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Prince Court Medical Center again tops list of 2014 World's Best Hospitals for Medical Tourists $^{\rm TM}$

Malaysia's Prince Court Medical Center is again named the hospital that best provides medical tourists with outstanding care beyond standard clinical protocols as well as excellent medical treatment. India and Thailand have fewer hospitals in the Top 10 World's Best Hospitals for Medical TouristsTM.

November 14, 2014 – Bangkok and Scottsdale – For two years in a row, a Malaysian hospital has been named the top hospital for medical tourists in the annual ranking by the Medical Travel Quality Alliance (MTQUA, http://mtqua.org).

For the first time since the list has been published, no country is represented by more than one hospital. A year ago, Thailand and India each had two hospitals listed. This year, only five of the top 10 hospitals are in Asia, serving hundreds of thousands of medical tourists from the region and beyond for inpatient and outpatient medical treatment. A South African hospital makes its first appearance on the MTQUA Top 10 list.

After reviewing top hospitals around the world, Prince Court Medical Center (http://www.princecourt.com) in Kuala Lumpur was again selected as the hospital that best provides medical tourists with outstanding care beyond standard clinical protocols as well as excellent medical treatment.

"Prince Court is already known as an outstanding medical facility," says Julie Munro, MTQUA president. "This award recognizes that it also pays the utmost attention to key non-clinical aspects of care that influence good outcomes and a successful medical travel journey for medical tourists."

MTQUA believes medical tourists are not ordinary patients, and require care beyond standard clinical protocols. Communication, cultural expectations, social practices, ethics, and post-discharge care coordination are some of the factors that affect good care for traveling international patients.

"It's almost impossible for medical tourists to know how to find a good hospital that will truly provide the treatment and care they are traveling to get. We hope consumers and doctors will pay more attention to non-clinical factors that can significantly impact clinical outcomes and not just ask about hotels and airport pickups," says Munro.

Thailand, often thought to be the most popular medical destination, continues its drop in standing as a leading medical tourism destination. Its underdeveloped medical tourism infrastructure, poorly managed leadership and marketing through the government tourism board, and an uncertain political environment are causing patients and facilitators to look for alternative medical destinations. Competitors such as Malaysia and Turkey stand to benefit from this lack of growth in Thailand's medical tourism industry according to MTQUA.

Selection criteria are described on the MTQUA website at http://www.mtqua.org/providers/top-10-worlds-best-hospitals-for-medical-tourists-new/

The Top 10 World's Best Hospitals for Medical TouristsTM for 2014 are (1) <u>Prince Court Medical Center</u>, Malaysia, (2) <u>Asklepios Klinik Barmbek</u>, Germany, (3) <u>Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta</u>, India, (4) <u>Anadolu Medical Center</u>, Turkey, (5) <u>Wooridul Spine Hospital</u>, Korea, (6) Shouldice Hospital, Canada, (7) <u>Gleneagles Hospital</u>, Singapore, (8) <u>Clemenceau Medical Center</u>, Lebanon, (9) <u>Bumrungrad International</u>, Thailand, and (10) <u>Mediclinic Morningside</u>, South Africa.

Medical Travel Quality Alliance (MTQUA, http://mtqua.org), an independent international organization founded in 2009 to promote the special safety and quality needs in treatment and care of medical tourists, publishes the Top 10 World's Best Hospitals For Medical TouristsTM and Best Practices in Medical Tourism. Medical tourism certification from MTQUA is the only global certification program for hospitals, clinics, agencies, recovery resorts and related services and providers.

Contact:

Caroline Bodanis Telephone +1 602 6354664, +66 859024500 Email caroline@mtqua.org