It gives me the greatest pleasure to write this message for the APDNews, my last as President of the APAGE as I will be stepping down as President at this APDW2014 in Bali, Indonesia.

It has been my greatest honor and pride to serve this august organisation over the past four years. The Asia-Pacific region is a diverse region but it has been my wish that over this period of time to have all member societies grow closer together. It is crucially important that we are all friends and come together in the warmest spirits as we try to forge a stronger society to fulfill the aims of the organisation and serve our membership. For many years, we have had the greatest difficulty enlisting an efficient and consistent secretarial support. In this respect, we have been very fortunate the past four years, to have Ms Molly Y M Kong and Ms Michele Theng as our APAGE Secretariat which has provided a level of stability for our association. We have also now been fortunate to have a financial assistant, Ms Venus Yeung, helping us with routine day-to-day financial transactions with our bank in Hong Kong.

The APAGE has gradually moved on to activities outside the annual APDW. The monothematic meetings have been highly successful, with the whole series of Asian Pacific Topic Conferences, in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology, as well as numerous other monothematic meetings outside the APTC format, including highly successful meetings on IBD in Brisbane, in April 2013, and the Clinical Forum on IBD in Penang, in April 2014.

Over the tenure of my term of office, I have been helped by many members of the Executive Committee and Council - my Vice President, Professor Kentaro Sugano, Treasurer, Dr Choon-Jin Ooi and many members of the council including Dr Huck-Joo Tan who has diligently run the clinician-scientist training fellowship programme so successfully the past four years. To all members of the council, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unswerving support and friendship.

I look back at my term of office with fond memories. At the same time, it is crucially important for any viable organisation, that new faces must appear and take the mantle of leadership to renew and reinvigorate herself. The APAGE continually welcome individuals from all member societies to come forward to serve the organisation loyally and humbly.

Professor K L Goh
President, APAGE
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PROFESSOR VAROCHA MAHACHAI

Dear APAGE Colleagues,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as an Editor of the APDNews which is an official body of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) for the past two-year term following the good work done by my predecessor, Professor K M Fock. This newsletter was started off in 2003 under the presidency of Professor S K Lam.

APDNews has become a very useful tool for gathering academic news, information and activities in the Asia-Pacific region and globally. It has strengthened the co-operation throughout the region. We have tried to highlight all activities of the APAGE especially research activities, consensus meetings, participation of young investigators, and activities of all member societies, as well as the contribution of all other societies including the JGH and the JGH Foundation in the Asia-Pacific region.

My word of appreciation goes to those colleagues in our Gastroenterology/Hepatology network who enthusiastically contribute to the newsletter. Without the advice and tremendous support from the APAGE President, Professor K L Goh, the APDNews would not become so successful. The work could not be completed without the exceptional assistance of Ms Molly Kong, the Executive Director of APAGE and her team in Kuala Lumpur, and Ms Thitima M who assists me with the editorial work in Bangkok.

It is my expectation that APDNews continues to be the tool to bridge the communication gap and enhance friendship amongst our colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthen the profile of APAGE in the years to come.

Professor Varocha Mahachai
Editor-in-Chief, APDNews

THE ASIAN PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY (COUNCIL 2012-2014)

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Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) is an annual scientific meeting, organised by the Asian Pacific Digestive Week Federation (APDWF), for the exchange of ideas in the field of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and Digestive Surgery. The increasing number of participants suggests that APDW has become one of the most important scientific events of the year. This APDW2014 is hosted by the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology, in cooperation with the Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy, Indonesian Association for the Study of The Liver, and Indonesian Society of Digestive Surgeons. Therefore, we are glad to host APDW2014 in Bali, the island of Gods, from 22nd to 25th November 2014, with the theme of “Harmony in Advanced Medical Sciences, Technology, and Best Practices in Gastroenterology and Hepatology”. This important annual event will be held in Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center, Nusa Dua, Bali, one of the most modern and updated convention centre in Indonesia.

APDW2014 programme will include various scientific sessions, industrial sponsored symposia, poster exhibitions, free paper sessions, pharmaceutical companies and medical equipment manufacturers exhibitions. Our scientific programme will be classified into main congress, endoscopy live demonstration, postgraduate course, animal workshop, surgery dry workshop, and endoscopy learning centre. Endoscopy live demonstration will be carried out in two sites on two different days. On 22nd November, the endoscopy live demonstration will be delivered from the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), Hyderabad, India, and on 23rd November, it will be delivered from the Cipto-Mangunkusumo National General Hospital/University of Indonesia, Jakarta. The animal workshop will be conducted at the Bali International Training and Development Center (BITDEC), which is located at Tabanan, almost 32 km West to Denpasar, the capital of Bali province. Our main symposium will be arranged into five tracks including upper GI, lower GI, liver, endoscopy, and nursing tracks. For all participants, especially young researchers, there will be more than 700 abstracts that you can explore. We hope that our various programmes will quench your thirst of knowledge and interest.

Here is our Local Organising Committee who has given their best to plan, prepare, and conduct this APDW2014:

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Irsan Hasan

**MEMBERS OF POSTGRADUATE COURSE**
Toar Lalisang

**CHAIRMAN OF SURGERY LIVE DEMONSTRATION**
Nurhayat Usman
The Kyoto Global Consensus Meeting on H. pylori gastritis was recently held from 30th January to 1st February 2014. The meeting was organised by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE), in conjunction with the European Helicobacter Study Group (EHSG), and was endorsed by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), Healthy Stomach Initiative (HIS) and the Japanese Society of Helicobacter Research (JSHR).

Conference Presidents, Dr Peter Malfertheiner and Dr Kentaro Sugano professionally and deliberately conducted the entire conference. There were 13 voting members from North America, South America and Europe; 9 from the Asia-Pacific region; and 24 from Japan.

The consensus concerned the four major areas of discussion, which include:

- Classification of Gastritis (in relation to proposal for ICD-11 classification)
- Dyspepsia associated with H. pylori infection
- Diagnosis of Gastritis
- Management of Gastritis

Over the past few years, a group of experts in the field have been discussing the ideal design for future classification of GI diseases with a move to revise the ICD-10 to ICD-11. Gastric disorders, especially gastritis and gastric ulcers, will be classified according to the well-known etiology, particularly considering H. pylori as an important causative factor. During the conference, the new classification of gastritis in ICD-11 was introduced. There was a fruitful discussion on how to sub-classify H. pylori gastritis in terms of gastric location and severity of gastritis. H. pylori gastritis is classified as a distinct pathological condition separate from functional dyspepsia.

The proceeding of this consensus conference on various aspects of H. pylori gastritis will soon be published.
The Clinical Forum on IBD was held on the 18th and 19th April 2014, in the beautiful island of Penang, Malaysia. The conference venue was the majestic Eastern and Oriental Hotel which was built during the British colonization in 1885. The forum was the first of its kind, focusing on the management of inflammatory bowel disease with emphasis on the challenges specific to Asian countries. There were invited speakers from all corners of the Asia-Pacific region including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan. Highlights including emerging new therapies for IBD such as faecal microbiota and stem cell therapy; a hilarious but highly educational debate on the importance of differentiating ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s colitis, as well as interactive workshops on the use of biologic therapy, endoscopy in IBD and histological challenges in IBD.

Overall, the meeting was a great success with 180 registered participants from all over Asia who enjoyed not only the meeting but Penang itself, with all it has to offer, such as the beautiful beaches, historical buildings and an amazing selection of culinary delights.

The APAGE GERD Consensus III Meeting was recently held from 2nd to 3rd August 2014, in Singapore. The meeting was organised under the auspice of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) and convened by Professor Kwong-Ming Fock. The objective is to prepare evidence-based clinical practice guidelines on Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) which will be produced through a multi-stakeholder process. Members of the consensus group were selected from APAGE who are experts in GERD. Among them were 19 gastroenterologists from the Asia-Pacific region – Professor Tiing Leong Ang, Professor Shobna Bhatia, Professor Min-Hu Chen, Professor Myung-Gyu Choi, Professor Kwong-Ming Fock, Professor Kheam-Lee Goh, Professor Lawrence Ho, Professor Gerald Holtmann, Professor Chomsri Kositchaiwat, Dr Ngai-Moh Lau, Professor Aziz Rani, Professor Bor-Shyang Sheu, Professor Jose Sollano, Professor Nicholas Talley, Professor Justin Wu and Professor Jun Zhang. Some were involved in one or two of the previous GERD Consensus.

We are glad to have two doctors from outside the region, namely, Professor John Erik Pandolfino and Professor Prateek Sharma, who participated in the consensus electronically. The three major areas of discussion were as follows:

- Burden of Disease & Diagnosis
- Refractory GERD
- Barrett’s Esophagus
The consensus teams collected original published papers on these areas from Asian countries through available global and domestic online literature searching systems to develop consensus statements based on the generated clinical questions. These statements were discussed at subgroup level, modified and presented to the entire consensus group of gastroenterologists practising in the Asia-Pacific region. The GRADE system (Grades of Recommendation Assessment, Development and Evaluation) was used to evaluate the strength of the recommendations and the overall level of evidence.

The consensus will be reported at APDW2014 in Bali, and its proceeding will be published in one of the medical journals.

FIP-WGO Joint Session in Bangkok, Thailand
30th August – 4th September 2014 Reported by Professor Varocha Mahachai

FIP-WGO Joint Session at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand, 30th August to 4th September 2014. Dr Varocha Mahachai, representing the WGO, participated at the FIP-WGO joint session on ‘Coping with Common GI Symptom in the Community’ and Reflux/Heartburn as a Self-Care Model based on the WGO global guidelines which outline the cascades of the recommendations focusing on the role of pharmacists in the self-care model utilizing OTC medications on common GI symptoms.

THE FIFTH ASIAN PACIFIC TOPIC CONFERENCE
(APTC 2014 KOBE) ON GUT MICROBIOTA AND HUMAN DISEASE
21ST – 22ND OCTOBER 2014

Reported by Kazuichi Okazaki, Chairman of 5th APTC, JSGE Asian Liaison Committee Chairman

The fifth Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) was held at Kobe International Conference Center in Kobe, on 21st and 22nd October 2014. Co-organised by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) and the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), it was an important project for APAGE from the standpoint of research and education programmes promoting the exchange of gastroenterology knowledge and skills in the Asia-Pacific region.

APTC is a monothematic scientific conference focusing each time, on one important topic related to digestive diseases. The first APTC kickoff meeting was held in Tokyo, in November 2010, focusing on the topic of functional gastrointestinal disorders. It is held annually in one of the APAGE member countries, with Japan serving as the host every other year, and in January 2014, the fourth APTC was held in Tagaytay City, Philippines. It was a great success.

This year, we focused on the theme of microbiota and digestive diseases, which are recent topics in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. Gut microbiota exert not only several physiological functions, but has also been implied in the mechanisms of many conditions in the Asia-Pacific region. A variety of aspects were discussed, not only topics relating to digestive diseases, but also to those immunological or metabolic disorders.

There were about 87 participants in the 5th APTC meeting. It began with an evening seminar on 21st October 2014, focusing on Functional Dyspepsia. The evening seminar was followed by a faculty dinner, in which the Presidents of both societies, Dr Tooru Shimosegawa (JSGE) and Dr Khean-Lee Goh (APAGE) extended their welcome to attendees. Dr Kentaro Sugano (The President of Japan Digestive Disease Week (JDDW), and the former President of JSGE), Dr Yoshikazu Kinoshita (Vice President of JSGE) also delivered speeches at the faculty dinner.

The following morning, the conference started with opening remarks by Dr Tooru Shimosegawa, JSge President. There were 19 plenary lectures by distinguished invited faculties representing Asian-Pacific societies. The morning sessions were focused on Infectious Disease in Gastroenterology and Microbiota and Metabolic syndrome. These plenary lectures included recent data and the current situation in the speakers’ countries.

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There were a luncheon seminar focusing on Preventing Exacerbation on Ulcerative Colitis with Oral Bifidobacterium Therapy. After lunch, a commemorative photograph was taken in which all the participants were invited.

The afternoon sessions focused on Gut microbiota and Mucosal Immunity (IBD, IBS, etc) and Microbiota and Metabolic syndrome, and ten faculties delivered plenary lectures as representatives of the societies.

On 22nd October, Poster Exhibition by 24 active researchers who were recommended by their faculties, was held. The distinguished best poster awards were given to the four best posters presentations: Dr Atushi Hayashi (Japan), Dr Vineet Ahuja (India), Dr Yen-Huan Ni (Taiwan) and Dr Masao Yamashina (Japan).

The meeting ended with closing remarks from Dr Khean-Lee Goh, APAGE President. After the meeting, all participants enjoyed a farewell party.

The conference was a great success. There were a lot of fruitful discussions on the important and interesting theme during the two-day meeting. We were able to exchange the most up-to-date information, and felt the conference was very helpful in providing an opportunity to deepen friendships among specialists in different fields, including gastroenterologists, hepatologists, physiologists and surgeons. It also played a key role in disseminating valuable new information to the world on these important issues. All participants enjoyed a friendly atmosphere and a beautiful autumn in Japan as well.

A Note from the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH)

It gives me a great honor to pen a few words for this newsletter. Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology is the official publication of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), and an affiliated publication of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL), Gastroenterological Society of Australia, The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology and Thailand Gastroenterology Association.

JGH was launched in 1986 at an APAGE Congress. In December 2010, JGH had completed its first 25 years of publication. The aims of JGH with Wiley-Blackwell and JGH Foundation, were to produce a world-class journal committed to promoting the highest standards of clinical practice, education and basic research in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. The objective was to improve the health of Asia-Pacific communities and the quality of life of patients with GI and hepatic disorders.

The editorial team has been renewed in 2013, and I was appointed as the new EIC of the JGH, succeeding former and brilliant EIC Professor Geoffrey Farrell. Our editorial team has developed JGH into an international journal of scientific excellence in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatic-biliary and endoscopy, with particular emphasis on clinical and basic research and continuing education in the Asia-Pacific region. Balancing the needs of the region, the range of quality that is submitted across the region, and ensuring that the journal grows, so that the quality further improves, will be our challenge, but I am ably supported by our editorial team, the publication board, and of course, Julia and others in the team at Wiley.

I am delighted to announce that the 2013 Impact Factor of JGH is 3.627! This is an increase from last year’s Impact Factor of 3.325. Our ranking is now 19/74, as compared to last year’s ranking of 22/74. This is an excellent outcome and is a direct result of our dedication to JGH and the hard work editors do to uphold its standards of quality. Last year, we received 1892 manuscripts for review, 50% more than in 2009, and the acceptance fell below 18%. The acceptance ratio would fell to around 10% in 2014. Thank you all, for my editorial team’s continued commitment to the journal.

JGH is now available in 4722 institutions worldwide via the Wiley. 77% of JGH’s subscriptions are currently managed under licenses globally. JGH is now available in more than 50 countries in the developing world via philanthropic initiatives. Full text downloads for JGH increased from 558,511 in 2012, to 651,943 in 2013, a rise of 17%. The average publication time for JGH is now ten days from receipt of accepted manuscript to Accepted Article publication, and the average days to print publication time for JGH is less than 100 days from receipt of accepted manuscript in most manuscript.

Strategy of JGH now has in place to publish only significant articles and the most informative review articles. It should eventually ensure that the Asia-Pacific region takes its rightful place among the top regions contributing to knowledge and practice of gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatic-biliary and endoscopy.

Finally, I would like to stress that future success of JGH would not have been achieved without great support and effort of not only current editorial team, but also authors and readers from all Asia-Pacific countries. I like African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, GO TOGETHER.” Let’s GO TOGETHER for JGH and science in Asia-Pacific region.

Mamoru Watanabe, MD
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH)
Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan
After much discussion between the Editors of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH), the JGH Foundation was established in 2002, for the advancement of medicine, medical research and education, training, and research in general, in the fields of gastroenterology and Hepatology, within the Asia-Pacific region. Its overall aim is to enhance the quality of medical practice and the health of the communities concerned.

The inaugural Chairman of the JGHF was Professor Geoffrey Farrell of Australia, from 2002-2008, and he was ably succeeded by Professor Neville Yeoman, from 2008-2012.

The JGH Foundation provides support in a number of ways for major scientific meetings in the region, acts as a source of advice for editors and the publisher of the journal, and assists in developing evidence-based guidelines for clinical practice in gastroenterology and hepatology.

Ownership of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH) is the dual responsibility of the publisher (Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Asia) and the JGH Foundation, which makes it different in this respect from national and specialty journals. The JGHF has always taken a “backseat” but plays a key-role in helping scientific activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The foundation offers support for the following activities:

1. Sponsorship for Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) that includes funding for:
   a. Lectureships
   b. Travel grants
   c. JGHF Young Investigator Award

2. Sponsorship for the APASL
   a. Lectureship
   b. Travel grants

3. Joint APAGE/JGHF Fellowship:
   a. JGHF and the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) have joined together to offer a Clinical/Science Fellowship to assist someone early in their career to spend 12 months in a host centre for advanced technological, within the region.

4. Short Term Fellowships
   a. These fellowships facilitate short-term training and experience in technical, clinical or research skills that will enhance the career prospects of the Fellow, and which is likely to benefit other gastroenterologists and standards of practice in the country of origin.

5. Project Grants:
   a. Seeding grants help to foster initiatives for Consensus Meetings that are designed to set Clinical Practice guidelines or to assist co-operative research studies.

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I underwent training as a Fellow in Gastroenterology at The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia, from 28th May 2013 to 27th May 2014, under Professor Peter Gibson. This training allowed me to complete the board certification requirements to become a Gastroenterologist in Sri Lanka. I was awarded APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship for 2012, for this training.

This training programme was mainly a clinical fellowship equivalent to that of a gastroenterology specialty registrar in Victoria, Australia, with full-time clinical training. During this training, I was involved in the clinical management of complex inpatients including transplant recipients and patients in intensive care unit, as well as outpatients in the liver clinic, endoscopy clinic, general gastroenterology clinic, PEG clinic, Hepatoma clinic and the functional gastrointestinal clinic. I had the opportunity in participating in two rostered endoscopy sessions per week, with training in diagnostic and therapeutic gastroscopy and colonoscopy and an introductory training to endoscopic ultrasound. I also had basic experience on oesophageal pH and manometry studies, fibroscan and intestinal ultrasound. This has been a tremendous clinical experience for me with exposure to geographic variations in the spectrum of gastrointestinal disorders and their up-to-date management practices.

In addition, I had the opportunity in participating and presenting in weekly research meetings and weekly journal clubs during this period which improved my presentation skills.

During this training, I had the opportunity to undertake two research projects. First one was the project on the FODMAP content of the Sri Lankan diet. The aims of the project are to develop an understanding of the FODMAP content of a typical Sri Lankan diet, to identify the sources of FODMAPs by food composition analysis of unique constituents (i.e., not currently commonly used and not contained within the current database of food composition), to develop alternative means of maintaining the flavour and quality of the food by substitution of high-FODMAP ingredients, and to prepare meals for taste-testing and for detailed analysis of the FODMAP content of cooked food, both in the laboratory and in vivo (via breath hydrogen testing).

First, we prepared recipes for a seven-day menu. Then, we prepared (cooked) the actual dishes in the commercial kitchen of the Monash University with the help of Debbie King, research chef of the Monash translational nutritional science group, and served these food at one of the research meeting lunches for taste-testing and was found to be very palatable. Then, we analysed the ingredients of Sri Lankan recipes for their FODMAP content in the Monash University laboratory. Unfortunately, due to heavy workload on the laboratory with several other ongoing researches, which delayed availability of FODMAP data, we could not complete in vivo testing of food during the fellowship. Nevertheless, we believe that, findings from the ingredient analysis will shed considerable light into the FODMAP content of South Asian food which will be very useful in the management of IBS in Sri Lankan (and South Asian) patients. We are in the process of publishing a review article on application of FODMAP principles to the South Asian continent which includes these findings in the near future.

The second project was an audit on the predictors of recurrent emergency department presentations in adults with constipation which included 259 subjects. There were several striking and interesting findings from this audit which will be presented as an oral presentation at the Australian Gastroenterology Week 2014.

I had the opportunity to attend several symposia and workshops including the Australian Gastroenterology Week, National Symposium on Hepatitis B and C, and the Colonoscopy Workshop by GESA, during this period.

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Overall, this Fellowship was a tremendous and enjoyable learning experience for me, which provided me, who comes from a different cultural and socio-economic background and a different health infrastructure with an opportunity to work in a Center of Excellence in Gastroenterology with a western cultural and socio-economic background, with a team comprising of many experts and authorities in the field of Gastroenterology. The fellowship grant assisted me in many ways including purchasing food items and ingredients for the preparation of food for my colleagues and myself. The fellowship also provided me with the opportunity to attend courses and seminars in gastroenterology and other fields of gastroenterology.

The last 12 months have been very interesting for me; I have published some of my research in the field of hepatitis B and diabetes/metabolic syndrome. One of the studies I worked on was the effect of metabolic syndrome on the age at HBeAg seroclearance in patients with chronic hepatitis B. The presence of metabolic syndrome was found to be an independent predictor of delayed HBeAg seroclearance even after adjusting for other factors such as age, gender, and viral factors, the age at HBeAg seroclearance was delayed in those with at least one metabolic risk factor. Furthermore, in the last few months, I have also investigated the effect of type-2 diabetes on the risk of complications and mortality of cirrhosis patients based on a New Zealand population of hepatitis B patients. The presence of type-2 diabetes and its poor controlled state, at cirrhosis diagnosis, were significant predictors of HCC, HCC mortality, and all-cause mortality for chronic hepatitis B patients in multivariate analysis.

So far, I am about half-way through my two-year fellowship in order to complete my doctoral research degree. I have achieved my aims set out at the beginning of the fellowship, in gaining some understanding of the interaction between hepatitis B and metabolic syndrome/insulin resistance.

Some of the research projects I have been involved in include:

- Microbiota Assessment, led by Dr Siew Ng, was awarded funding which will be used to assess the gut microbiota in patients with chronic hepatitis B and type-2 diabetes.
- The research project entitled “Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) for Severe Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI): A Randomised Study with Concurrent Stool Microbiota Assessment”, led by Dr Siew Ng, was awarded funding which will take two years to complete, in 2016.
- A public education campaign on “GI Health 2014” was launched in May 2014, to raise the awareness of the public on prevention and treatment of GI disorders. The campaign involved development of five educational TVCs and video interviews, spoken by prestigious gastroenterologists on disease basics and management of GERD and Helicobacter Pylori infection, an educational leaflet and a GERD questionnaire. You are cordially invited to visit http://www.hkgsge.org/gihealth2014 for details.

The 16th Joint Annual Scientific Meeting, co-organised by sister societies, The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology, Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy, Hong Kong Society for Coloproctology, The Hong Kong Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, The Hong Kong Society of Gastrointestinal Motility and Hong Kong IBD Society, was held on 24th August 2014, in Hong Kong, with renowned local and overseas guest speakers delivering lectures that covered hot topics in gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy.
Lumpur, from 22nd to 24th August 2014. It successfully held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, the annual congress of MSGH, was the GUT & ECCO Educational Workshop 2014. A total of 387 delegates attended the event. As usual, we have invited some of the best and world renowned speakers to our meeting.

Among the speakers who participated in the meeting was Professor Patrick Kamath, Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA. He delivered the distinguished MSGH Oration. His great expertise for the management of liver cirrhosis and its associated complications in particular portal hypertension and MELD score was cordially shared with all the participants. The citation on Professor Kamath was read by Professor Sanjiv Mahadeva, President of MSGH.

Professor John Windsor, Professor of Surgery at University of Auckland, New Zealand, was the Panir Chelvam lecturer. Professor Windsor is one of the world leading experts in acute pancreatitis and is involved in many of the consensus guidelines, both nationally and internationally. He delivered a very comprehensive and entertaining lecture on acute pancreatitis to all the participants. The citation was read by Dr Akhtar Qureshi, President-Elect.

Professor Nimish Vakil is Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, USA, a world leading authority on GERD and Helicobacter pylori, also delivered exciting data on the management of GERD.

Dr Alex Ford, a Senior Lecturer and a Consultant Gastroenterologist from University of Leeds, UK, an expert in systematic review and meta-analysis, shared many important clinical issues affecting the practice of gastroenterology, especially in functional gastrointestinal disease, imaging and new diagnostic steps in NAFLD.

Dr Lee Yeong-Yeh, a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Gastroenterologist from University of Sains Malaysia, delivered an exciting concept of acid pocket and a disrupted gastro-esophageal junction in GERD.

There were two sessions of case discussion on viral hepatitis and liver cancer. These sessions were well-attended and were discussed extensively by the experts; Professor Grace Wong, Dr Nancy Leung, Professor P Kamath and

Professor M Manns, as well as the participants. The chronic pancreatitis symposium was also exciting, featuring the speakers, Dr Nam Quoc Nguyen, Dr Jong Ho Moon and Dr Adarsh Chaudhary, and focused on nutrition and malabsorption, endoscopy, and surgery for pancreatitis, respectively.

For the fatty liver symposium, Associate Professor Chan Wah-Keong and Professor Grace Wong elaborated very extensively in the aspect of disease progression and designing therapeutic approaches to the treatment of NAFLD.

Interesting and on the positive note, all the “Meet-the-Expert Breakfast Sessions” were well-attended by the participants, and the sessions were very much interactive between the experts and the participants.

There were also lunch and tea satellite symposium which were well-attended and well-delivered by Professor David Peura on “A new approach in acid suppression for GERD”, Professor M Manns on “Race towards cure for hepatitis C”, Professor Nimish Vakil on “Refractory GERD” and Professor Nancy Leung on “Hepatitis B”.

The 2014 Best Paper Award Presentations were: First place: Dr Hwong-Ruey Leow, University Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Second place: Dr Henry Tan Chor-Lip, Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia. Third place: Dr Wong Zhiqin, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

On the last day of GUT, the ECCO Educational Workshop, coordinated by Associate Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali, was officiated by the President of MSGH. The introduction of ECCO was delivered by Professor Laurence Egan, the Scientific Committee Member for the ECCO, and also a Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Head of IBD Clinic at the University Hospital Galway, Ireland. The other ECCO Committee Member was Dr Stephan Vavricka, who is the Head of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Triemli Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland.

A total of 187 participants attended the ECCO Educational Workshop, and these included participants from Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Philippines and also Serbia. An extensive case based on acute severe colitis, fistulising Crohns disease, refractory colitis, management of infectious complications of IBD, imaging and new diagnostic steps in Crohns disease, complicated ileocecal Crohns disease, were discussed, and these sessions were very interactive. Professor Laurence Egan also delivered a state-of-the-art lecture on opportunistic infections in IBD.

The overall feedback from both local and international participants was excellent with the majority of the delegates requested the ECCO Educational Workshop to be held again as a continuing IBD education in the South East Asia.
PROFESSOR KHEAN-LEE GOH
President of APAGE 2010 – 2014
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP – FOUR YEARS AT THE HELM OF THE APAGE (2010-2014)
by Dr Huck-Joo Tan

Professor K L Goh steps down as President at this APDW in Bali, having served the association in various capacities since its inauguration (in the present format), from 2002. KL, as he is fondly called, has served our august association since its revamp in 2002 for a total of 12 years...from 2002-2004 as Council Member, 2004-2008 as Secretary General, 2008-2010 as Vice President and finally 2010-2014 for two terms as President.

In the past four years, Professor Goh served the association with distinction as President. In his affable, humble, almost self-effacing style of leadership, he has provided the association with stability and growth over the past four years. He has worked tirelessly in the background, to streamline and strengthen the administration of the association. In the 2012 General Assembly, he introduced several changes in the Memorandum and Articles of the Association, and in the upcoming assembly, further changes will be proposed to further streamline the works of the organisation, in 2014.

Above all, Professor Goh’s leadership style emphasizes the development of a “transparent and forward-looking” regional association where “strong and friendly relationships” between all APAGE member societies is considered paramount. He is often quoted as saying “It’s not important just to organise an event and have as many as possible to come, but it’s important for all to benefit, network and build up friendship at the same time”. He has brought in many new faces into the council and to “democratize” the whole association. His philosophy for the APAGE has always to be “inclusive rather than exclusive!”

Professor Goh assumed the post of President of the APAGE in 2010, following the organisation of the highly successful APDW2010 in Kuala Lumpur, of which he was the President and the Organising Chairman. One of the “highlight” programmes which took place during his Presidency was the inauguration of The Asian Pacific Topic Conference (Monothematic Meetings) (APTC) which was first started in Tokyo, the brainchild of Professor Kentaro Sugano of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology, and was first held in November 2010, on “Functional GI Disorders”. Since then, four other APTCs have been held: 2nd APTC on “H. Pylori” in Kuala Lumpur, in January 2012, the 3rd APTC on “Nutrition and Obesity” in 2012, Tokyo, Japan, and the 4th APTC on “Functional GI Disorders”, in Tagaytay City, Philippines, in January 2014. The APAGE also organised a highly successful Clinical Inflammatory Bowel Disease Forum, in April 2014, in Penang, Malaysia. In October 2014, JSGE again, hosts the 5th APTC on Microbiota and Infectious Disease of the GIT, in Kobe, Japan.

Outside the APAGE, KL has a long record of service to the Asia-Pacific region. He was the Editor of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, from 1997-2003, and since 2003, he was Editor Emeritus. He joined the JGH Foundation in 2003 and is now Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the JGHF from 2013. A member of several sub-committees of the World Gastroenterology Organization for several years, in 2012, he was elected as Vice-President of the WGO, a position he still holds, until 2015.

In Malaysia, Professor Goh has served the local gastroenterological society for many years. He was President of the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, in 1996-1997, having served prior to that, as the Founding Secretary General in the early years, from 1992. He remained active, subsequently in the Society, having served continuously as Scientific Chairman of the Malaysian Society Annual Scientific Meeting, since 1999. In 1998, he organised the 2nd Western Pacific Helicobacter Congress in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. He has also organised as Course Director, the well-known Annual Interventional Live Endoscopy workshops, since 1993, in his unit at the University of Malaya Medical Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. These workshops have been highly successful beyond any stretch of imagination and continue to run strongly year after year. He holds many other important positions in the GI fraternity in Malaysia, including being Chairman of the sub-specialty credentialing sub-committee for Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Malaysia, since 1998.

Professor K L Goh graduated in 1980 from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. In his years of training, he had spent time in the Victoria and Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, where he obtained his MRCP (UK) qualification in 1984. He spent a year of his sabatical in 1991 in the Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam with Professors Guido Tytgat and Kees Huibregtse. It was life changing experience which sparked his deep interest in therapeutic endoscopy especially ERCPs. In 1996, he completed his doctoral continued on page 13
A name of Professor Abdul Aziz Rani, cannot be separated from the history of Indonesian Association of Internal Medicine (PAPDI). He is the Chairman of this Association from 2003 to 2006. He is also the Co-Founder and Director of PAPDI-Medical Relief, a non-profit organisation which serve their activities to help Indonesian people affected by disaster situation such as earthquake, flood, volcano, tsunami, landside, etc.

When Professor Aziz Rani served as the Chairman of PAPDI, Indonesia’s health condition was entering a crucial phase at that time. On 6th October 2004, the former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri had approved the Medical Practice Act. “Professional organisations must use this legal act as a reference,” said Professor Aziz Rani, quoted from the website of PAPDI (www.pbpapdi.org).

Professor Aziz Rani together with PAPDI board members, has some programmes related to the act, for example, to document timely and appropriate, based on the professional standards of service and educational in internal medicine. “Overall we have done these things based on the regulation, but we are working harder to make everything in the form of official documents,” said the man who was born in Palembang, South Sumatera, on 30th May 1946.

PAPDI also never quit increasing the ability of the members, including Recertification Programme. Professor Aziz Rani believes every professional organisation should create programmes for the benefit of its own members, because any health services must be performed by the health workers who have competency. “The goal of all this, is the patients and society importance,” said the husband of Herawani, Master of Health.

Besides his daily tight schedule, he always spend his time on tennis, his favorite sport, and his other hobby, singing. The father of the three children, two of whom followed his footsteps in the medical profession as a gynaecologist and a paediatrician, believes as an internist expert is not enough to understand science, it needs more than that, such as empowering and serving the community.

Professor Aziz Rani earned his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine University of Indonesia, in 1972. He completed his residency in internal medicine in 1978. Now, he is known as a leading expert Ophthalmologist in practice. Their eldest daughter, Li Yen, is now a doctor working in the UK, while second daughter, Li Syuen, a second year engineering student in London, while their son, Li Han, is still studying college- A-levels in Kuala Lumpur. His family has been the bedrock of his life and has been his greatest inspiration in his work. In his own words - “nothing gives me the greatest joy than my family… I am always the happiest when we all can be together”.

Editor’s note: Professor K L Goh remains in the Executive Committee of the APAGE as Immediate Past President for another term. On behalf of the APDNews and the AP GI Fraternity, we wish to thank him for all his sincere and loyal service to the APAGE all these many years and hope he will continue to contribute to the APAGE in the future.
in Indonesia. Because of his expertise in the field of gastroenterology and gastrointestinal endoscopy, Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital appointed him as the Head of Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, in 2002, and the Head of Department of Internal Medicine, from 2002 to 2010.

Professor Aziz Rani is also very active in leading national and international events. He was the Chairman of WESTPAC Helicobacter Congress in 2002, Chairman of Indonesian Digestive Disease Week, from 2003 to 2005, and now, he serves as President of Asia Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2014, Bali, Indonesia.

His other various positions in medical organisations were the President of Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy, from 1999 to 2003, and President of Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology, from 2003 to 2007.

Professor Aziz Rani has many organisation experiences including being a member of the Indonesian Medical Association, Indonesian Association for the Study of the Liver, and Councillor of APAGE and APSDE.

He gives his huge attention to the publication of scientific studies. He has published numerous scientific papers in national and international forums, including a book entitled “Update in Gastroenterology 2005: Brief Therapy of Using a Proton Pump Inhibitor for Diagnosing Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease”. He was also a contributor and editor for several national and international medical textbooks.

He is now an International Editor of Journal of Helicobacter, United States (Blackwell Publishing Ltd), International Editor of Journal of Digestive Disease, China (Chinese Society of Gastroenterology and Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd), and

The Organization of Japan Digestive Disease Week (JDDW), one of largest academic organisations in Japan which consists of five major organisations specialising digestive diseases. He is also the former President of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSJE), and Professor Emeritus of Jichi Medical University, Tochigi, Japan.

I have known Dr Sugano (Ken) both personally and professionally during the past 20 years. On the basis of this longstanding interaction, I respect him as a really awesome physician and scientist, particularly because he has contributed greatly for a long time to bring up the overall levels of gastroenterology in Asia-Pacific region by his leadership.

After graduation from the University of Tokyo, in 1973, Dr Kentaro Sugano was granted the PhD for his basic research on biochemical characterization of pancreatic enzymes from University of Tokyo. From 1982 to 1985, Ken has been postdoctoral research fellow in the United States at University of California, Los Angeles, and then at University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, under the mentorship of Dr Tadataka (Tachi) Yamada, who later became the President of AGA (American Gastroenterology Association). Ken conducted molecular biology research on gastrointestinal hormone, particularly focusing on biosynthesis of gastrin. It was exciting and fruitful time, given the vision and charisma of Tachi, Ken has published many important works. We can say, that period of time was to establish the course of his academic life.

After coming back to Japan, Ken became Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo in 1991, and in 1998, he accepted the position of Professor and Chairman, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine at Jichi Medical University, where he currently serves, and further built a highly successful career with his excellent team.

Ken’s research interests are in molecular mechanism of gastric carcinogenesis, molecular biology of GI hormones and mucosal regeneration, functional GI disorders (functional dyspepsia), and advanced imaging in GI endoscopy. Most recently, he has also put his attention to the role of GI tract in systemic metabolic disorders.

His group determined the gene expression in the early stage of the transition to intestinal metaplasia in human gastric mucosa. One of Chief Editor of the Indonesian Journal of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Digestive Endoscopy, which is a journal published by the Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia/Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital.

Editor’s note: The APDNews wishes to congratulate Professor Aziz Rani on his organisation of this top-class APDW2014 in Bali. A pioneer of Indonesian gastroenterology, Professor Rani has been active in the Asian Pacific gastroenterology scene for over 30 years!

PROFESSOR KENTARO SUGANO
Vice President of APAGE
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPANESE SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY – REACHING OUT TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION! (2010-2014)

by Professor Soichiro Miura

It is my great privilege and pleasure to introduce Vice President of Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), Professor Kentaro Sugano, who took on this important role since September 2011.

Dr Sugano is currently the President of The Organization of Japan Digestive Disease Week (JDDW), one of largest academic organisations in Japan which

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PERSONALITY PROFILE – PROFESSOR KENTARO SUGANO

the mainstays of his research interest is the role of Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) in gastric carcinogenesis. Because many precancerous states preceding gastric cancer include conditions such as chronic atrophic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia, and adenoma/dysplasia, most of which are to be caused by H. pylori infection. In this regard, Ken has been positively involved in establishment of many important consensus guidelines not only for the management of H. pylori infection, but also for the gastric cancer prevention and digestive cancer management, in collaboration with many Asian-Pacific leaders. Recently, his interest extended to the scientific differentiation of functional dyspepsia from organic disorders such as H. pylori gastritis, from the molecular and biological standpoints. Ken is also very much interested in another important clinical topic on gastric mucosal injury, which is induced by medical drugs, such as NSAIDs and anti-coagulants. Ken organised several important clinical trials on how to prevent potentially life-threatening gastrointestinal adverse events associated with these drugs and published important information.

Ken’s great expertise always provided inspiration to all those with whom he works. This has built up the Department of Internal Medicine at Jichi Medical University with talented gastroenterologists in clinical sciences, seeking advanced evidence-based medicine. Some 300 research publications underpin his expertise in the field of internal medicine. It is not surprising that his leading department has become an extremely popular GI centre for training and research among Japanese schools and institutes. Among his young fellow there, is Dr Hironori Yamamoto, who is currently Professor of Gastroenterology at Jichi Medical University, first developed the double-balloon enteroscopy that has been spreading around the world, greatly contributing for diagnosis and treatment of small bowel diseases.

As you know, during his presidency of JSGE, the society has continued to grow and develop. He organised the 98th Annual Meeting of JSGE in Tokyo in 2012, and this April, we celebrated the 100th commemorative meeting of JSGE. As a President, Ken made zealous effort to establish clinical guidelines for all areas of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Japan, and he poured his energy into further internationalization of JSGE and increased educational activities for young doctors, as well as global scientific progress in gastroenterology. In terms of internationalization, Ken inaugurated the Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) as a joint project with APAGE in 2010. Since then, APTC continued not only as annual monothematic scientific conference to promote the exchange of expertise, but also played an important role from the standpoint of research and education programme in both Societies. Ken also started to organise JSGE International Topic Conference (ITC) as a part of the JDDW in 2010, to develop future directions in digestive organ research. He also continued and firmly developed the joint meeting between AGA and JSGE. In addition to JSGE, he is also counsellors for many major medical societies, such as the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine, Japanese Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society, Japanese Society for Helicobacter Research and Japanese Gastric Cancer Association.

Ken’s activities are expanded to all over the world. He has delivered numerous invited and honorary lectures on clinical and basic research at many international meetings including APDW. He is an International Committee Member of AGA, Steering Committee Member of the International Gut Hormone Conference. He is a section editor of ‘GUT’, co-editor of ‘Gastric Cancer’, to be International Advisory Board Member of ‘Gastroenterology’ and has been Editor and Advisor to several other renowned international journals. He received many prestigious awards, such as Ismar Boas Medal Award from the German Society of Gastroenterology, in 2011, and Marshall-Warren Lectureship Award from APAGE/JGHF, in 2012. He successfully organised many international meetings, which include the 16th International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides, held in Hakone, Japan, in 2006, and the Kyoto Global Consensus Meeting on H. pylori gastritis, recently held in January 2014. The latter meeting was organised by JSGE, and endorsed by the APAGE. Most importantly, Ken will act as a President of the APDW2016 that will be held in Tokyo, in conjunction with JDDW.

Lastly, I should introduce his international contribution other than the field of Gastroenterology. From 2007 to 2014, Ken greatly dedicated his effort to the overall process for producing the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Establishment of ICD-11, which will provide the new basic building blocks for health information systems, is currently an important project of WHO. Ken played actively in this project as a member of Revision Steering Group and as a Chairman of Internal Medicine Topic Advisory Group (TAG), and he managed all over the field of Internal Medicine. He organised the International Face-to-Face Meetings of the WHO ICD revision Internal TAG in Tokyo for five times, and greatly contributed to the progress in the introduction of new ICD-11.

Ken is really a hard-working, warm-hearted guy, who loves mountain and good music. He has one of the most notable reputations in the world in the field of Gastroenterology, and I have no doubt that he will be extremely diligent and enthusiastic who will show considerable skills and effort for the future development of APAGE. I would be extremely happy if everyone in the Asia-Pacific region would help his activity to support the President, K L Goh.

Editor’s note: Professor Sugano stepped down as JSGE President in June 2014 after an eventful four-year term of office. During his leadership of the august Japan Society, he has brought forward an outward-looking and progressive JSGE. He has been instrumental in creating the APAGE monothematic meetings – the Asian Pacific Topic Forum, from 2011.
Asian EUS Group (AEG)

With the vision of promoting EUS training and research in Asia, the Asian EUS Group (AEG) was officially formed in August 2012.

It is an interest group, which is not affiliated with any professional society. Since its inception, 26 workshops had been conducted by a faculty of >20 regional EUS experts in numerous countries in Asia. These workshops were attended by more than 600 trainees. These workshops are generally one- or two-day structured courses incorporating the opportunity for hands-on exposure, and an observational component comprising didactic lectures, video cases, and live case demonstration.

For the more experienced trainees who wish to acquire more skills, the AEG has embarked on a series of train-the-trainers programmes in the centres of excellence. In the past one year, the AEG has also initiated a programme to train interventional EUS procedures.

SHOLEC
Singapore Hands-On Live Endoscopy Course
DATE 16th - 17th January 2015
VENUE Advanced Surgery Training Centre
National University Hospital, Singapore
WEBSITE www.sholec.org.sg/course.html

6th GI Motility Workshop
DATE 21st - 24th January 2015
VENUE Advanced Surgery Training Centre
National University Hospital, Singapore

The Liver Transplant Symposium
DATE 28th November 2015
VENUE National University Hospital, Singapore

Multi-national Alliant Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Symposium
MAGICS 2015
A Road to Understand Issues of Cutting-edge in GI Cancers
January 24 – 25, 2015
Grand Hilton Seoul Hotel, Korea
www.magicsymposium.org

Important Dates
Abstract Submission
23 November 2014
Notification of Acceptance
30 November 2014
Early Registration
22 December 2014

Organised by:
KOREAN SOCIETY OF GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

Updates in H. Pylori Infection Eradication in Asia Pacific: Sharing and Exchanging
25th October 2014
SHANGHAI, CHINA
It is a matter of great pleasure, privilege and honor to invite you all to the 31st Annual International Meeting of Pakistan Gastroenterology & GI endoscopy meeting, to be held in Islamabad Pakistan from 2nd to 5th April 2015.

These meeting are a major National and Regional event with more than thousand delegates attending. A comprehensive program covering all aspect of Gastroenterology and Hepatology is planned along with hands on training and advanced Endoscopy workshops.

We are also hopeful that at APDW2014 in Bali the APAGE executive board will formally approve our bid for holding APAGE Single topic on Inflammatory Bowel disease (IBD) on 4th April 2015, along with our annual congress in April 2015.

We look forward to welcoming you all and request you to encourage your trainees to submit their abstracts and attend the meeting.

Professor Aamir Ghafoor Khan
President, Pakistan Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Society
THE WORLD ENDOSCOPY ORGANIZATION (WEO) has announced that it will hold the first World Congress Of GI Endoscopy, in 2017, in Hyderabad, India. "Technological advances in endoscopy over the past years, have been spectacular", states Dr Nageshwar D Reddy, Congress President, who is also the President of the World Endoscopy Organization (WEO).

"The WEO’s congress will recognise these achievements and addresses the increasing complexity faced by endoscopists today".

Dr Jean-Francois Rey, WEO President-Elect, has been appointed the scientific chair of ENDO 2017. When asked what he personally felt about the congress, he enthused “A global platform for dialogue is essential and India, the perfect location. It is time to bring together the endoscopy community, to stimulate international exchange and to establish best practices. That is why ENDO 2017 is so important”. Dr Rey said that the scientific committee’s goal was to disseminate the use of advanced endoscopy techniques across emerging regions and underserved areas and to support the development of practical guidelines adapted to local needs. Another key aspect they hope to achieve through an interactive programme is to provide participants with the tools needed to further their endoscopic practice and create an engaging atmosphere in which delegates can network and learn from one another.

HYDERABAD: THE PERFECT SETTING TO KICK-START CHANGE

Hyderabad is the ideal location in view of its proximity and direct connectivity to many Asia-Pacific cities, with a well-established network of hotels and a top-quality airport. It is home to the world-renowned Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) which will be the co-partner in this endeavor.

With such promising features, ENDO 2017 will be a landmark event and will set the stage for future world endoscopy congresses, achieving both immediate and lasting change.

For more information, please contact:
ENDO 2017 Secretariat
email: endo2017@worldendo.org
or visit: www.endo-2017.org
Gastro 2015: What the Brisbane meeting offers you.

More than 3,000 clinicians, researchers, academics and other health professionals from around the world are expected to gather in Brisbane, Australia, from 28th September to 2nd October 2015, for Gastro 2015, an AGW-WGO International Congress.

World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) President, Professor Jim Toouli said Gastro 2015 is the beginning of a new era for the organisation with the introduction of two yearly meetings.

"Partnerships will be formed around the world with WGO member societies to co-host these congresses. It starts in Brisbane, in conjunction with the well-established Australian Gastroenterology Week," he added.

"Here, the opportunity to network, learn, collaborate and explore, shall be second to none," said Jim.

Gastro 2015 will deliver a comprehensive overview of the latest information, insights and practices in gastroenterology, endoscopy, surgery and hepatology over five days of scientific and educational sessions.

The programme will include workshops, seven streams of postgraduate courses, state-of-the-art lectures, clinical updates, oral presentations of original research, poster sessions and an update from the WGO training centres. In addition, practice guidelines for common gastroenterological conditions shall be discussed and launched during the congress.

"Some of our biggest challenges in gastroenterology today include liver, pancreatic, inflammatory bowel and diarrhoeal diseases. Gastro 2015 will bring together world leaders from both the developing and the developed world to discuss and debate how best to address these," said Jim.

Associate Professor Don Cameron, President, Gastroenterological Society of Australia, said the meeting would offer the best in science, clinical practice and demonstrations of the latest diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.

"Areas such as genetics, metabolomics and proteomics are emerging issues in gastroenterology, and we look forward to exploring new research in these areas."

Beyond the merits of the meeting, the location is another great reason to attend Gastro 2015!

"Brisbane is the vibrant capital of Queensland, which is Australia’s sunshine state. It offers a relaxed, welcoming environment with sunshine and beaches, as well as opportunities to enjoy world-class art galleries, and a wide variety of wining and dining, and outdoor activities," said Don.

"On behalf of the Organising Committee, we look forward to welcoming delegates and showing them good Australian hospitality!"

Other participating organisations in this meeting include the Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; Australian Pancreatic Club; Society of International Gastroenterological Nurses and Endoscopy Associates; and the Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia.

Sponsor and exhibition bookings for Gastro 2015 are now open, while Early Bird Registrations will commence in late November 2014.

TO LEARN MORE: Go to www.gastro2015.com

For further information, please contact Maria Padua: mariapadua@bigpond.com or 61 2 9554 8057
Advances in Digestive Medicine

Mark your Calendar on December 3~6, 2015

Welcome to TAIWAN