



December 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Council of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology and I would like to bid you a warm welcome to the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2019 on 12th to 15th December 2019 in Kolkata, India.

This is the second time the APDW is held in India, the first time was in 2008 in New Delhi. The APAGE is proudly honoured to be associated in the organisation of this edition of the Congress together with the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, the Society of GI Endoscopy of India and the Indian National Association for Study of Liver Diseases.

The theme for this year is “Evidence to Expertise” and we are thankful to the Organising Committee as well as the Scientific Committee for their untiring efforts and hard work to ensure the success of this Congress.

Famously known as the “City of Joy”, Kolkata is the artistic, cultural and intellectual capital of India. Formerly the capital of the British Empire before the Government was shifted to Delhi, Kolkata has a distinct tinge of its royal past in every nook and cranny of the city. Apart from a lively nightlife, Kolkata is also well-known for its street food. The city is lined with eateries and food stalls at every corner where you can savour local Bengali cuisine, as well as local snacks such as *jhalmuri* or *ghugni chaat*.

I hereby wish all delegates an enjoyable time in Kolkata, India, and hope you will take this opportunity to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances.

Professor Dai-Ming Fan
President
APAGE

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The APDNews, the official news channel of the APAGE, serves as the platform for APAGE and its member societies and affiliates to share their academic activities and events to promote regional collaboration and teamwork. The prime annual academic meeting for our region is the Asian Pacific Digestive Week. Last year the APDW 2018 was successfully organised in Seoul, Korea, from 15th to 18th November 2018 and we look forward to the APDW 2019 which will be held in Kolkata, India, from 12th to 15th December 2019.

This issue of the APDNews, as before, carries the reports and news from the APAGE itself, member societies as well as from consensus and special interest groups that took place in the Asia Pacific Region for the past one year.

I am grateful for the ongoing support from the APAGE President, Professor Dai-Ming Fan, and the APAGE Council, and the contribution and technical support of Ms Molly Kong, the Executive Director of APAGE, and her team.

Professor Tiing-Leong Ang
Chairman
APDNews



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Asian Pacific Digestive Week APDW 2018

in conjunction with
the 2nd Korea Digestive Disease Week (KDDW 2018)

15th - 18th November 2018
Coex, Seoul, Korea

*Connecting Excellence on
Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Asia Pacific*

Report by Professor Won-Ho Kim

The Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2018, held in conjunction with the Korea Digestive Disease Week (KDDW) 2018 from 15th to 18th November 2018 at Coex, Seoul, Korea, ended in a great success with a total of 3,801 participants from 51 countries/cities including 604 faculty members.

The success of APDW 2018 was attributed to the active participation and dedication of the 26 organising committee members and the cooperation and the concerted efforts of the Korean Society of Gastroenterology, Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Korean Association for the Study of the Liver, Korean Society of Neurogastroenterology & Motility, Korean College of Helicobacter and Upper Gastrointestinal Research, Korean Association for the

Study of Intestinal Disease, Korean Pancreatobiliary Association and Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Cancer. Under the theme of "Connecting excellence in gastroenterology and hepatology in Asia Pacific", these societies joined hands to offer a comprehensive programme that integrated cutting-edge knowledge and advanced technologies in research, internal medicine and surgery, and basic and clinical practice in the fields related to gastroenterology and hepatology.

The programme included PG Course, Symposia, Live Demonstration, Hands-on Workshops, Named Lectures, Luncheon Symposia and related societies/sponsored sessions hosted by APAGE, WEO, WGO and KDDW to name a few.

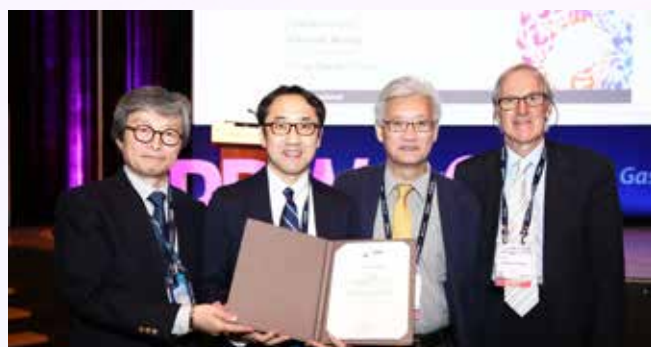


Marshall & Warren Lecture
Nayoung Kim
"Chemoprevention of gastric cancer by *H. pylori* eradication and its underlying mechanism"

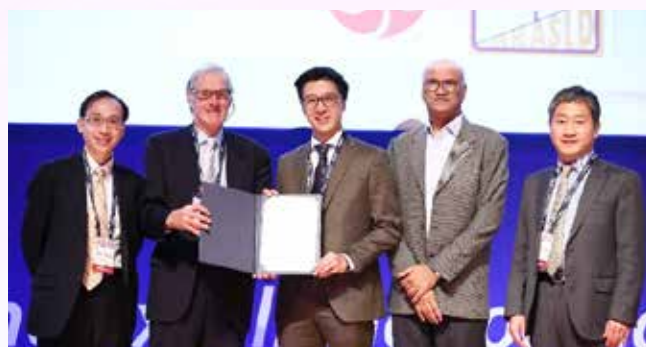
LECTURESHIPS



Okuda Lecture
Henry LY Chan
"Challenges of hepatitis B in the era of antiviral therapy"



Emerging Leader Lecture
Yoshimasa Saito
"Establishment of an organoid bank of biliary tract and pancreatic cancers and its application for personalised therapy"



Emerging Leader Lecture
Wai-Kay Seto
"Disease outcomes of chronic hepatitis B in the era of nucleoside analogue therapy"



A total of 1,853 abstracts were received from 34 countries/cities of which 1,817 were accepted for presentation in different categories: Young Investigator Awards, Posters of Distinction Awards, E-poster Presentation, and E-poster Exhibition.

The participation of 60 industry sponsors enabled APDW 2018 to be more informative while cultural/social programmes including welcome reception, faculty dinner, K-pop concert, and photo event with traditional Korean costumes made it even more fruitful.

WGO Distinguished Global Lecture 2018



WEO Honorary Lectureship



Awardees of APDWF/JGHF Young Investigator Awards & APDWF Posters of Distinction Awards



Scientific Programmes



APDW 2018 Organising Committee



Opening Ceremony



Welcome Reception



Faculty Dinner



Events & Networking



APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship 2018

The APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship, jointly sponsored by the APAGE and the JGH Foundation, is to assist a medical graduate who wishes to obtain training as a Clinician Scientist in the broad field of gastroenterology and hepatology and related disorders in an APAGE member country other than his/her own.

The Fellowship in 2018 was awarded to Dr Jeevinesh Naidu Aplanaidu, who was a Consultant Gastroenterologist at the National University of Malaysia Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dr Naidu had commenced his one-year training fellowship at the Department of Gastroenterology, Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Discipline of Medicine, University of Adelaide, Australia, since June 2018, under the mentorship of an international leader, Associate Professor Nam Nguyen. Dr Naidu would pursue a Fellowship in Interventional Endoscopy (Royal Adelaide Hospital) combined with a PhD in Pancreatic Cancer (University of Adelaide).

The Award Presentation of the Fellowship was held on 17th November 2018, during the APDW 2018 in Seoul, Korea. A brief introduction of the Fellowship was presented by Professor Tiing-Leong Ang, Chair of the

APAGE Award Committee 2018, followed by the presentation of the certificate of award to Dr Jeevinesh Naidu, by Emeritus Professor Ian Roberts-Thomson, Chairman of the JGH Foundation.

Dr Naidu hopes that his work will lead to better outcomes for people afflicted with this disease. He aims to maximise research opportunities and achieve excellence in Interventional EUS and ERCP.



APAGE Consensus Meeting on Common Errors in IBD Management in Asia

16th - 17th August 2019

The Asia Pacific Consensus Working Group held a Round Table Meeting on IBD on 16th & 17th August 2019 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The format of the meeting was slightly different from previous meetings; a rigorous Delphi voting system was applied. The objective of this meeting was to formulate

statements on common pitfalls in IBD and how to avoid them. The paper will be entitled, "Common Errors in the Screening, Diagnosis and Management of IBD in Asia" and will be published in the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH).



APAGE Strategic Planning Meeting 2019

29th - 31st March 2019

Report by Professor Dai-Ming Fan

The principal office bearers of APAGE congregated at the Renaissance Xi'an Hotel, Xi'an, China, for a strategic meeting on 29th to 31st March 2019.

The attendees were Professor Dai-Ming Fan (President, APAGE), Professor Kentaro Sugano (Immediate Past President, APAGE & President, APDWF), Professor Khean-Lee Goh (Past President, APAGE & Immediate Past President, APDWF), Associate Professor Choon-Jin Ooi (Vice President, APAGE), Professor Justin Che-Yuen Wu (Secretary-General, APAGE), Professor Tooru Shimosegawa (Treasurer, APAGE), Professor Min-Hu Chen (President, CSG & Council Member, APAGE) and Professor Kai-Chun Wu (Vice President, CSG). Dr Zhiping Yang (Assistant to Professor Dai-Ming Fan), Ms Molly

Kong (Executive Director, APAGE) and Ms Michele Theng (Administrative Executive, APAGE) were also in attendance.

The main objective of the strategic planning meeting was to strategize and to rethink the position and role of the Association. The APAGE normally organises a retreat when new office bearers have been elected to office.

The Chinese Society of Gastroenterology was honoured to host the meeting and provided warm and congenial hospitality.

On day one (29th March 2019), guests were hosted to a day tour around the city of Xi'an, with a visit to the Green Dragon Temple and the Great Wild Goose Pagoda to witness the freshly bloomed cherry blossoms, followed by a traditional lunch at Yong Cheng Yi Courtyard to enjoy an ancient ambience dining experience. After lunch, guests adjourned to the Muslim Street Quarters to visit the one and only Royal Mosque in China, before returning to the hotel to be ferried to the Tang Paradise for a warm Welcome Reception. After dinner, guests were taken to a stroll around the Royal Garden, a leisure palace of the Qin Emperor.

The APAGE Strategic Meeting was held in the morning of 30th March 2019, on various topics including understanding the history and mission of APAGE, as well as its



collaborations. Professor Khean-Lee Goh gave us an insight on the history, background, mission, and the aims and objectives of setting up the APAGE and APDWF, whilst Professor Kentaro Sugano presented the activities of APAGE for the period during his term as the President of APAGE 2014-2018, the relation of APAGE with JGH and JGHF, the APDW/WGO collaboration, the guidelines for recommendations for the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture, the liaison with JGH and GUT on publications, the APAGE-AGA symposium and collaboration, APAGE research grant and the procedures for nominating APAGE Executive Committee. Associate Professor Choon-Jin Ooi and Professor Tooru Shimosegawa presented the financial status of APAGE, and the Meeting was concluded with the appointment of co-opted council members and chairs of subcommittees, followed by an exclusive lunch in the hotel.

In the evening, the guests were then hosted to a dinner at the Tang Dynasty Restaurant and Theatre, with a spectacular dance and musical performance on the life of the legendary Empress Wu Ze Tian, the sole female Emperor of China.

The retreat concluded on 31st March 2019 with a day tour to the Terracotta Museum, lunch at Da Qin Xiao Yan, a shopping spree at the Muslim Street, followed by a dinner at the Ma Hua Noodles to sample local Muslim food.

On behalf of the Chinese Society of Gastroenterology which will be hosting the APDW Congress in September 2021, we welcome you to come and attend this congress. We can promise you an academic programme, scrumptious food and a massive variety of history and cultural experiences that our beautiful city has to offer, in Xi'an, China!





WGO-GAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Global Perspectives in Gastroenterology



More than 1,200 participants from 64 countries attended the Gastro 2018 which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 5th to 8th December 2018. Fifty percent (50%) of the attendees were from South East Asia while 50% were from other Asia Pacific countries and regions.

The congress was jointly organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT), together with the Thai Association for the Study of the Liver (THASL), the Thai Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (TNMS) and the Thai Association for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (TAGE). It was endorsed by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE).



In line with the theme Global Perspectives in Gastroenterology, more than 60 international and regional speakers were invited to share their knowledge and expertise in the four days of academic excellence. It kicked off with a full day postgraduate course with an

in-depth teaching of effective management strategies in GI and liver diseases. The main programme featured state-of-the-art lectures, keynote lectures and interactive sessions. Several demonstration sessions were organised to provide hands-on experience while 290 groundbreaking research papers were presented.



The Gastro2018 Steering Committee, jointly chaired by Dr Varocha Mahachai and Dr David Bjorkman, the immediate Past Presidents of Gastroenterological Association of Thailand and World Gastroenterology Organisation respectively, promoting the congress at DDW 2018



Kyoto International Conference

2nd - 3rd March 2019

The Kyoto International Conference was held in Kyoto, Japan on 2nd and 3rd March 2019. The meeting aimed to achieve a consensus on the issues on definition, pathophysiology and neoplasms surrounding the esophagogastric junction. Key opinion leaders from the West and the Asian Pacific countries were invited and developed the consensus which will be reported in the near future.



THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

38th AGM cum Scientific Meeting

7th March 2019

Report by Dr Annie Chan

The annual scientific meeting was held on 7th March 2019 during which the honorary fellowship of the Society was bestowed upon Professor Richard M Peek, Jr, Director of Division of Gastroenterology, Vanderbilt University Medical Centre, Nashville, USA cum Editor-in-Chief, Gastroenterology. He is among the 22 honorary fellows of our Society who are renowned scholars in the specialty. During the meeting, Professor Peek delivered an enlightening lecture on "Helicobacter pylori and gastric

cancer: A case of tragic triangulations". The meeting was successful and well-attended by healthcare professionals.

The Society will continue to organise activities to promote the advancement of gastroenterology and GI related disciplines. Reports and updates will be published in our newsletters. Website <http://www.hksge.org/newsletter/> for more information.



Indonesian Digestive Disease Week 2019

24th - 27th April 2019



The Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) in collaboration with Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia / Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital Jakarta, organised an event "Hands-on Workshop on EUS & ERCP in conjunction with Indonesian Digestive Disease Week 2019".

Due to the rising challenges of gastrointestinal diseases in Indonesia, and also the advancement of tools and techniques in digestive endoscopy, the meeting was organised for the exchange of knowledge and skills in the field of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy.

On the first two days (24th - 25th April 2019), the Hands-on Workshop on EUS & ERCP was held at the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Center Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia.

For the next two days (26th - 27th April 2019), the Symposia of the Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2019 were held at Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia. The

meeting consisted of three plenary lectures, 12 symposia, six satellite symposia, two snack-with-the-experts, two meet-the-experts, one dinner symposium and poster session. The meetings were held to provide the most updated information and knowledge in the field of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy. All sessions were delivered by distinguished international faculties, including Professor Christopher Khor (Singapore), Professor Khean-Lee Goh (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Professor Manu Tandan (Hyderabad, India), Professor Mohan Kumar Ramchandani (Hyderabad, India), Professor Pradermchai Kongkam (Bangkok, Thailand), Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Professor Rajesh Gupta (Hyderabad, India), Professor Nitin Vikas Pai (Pune, India) and also experts from Indonesia. The meeting was attended by more than 500 participants.

Next year, the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology will host the "Indonesian Digestive Disease Week 2020" on 9th - 11th April 2020. We are looking forward to another successful meeting and to welcome participants from Asia Pacific and all around the world.



Asian EUS CONGRESS 2019

12th - 15th April 2019
Report by Professor Mitsuhiro Kida

Endoscopic Ultrasonography (EUS) has been developed in 1980. Its applications have been widened in the clinical fields thereafter because EUS introduces diagnosis and therapeutic procedures such as PFC drainage, EUS-biliary drainage, EUS-pancreatic duct drainage, and celiac plexus neurolysis, etc, based on transactional imaging which is different from other endoscopy.



The Asian EUS Group (AEG) was established in 2012 and the aims of AEG are as follows:

1. distribution of EUS/EUS-FNA in Asian countries,
2. standardization of EUS/EUS-FNA,
3. multicenter trials of EUS/EUS-FNA.



Now 21 countries have become members of AEG. In order to distribute EUS/EUS-FNA, Asian EUS congresses were organized and two were already held in Seoul, Korea and Mumbai, India. This year, the Asian EUS Congress was held at Schonbach Sabo in Tokyo, Japan, from 12th to 15th April 2019 with the theme, "From Basic to Advanced EUS/EUS-FNA, and Future Direction". A total of 336 endosonographers, out of whom 166 were from Japan,

46 from Taiwan, 29 from Hong Kong, 15 from Thailand, 12 from Korea, 12 from China, nine from India, eight from Singapore, six from Australia, five from Vietnam, four from Saudi Arabia, three from Malaysia, two from Colombia, two from USA, two from Russia, two from Italy, two from Macao, and 10 others, attended the congress. They were not only from Asian countries but also countries from other continents such as Europe, North America and South America.

Well-trained endosonographers performed EUS/EUS-FNA, and introduced diagnostic ability like CT and MRI, and also therapeutic applications with cost effectiveness. We arranged two lecture sessions which included one basic session for beginners and one advanced session for professionals. We also held live demonstrations for a total of four hours from the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong (Professor Anthony Teoh) and from Teikyo Mizonokuchi Hospital in Kawasaki, Japan (Professor Shinpei Doi) and discussed practical techniques for diagnostic and therapeutic procedure of EUS/EUS-FNA.

On the final day (15th April 2019), we moderated hands-on training with 12 models for three EUS anatomy, three EUS-FNA puncture, three PFC drainage, and three EUS-HGS. In total, we trained 67 attendees.

We believe the Asian EUS Congress 2019 had achieved training for beginners and advanced discussion with professionals and had served the attendees with satisfaction. The next EUS Congress 2021 will be held in Hong Kong.



2nd Japanese Society of Gastroenterology Asian Session

10th May 2019

Report by Professor Keiichi Kubota



An Asian Session is held in a general meeting of JSGE in every odd-numbered year to exchange scientific opinions and develop a close friendship between members of JSGE and gastroenterologists in other Asian countries. The 2nd JSGE Asian Session was held at Hotel Nikko Kanazawa on 10th May 2019. In 1997, JSGE started "Research Fellowship Program Award" and, up to now, has accepted 65 doctors from Asian countries. This time, JSGE invited six doctors, including two award winners, from Korea, Malaysia, India, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia. The main theme was "Endoscopic detection of gastrointestinal cancer in my country". All speakers presented on how to think of effective ways to find gastrointestinal cancers. In particular, award

winners talked on how they developed the endoscopic techniques they had learned in Japan. Dr Kim from Korea talked about endoscopic detection of gastric subepithelial tumors, Dr Ho from Malaysia about endoscopic detection of GI cancers, Dr Dutta from India and Dr Chiu from Taiwan about endoscopic detection of upper gastrointestinal cancers, and Dr Aniwan from Thailand and Dr Makmun from Indonesia about colorectal cancer. All speakers presented their present situation and the audience enjoyed the hot discussion and were satisfied to hear the results and saw the advanced techniques the presenters had achieved. A total of 42 doctors attended the Asian Session. All attendants had a valuable time in Kanazawa. I believe that the Asian Session has provided, is providing and will provide an opportunity for making the connection closer among all gastroenterologists in Asia. Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Kazuhiko Koike, the President of JSGE and Professor Shuichi Kaneko, the President of the 105th Annual Meeting of JSGE, for their generous support for this session.



INTERNATIONAL DIGESTIVE DISEASE FORUM | 2019

8th - 9th June 2019
Hong Kong

Captivating Science. Inspiring Minds

The IDDF 2019 was another successful edition having approximately 1,100 people in attendance, 45% of whom were international delegates from 28 countries.



World-renowned Endoscopist, Dr Haruhiro Inoue, and leading liver disease expert, Professor Arun Sanyal, were the two keynote speakers of the Joseph Sung Lecture and Tzu-Leung Ho Lecture respectively. They shared their new insight in endoscopy surgery and NASH development. IDDF 2019 presented a diverse programme, covering areas of GI, Hepatitis, Endoscopy and Basic Science. Sessions which included Operationalizing Microbiome Discoveries, Changing Landscape in NAFLD Management, Live Demonstration



on Endoscopy, ANBIIG Training Masterclass, State Key Lab Meeting on Gut Microbiome in GI Diseases and Cancer and Towards Functional Cure of HBV.

Awards and Meet the Editors-in-Chief

This is the second year we partnered with Gut to present the IDDF-GUT Young Investigator Award and published the great works from worldwide scientists. We also partnered with another renowned *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH)* for the first time and presented the IDDF-JGH Case/Video Champion. This provided a new platform for clinical doctors to highlight their works. This year's number of abstracts and case report submissions has reached a new high of 425 entries in total received, which was most encouraging.

At the Meet the Editors-in-Chief, Professor Emad El-Omar, Chief Editor of Gut, and Professor Joseph Sung, Chief Editor of JGH, shared tips of writing a winning paper. Every young Investigator took this opportunity to ask questions.



We eagerly look forward to seeing you at the next IDDF!
So stay tuned at
www.iddforum.com



Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

ENDOSCOPY 2019

Annual International Therapeutic Endoscopy Workshop

26th - 28th April 2019

Report by Dr Hoi-Poh Tee

This well known, long standing workshop continues to be a collaborative effort between MSGH and the GI Endoscopy Unit, University Malaya Medical Centre and is endorsed by the World Endoscopy Organization. The procedures were performed at the Endoscopy Centre on the 6th Floor of Menara Selatan and were transmitted to the auditorium on the 12th Floor. The workshop was attended by 549 participants who comprised 187 doctors and 362 allied healthcare professionals.

The theme was "Endoscopy in Evolution". As before, a renowned faculty was assembled - Professor Tiing-Leong Ang (Singapore), Associate Professor Hisatomo Ikehara (Japan), Professor Mitsuhiro Kida (Japan), Professor Helmut Neumann (Germany), Associate Professor Payal Saxena (Australia), Associate Professor Tomonori Yano (Japan), Professor Ping-Hong Zhou (China), Ms Mary Bong (Singapore) and Ms Nanny Suzanah (Singapore). Seventeen MSGH members were moderators for the live sessions.

Professor Mitsuhiro Kida delivered the MSGH and the University of Malaya Distinguished Lecture on "The Role in EUS in the Screening and Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer". Dr Alex Hwong-Ruey Leow read the citation on him.



Several sessions were held on the 26th of April 2019:

- MSGNMA Course (whole day)
- Special Hands-on Workshop on Advanced AEG EUS Workshop - Peri-Pancreatic Fluid Collection and Biliary Drainage (morning)
- Special Hands-on Workshop on Basic Therapeutic Endoscopy (morning)
- Young Consultants and GI Fellows Workshop - The Role of Endoscopy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The Opening Ceremony was held on the 27th of April 2019 and was officiated by Professor Dato' Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. Similar to last year, the Organising Committee held a "Malaysia Boleh" session, a competition for the best endoscopic video from local experts in endoscopy which was won by Dr Nagaraj Sriram from Queen Elizabeth Hospital II, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

A Workshop Dinner was held on the 27th of April 2019 at Ballroom A, Level 2, Aloft Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. There were two talks focusing on Endoscopy in Evolution. Professor Dato' Khean-Lee Goh spoke on "The Evolution of Endoscopy: Perspective from a Malaysian sifu". Professor Mitsuhiro Kida presented on "The Evolution of Endoscopy: Perspective from a Japanese Sensei".

At the workshop dinner, the Society honoured GIAs who had played key roles in the Malaysian gastrointestinal endoscopy scene. They were instrumental in helping to set up and organise endoscopy units in the country and were presented the GIA Excellent Service Award. Ms Jernih Lim, President, MSGNMA read the citations on: Ms Mary Bong and Ms Miriam Poh-Khuang Loo (citations prepared by Sister Malaiyarsi Sellamuthu), as well as Mr Philip Gisan and Ms Rohani Ismail (citations prepared by Matron Siaw-Hun Liew).



Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology GUT 2019 and Silver Jubilee Celebration

16th - 18th August 2019

Report by Dr Hoi-Poh Tee

The Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has once again successfully organised the Annual Scientific Meeting (GUT) from 16th to 18th August 2019. This year marked a special occasion for the Society as MSGH celebrates its Silver Jubilee Anniversary. The meeting had more than 500 registrants, both locally and from overseas.



Professor Anna Suk-Fong Lok with
Madame President, Dr Tan Soek Siam

The conference was honoured to have two distinguished speakers. Professor Jaw-Town Lin, Dean and Chair Professor of College of Medicine, Fu-Jen Catholic University, New Taipei City, Taiwan, the 19th

MSGH Orator, delivered an insightful lecture on "Eradicating H. pylori to Stop Gastric Cancer: Is It possible?". Professor Anna Suk-Fong Lok from Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA delivered the 16th Panir Chelvam Memorial Lecture on "Current and Future Directions in Hepatitis B Management". They were among the 12 international renowned speakers invited for the meeting - Dr Ajay Duseja, Dr Grace Lai-Hung Wong, Associate Professor Khoon-Lin Ling, Dr Yuan-Kun Lee, Dr Park Hyojin, Dr Shin Fukudo, Dr Nilay Mehta, Dr Akihito Nagahara, Dr Simon Travis and Dr Sundeep Lakhtakia.



The Past and Future of the MSGH

Various topics on current gastrointestinal disease were discussed in this meeting including NAFLD, Gut Microbiota, Viral Hepatitis, Functional GI Disorders, Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Innovations in Endoscopy Practice. The highlight of the event was a special symposium dedicated to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of MSGH on 18th August 2019. Professor Dato' P Kandasami, Professor Dato' Khean-Lee Goh and Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali, representing the past, present and future leaders of the Society each delivered a

lecture covering the history and future outlook of MSGH. The symposium attracted full audience despite being the last session of the event.

On the evening of 16th August, the Society honoured the invited speakers with the President's Dinner at the Tamarind Hill which is across the road from the hotel. The guests were treated with local Malay and fusion cuisine.

The meeting received 109 oral and poster presentations, a record for the GUT. This year marked the first time the poster presentation was done on electronic panels rather than by the conventional poster panels.

Sunrise sessions have been a tradition of the GUT event. This year's session was indeed special when Professor Anna Suk-Fong Lok presented a topic on "Exploring Research Potential and Opportunities in Liver Disorders in the Asia Pacific". The audience was given a special discourse on the research journey that Professor Anna Suk-Fong Lok had undertaken.

The Annual General Meeting of MSGH was held on 17th August 2019 and saw a keen contest for the top posts in the Society. This indicated that more members were drawn to serve the Society and willing to provide fresh input for the betterment of the MSGH.

GUT 2019 received overwhelming support from the biomedical industry. A total of two lunch symposia, three tea symposia, two sunrise sessions and three sponsored lectures were taken up by 25 companies. A new product, Vonoprazan, by Takeda was also launched during GUT 2019.

As the curtain descended on GUT 2019, the committee is now focusing on the next big event, i.e. APDW 2020 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 17th to 20th September 2020. More information on APDW 2020 is available on www.apdw2020.org.





Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Annual Scientific Meeting

4th August 2019

The Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (MSGEH) organised its Annual Scientific Meeting on 4th August 2019 in the Lecture Theatre of Dr Henry Fok Medical Specialist Block. Around 300 experts from two coasts and four regions gathered for this meeting.



The 10th Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) 2019

28th - 29th September 2019

The Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) is a monothematic scientific conference co-organised by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) and the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE). The APTC is held annually in one of the APAGE member countries, with the JSGE serving as the host on every other year. This year, the APTC was hosted by the Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan (GEST) on 28th & 29th September 2019 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, under the theme of "Screening and Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* for Gastric Cancer Prevention - Current Evidence and Unresolved Issues".

Thirty international experts highlighted the updated disease burden of *H. pylori* associated diseases, new treatment modalities and strategies, results of clinical trials on mass eradication of *H. pylori* for gastric cancer prevention, and several other unresolved problems including the surveillance programmes, the changes in gut microbiota, antibiotic resistance, and risk of extra-GI diseases after *H. pylori* eradication in this topic conference. It offered a remarkable atmosphere

for discussing ground-breaking research and progress in gastric cancer prevention.

After the APTC, a consensus meeting was held in Taipei on 30th September and 1st October 2019. A consensus was reached on 26 statements with regard to the strategy of screening and eradication of *H. pylori* for gastric cancer prevention. The experts also highlighted several unresolved issues that deserve future collaborative researches. They proposed two international collaborative researches on the updated prevalence of *H. pylori* in Asia-Pacific regions and the application of molecular markers for risk stratification of gastric precancerous lesions. The experts also called for more research programmes to address on these unresolved issues for gastric cancer prevention.



International Gastric Cancer Prevention and Treatment Consensus and the World Stomach Day took place at National Taiwan University Hospital, with doctors and scholars around the world in attendance. (NTUH)



Taiwan Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) Consensus and FMT Special Regulation Reports by Taiwan Microbiota Consortium (TMC)

Report by Professor Chun-Ying Wu



Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) Training Program, 5th January 2019

In March 2017, Professor Chun-Ying Wu invited more than 300 experts to establish Taiwan Microbiota Consortium (TMC). TMC aims to establish platforms to promote microbiota study and collaboration.

In the first year, Professor Chun-Ying Wu, the President of TMC, organised a working group to draft Taiwan Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) Consensus. Multiple stakeholders, including experts, clinical physicians, government officers, and public media, have discussed the draft of Taiwan FMT Consensus in several meetings and also public hearing. The final version of Taiwan FMT Consensus was reported on 24th March 2018. According to Taiwan FMT Consensus, Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare announced FMT Special Regulation on 6th September 2018.

Taiwan FMT Consensus has several unique points. First, it is established not only by experts, but also by multiple stakeholders, including government officers. Second, FMT is regulated as a new technology, instead of a new drug. This liberal regulation policy opens excellent opportunities to do clinical research. Third, government regulates FMT closely. FMT team members should be trained and certificated. FMT centers' biosafety levels are requested and regularly evaluated. FMT donors and recipients should be registered and monitored nationwide.

On 5th January and 16th February 2019, TMC provided two-days training courses for the government. More than 300 healthcare providers have been certified to practise FMT in their clinical practices. According to Taiwan FMT Consensus and FMT Special Regulation, two FMT centres were set up at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in July and Taipei Veterans General Hospital in September, respectively.



Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) Training Program, 16th February 2019

On 31st August 2019, TMC held a nationwide FMT workshop and invited many medical centre experts to share their experience in FMT practice regarding treatment efficacy, side effect and problems in doing FMT.

On 16th November, TMC will hold another nationwide Microbiota Bioinformatics Workshop to enhance TMC members' ability to analyze microbiota next generation sequencing data. On 18th April 2020, TMC third international conference will be held in Taipei. Professor Chun-Ying Wu, the president of TMC, sincerely welcome everyone who have interests in doing microbiota studies.



Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) therapeutic case discussion, 31st August 2019





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