

MEDIA RELEASE

## **PREMIER INTEGRATED LABS CELEBRATES PRESTIGIOUS UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2024**

Groundbreaking work in detecting metabolic dysfunction-associated  
steatotic liver disease (MASLD) early

**Kuala Lumpur, 16 August 2024** – Premier Integrated Labs proudly celebrated its prestigious UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award 2024 at a special event hosted by UNIVANTS. The celebration was graced by Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly bin Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia.

Premier Integrated Labs is the only winner from Asia, with the other two winners coming from Canada and the United States. This international award, established by Abbott and leading healthcare institutions, recognises outstanding achievements and innovations in healthcare.

Premier Integrated Labs – one of Asia's leading diagnostics laboratories under the IHH Laboratories network, and part of IHH Healthcare Malaysia – received this honour for its groundbreaking work in detecting metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) early.

MASLD is a common liver disease that can lead to serious health problems like cirrhosis and liver cancer. Early detection is crucial but difficult. Traditional methods like liver biopsies are invasive and not ideal for regular checks. Other methods like FibroScan are expensive and less effective for obese patients, and liver function tests often miss early signs.

In response, Premier Integrated Labs started a screening programme with the Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) scoring system in July 2022. This system uses simple, affordable tests to check for liver fibrosis.

Mohd Hareeff Muhammed, Chief Executive Officer of Premier Integrated Labs, said, "Laboratory medicine is key to finding diseases early and improving outcomes. By using FIB-4 in routine checks, we can help more people understand their liver health and significantly improve how liver disease is diagnosed and treated."

To date, Premier Integrated Labs has screened over 600,000 patients and identified more than 12% at moderate and 3% at high risk for MASLD. Patient outcomes have significantly

improved through early follow-ups and interventions, which have also led to reduced hospital stays and lower overall healthcare costs.

To commemorate this award, Premier Integrated Labs is awarding 10,000 free FIB-4 screening tests to the Academy of Medicine Malaysia, standing firmly with the cause of early detection.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia, highlighted, “As the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (or NCDs) continues to rise in Malaysia, early detection becomes increasingly crucial in building a healthier community. This mission is very close to our hearts, as the Ministry of Health is shifting from a curative approach to healthcare in Malaysia to one that is preventive, promotive and predictive. Hence, the success of Premier Integrated Labs in early disease detection and management is of utmost significance and importance.”



This award highlights Premier Integrated Labs' commitment to innovative healthcare solutions. By using the FIB-4 scoring system, PIL sets a new standard for early disease detection and patient care. This initiative not only improves clinical decision-making but also reinforces the vital role of laboratory medicine in enhancing public health.

The effort does not stop at winning the award. Two representatives from each of the top elite care teams will come together in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a closed roundtable event. This gathering will provide an invaluable opportunity for these healthcare leaders to discuss common themes and challenges in the industry. The proceedings from this event will be published, offering shared insights that could shape the future of integrated healthcare.

#### *Photo Caption*

An awards ceremony was held today at Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur, hosted by UNIVANTS, and graced by distinguished guests including YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia and Dato' Indera Dr. Nor Azimi binti Yunus, Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia.

This recognition celebrates Premier Integrated Labs' pioneering work in the early detection of metabolic-dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease using FIB-4 and its dedication to advancing diagnostic capabilities and improving patient outcomes.

	<p>Photo 1 (<i>from left</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tricia Ravalico, Director, Scientific Leadership for Abbott Diagnostics Division</li> <li>2. Evonne Kong, Senior Manager, Medical Affairs and Quality, Premier Integrated Labs</li> <li>3. Jean-François Naa, CEO, IHH Healthcare Malaysia</li> <li>4. YB Datuk Seri Haji Dr. Dzulkefly Bin Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia</li> <li>5. Hareeff Muhammed, CEO, Premier Integrated Labs</li> <li>6. Dr. Leslie Charles, Consultant Chemical Pathologist and Metabolic Medicine Specialist, Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur</li> <li>7. Low Yoke Lee, Biochemist, Department of Pathology, Premier Integrated Labs</li> </ol>
	<p>Photo 2 (<i>from left</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hareeff Muhammed, CEO, Premier Integrated Labs</li> <li>2. Dato' Indera Dr. Nor Azimi binti Yunus, Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia</li> <li>3. YB Datuk Seri Haji Dr. Dzulkefly Bin Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia</li> <li>4. Jean-François Naa, CEO, IHH Healthcare Malaysia</li> <li>5. Professor Dr. Rosmawati Mohamed, Master, Academy of Medicine Malaysia</li> </ol>

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**ABOUT PREMIER INTEGRATED LABS**

Premier Integrated Labs is one of Asia's leading medical diagnostic laboratories under IHH Laboratories, and part of IHH Healthcare Malaysia, all within the IHH Healthcare global network.

With 34 labs located across the country, Premier Integrated Labs serves specialists, general practitioners, medical clinics, medical centres, and major tertiary hospitals, aiding in the diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of patient health. Our services range from fundamental Haematology testing to highly advanced Cytogenetic and Molecular Diagnostics.

Premier Integrated Labs performs more than 24 million tests annually on average, supported by competent technical personnel and experienced pathologists who ensure high-quality results. The accuracy and efficiency of our laboratory services are critical in helping physicians make informed treatment decisions, ultimately enhancing the patient experience.

Premier Integrated Labs implements a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2000 to ensure high-quality healthcare delivery. We hold accreditations from CAP and ISO 15189, as well as MSQH and JCI in line with the standards of IHH Healthcare Malaysia's hospitals.

To meet the evolving needs of healthcare, Premier Integrated Labs continuously improves its services by adopting the latest technology and offering an ever-expanding range of comprehensive pathological tests. We utilise state-of-the-art technology and cutting-edge equipment to ensure high-quality results and excellent patient care.

For more information, visit [www.premierintegratedlabs.com.my](http://www.premierintegratedlabs.com.my)

#### **ABOUT IHH HEALTHCARE MALAYSIA**

IHH Healthcare Malaysia is one of the largest private healthcare providers in Malaysia, with approximately 3,000 beds. Our healthcare network comprises 11 Pantai Hospitals, four Gleneagles Hospitals, Prince Court Medical Centre and Timberland Medical Centre, and is complemented by ancillary services including Premier Integrated Labs, Pantai Integrated Rehab and a chain of primary care clinics under Twin Towers Medical Centre. Our team of over 14,000 staff and more than 1,500 consultants are strongly committed to our aspiration to **Care. For Good.** where we prioritise patients' needs to deliver quality clinical outcomes.

IHH Healthcare Malaysia is part of IHH Healthcare, a world-leading integrated healthcare provider with presence in 10 countries, including its key markets of Malaysia, Singapore, Turkiye, India, and Greater China (including Hong Kong). IHH's portfolio of trusted brands include Acibadem, Mount Elizabeth, Prince Court, Gleneagles, Fortis, Pantai and Parkway. Our vision is to be the world's most trusted healthcare services network.

More information can be found at [www.ihhhealthcare.com/malaysia](http://www.ihhhealthcare.com/malaysia)