the GBA clinical research ecosystem is being steadily strengthened.

Professor Bernard Cheung, Chief Executive Officer of the GBAICTI, said: “Hong Kong has robust systems, internationally aligned standards and extensive global networks, while the GBA offers abundant resources, a large patient population offering real-world application scenarios and a strong industrial foundation. Bringing these strengths together is a key advantage for Hong Kong in developing into an international medical innovation hub. We are committed to strengthening Hong Kong’s clinical research capabilities, supporting the research and development, evaluation, registration and application of innovative drugs and medical devices, and accelerating the translation of more research outcomes into real-world impact — enabling patients to benefit sooner while aligning with the strategic deployment under the country’s 15th Five-Year Plan for developing the emerging industries of biomedicine and medical devices.”

Professor Li Yichong, Director of the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trials Center, said: “Since the establishment of the ‘one institute, one centre’ in November 2024, BAY TRIAL and GBAICTI have worked closely together to jointly advance cross-boundary clinical research collaboration. The Greater Bay Area has rich clinical resources, strong research capabilities and a solid industry foundation. By fully leveraging regional synergies, we can further enhance our capabilities in high-quality clinical research and innovation translation, accelerate the translation and application of research outcomes, and bring greater benefits to patients.”

The press conference also introduced the inaugural Clinical Advancement and Research Excellence Summit (CARE Summit 2026), to be held by GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 4 to 5 November 2026. The Summit will bring together leaders and experts from academia, healthcare institutions, industry and regulatory bodies across the GBA, Australia, South

Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and the United Kingdom to discuss future trends in clinical research, promote cross-boundary collaboration and knowledge exchange, and showcase how the integration of research ecosystems, regulatory innovation and strategic partnerships can accelerate the development and application of medical innovation outcomes. The Summit also echoes the policy direction set out in the Hong Kong Five-Year Plan and the Policy Address to advance Hong Kong's development into an international health and medical innovation hub.

Looking ahead, GBAICTI and BAY TRIAL will continue to expand their partner network, strengthen research infrastructure and talent development, promote more cross-boundary multi-centre clinical trials. In line with the Hong Kong Five-Year Plan and the Policy Address, both parties will continue to deepen “one institute, one centre” clinical research collaboration in the Hetao area, advance the integration of clinical trial resources between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and upgrade the one-stop service platform, enabling more research outcomes to benefit patients, helping Hong Kong develop into an international health and medical innovation hub, and driving the high-quality development of the healthcare innovation in the GBA.

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