I am pleased to welcome all to APD2017 Hong Kong. Considering important contributions by leaders of The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology to develop and promote APDW activities, it is rather surprising that this is the first time we hold the APDW in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, I am confident that the Organizing Committee, headed by Professor Justin Wu and his colleagues, will organize an excellent and scientifically motivating conference which will be very attractive to the participants as they have ample experience in organizing international meetings. Of course, Hong Kong is famous for world-class gourmet food and magnificent night scene for the visitors. So, please take some time to enjoy the charms that this amazing city has to offer.

This APDNews is a showcase of the increasing activities of the APAGE conducted by the member societies. Indeed, some of the joint activities (GERD consensus, GOASIA, and the ASEAN consensus for Helicobacter pylori) endorsed by APAGE have already been published in international journals such as Gut and Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, our official journal. Through these activities, we can promote mutual understanding of our rich diversity in terms of culture and history, and provide a valuable message to the world.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Professor Varocha Mahachai for her dedicated efforts to record our important activities with attractive photos for the APDNews, which you can see all the past issues of APDNews on our homepage.

Professor Kentaro Sugano
President
APAGE
It is an honour and privilege to be re-appointed by the APAGE President, Professor Kentaro Sugano, to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the APDNews, the newsletter of APAGE. This has given me the greatest opportunity to keep up with most of the academic activities in the gastroenterology arena in the region and also world wide.

The APDNews has served as a platform for the APAGE member societies to promote and announce their activities and events and to allow interaction and collaboration amongst the countries as endorsed by the APAGE including the consensus reports, monothematic conferences, national society meetings, award presentations and research activities.

I am grateful for the ongoing support and advice from Professor Kentaro Sugano, and Professor KL Goh, the APDWF President. It is our main mission to make the APAGE a strong body and to continue to be a world leading body in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology.

My word of appreciation goes to colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region and from around the world for contributing news and information for us to share and for the secretarial assistance from Ms Molly Kong and Ms Apinya Boongomon. The APDNews will continue to serve as an archive of gastroenterology information in the region, and will remain historical references in years to come.

Professor Varocha Mahachai
Past-President, Gastroenterological Association of Thailand
Aims And Conditions

This Fellowship, sponsored by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), and supported by 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 their own. The intention is to help train leaders in the field who have obtained a grounding in laboratory or clinical scientific methods or both, and who will be able to contribute to research in the field during their subsequent career. It is recognized that a 12-month period will not be sufficient to complete a research doctorate or other qualification such as a Master of Public Health. However, some recipients may wish and have the opportunity to continue their research to complete such a qualification after the Fellowship has completed; others may return immediately to clinical practice, but with research skills they did not possess before. It is the wish of APAGE and the JGH Foundation that Fellows will return to their home country on completion of the Fellowship (or any extension of time they might negotiate in the host country to complete a further qualification or extended project). The candidate is also required to present his/her work/project (preferably oral presentation) at the APDW meeting the following year or upon completion of the project and the research project to be written up as a full length article to be submitted to the JGH for consideration for publication.

Value and Period of Tenure

The Fellowship will be for a duration of 12 months period of training. It will provide a stipend of US$40,000 to be paid in two equal installments to the applicant’s account – the first at the commencement of the Fellowship (upon receiving an ink-signed proof of commencement of the Fellowship from the supervisor stipulating also the date of commencement of the Fellowship), and the second at the midpoint in the Fellowship (upon receipt of supervisor’s and applicant’s interim report). A stipend of up to US$10,000 will be paid to the host institution (supervisor’s account) at the commencement of the Fellowship (upon receiving an ink-signed proof of commencement of the Fellowship from the supervisor stipulating also the date of commencement of the Fellowship) as a token of support to the training expenses incurred by the applicant during the Fellowship. The Association will not be able to pay any additional amount for travel and relocation of the Fellow and her/his family, but the Fellow may use part of the stipend for this purpose if they wish.

Eligibility

An applicant is required to:
- Be in the final 12 months of a training program in gastroenterology and/or hepatology in a member country of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology, or not more than 3 years beyond the date of completion of training, at the closing date for applications, and
- Correctly fill in the application form and lodge with attachments prior to the closing date, and
- Recommended by the current supervisor and endorsed by the national society of gastroenterology
- Identify a training centre in a member country of his/her choice and apply directly to the training institute/hospital. Both APAGE and JGH Foundation are not involved in the application process of the applicant. An applicant is only eligible to apply for the Fellowship once he/she has secured a training post.

~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

The Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) wishes to congratulate DR JING YANG

Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, China

for being awarded the

APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship 2017

Dr Yang is an Associate Chief Physician at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, China. He is committed to clinical research in early GI cancer, focusing in particular on endoscopic diagnosis and treatment.

Dr Yang will be commencing his one-year training fellowship at The Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, in 2018, under the guidance of Professor Michael Bourke and his team.

Through this fellowship, Dr Yang hopes to further improve his level of knowledge in endoscopy. Dr Yang believes that this training opportunity will enhance his expertise in the field of digestive endoscopy.
APDW2016 was held in Kobe, Japan, from 2 to 5 November 2016 at Kobe Convention Center on Innovative Approaches to Gastroenterology.

A total of 3,135 participants with 1,739 overseas participants, consisted of top three ranks from China, Korea and Thailand, attended the meeting, including 187 invited speakers.

The programs included postgraduate course, named lectures, state-of-the-art lecture, hands-on seminar, live demonstration, APDWF/JGHF (Young Investigator Award) and Asia-Pacific consensus reports on IBD management, gastric cancer and H.pylori in the ASEAN countries.

There were a total of 1,336 abstracts accepted for presentation out of the 1,357 submitted abstracts. The named lectures were Marshall & Warren Lecture, Okuda Lecture and two JGHF Emerging Leader Lectures. The Young Investigator Awards were given to three of the promising young investigators. The social get-together included the warm welcome reception, the exceptional Presidential Dinner and the Faculty Dinner.

A-PSDE 50th CEREMONY

On 4 November 2016, the A-PSDE 50th Ceremony was held in Room 9 at the Ariston Hotel, Kobe, Japan. At the ceremony, Professor Seigo Kitano of Oita University took to the podium, conveyed his message of congratulations to the enthusiastic audience and expressed his commitment to the continued success of A-PSDE.
THE YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD
An annual award which attracts much attention every year, was set up for the purpose of stimulating interest in research training by rewarding outstanding examples of excellence amongst those involved in research training in the early stages of their career (up to five years following the completion of training in gastroenterology/hepatology). Presentations by the seven short-listed applicants from five areas in the Asia-Pacific was given, followed by a rigorous assessment by a panel of judges who determined the winner. The entrants who presented were without question, the shining hopes of the APDW. They would be carrying the organization on their shoulders in the near future.

AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY

WGO DISTINGUISHED GLOBAL LECTURE 2016
Role of Gastroenterology in the Primary Prevention of Disease: Opportunity and Challenge Kentaro Sugano

JGHF OKUDA LECTURE
Novel Strategies in Treating Severe Acute Pancreatitis John Albert Windsor

JGHF MARSHALL AND WARREN LECTURE
Mechanism for H.pylori-induced Genetic Instability in Gastric Cancer Development Tsutomu Chiba

JGHF EMERGING LEADER LECTURE (LIVER)
Treatment of Chronic HCV Infection: From Response-guided Therapy to Resource-guided Therapy in the Transition Era from Interferon-containing to Interferon-free Regimens Ming-Lung Yu

JGHF EMERGING LEADER LECTURE (GI)
Innovation and Advances in Endoscopic Surgery Philip Wai Yan Chiu
For the first time in Thailand, the World Endoscopy Organization (WEO) partnered with the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT) to organize a new edition of PET.

Under the chairmanship of the WEO PET International Course Director, Professor Jonathan Cohen (USA), and the President of the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT), Professor Varocha Mahachai (Thailand), the one-and-a-half day training program was held on 30 November to 1 December 2016, at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center and the Bangkok Medical School’s Ramathibodi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand.

The course was well attended by 23 local Thai participants and 13 participants from other ASEAN countries nominated by the respective national Societies.

The faculty consisted of five international and eight local experts, who covered themes such as training in endoscopy, techniques and methodologies, use of models in training, common challenges and limitations, and the assessment of competency. The objectives of the course were to enable the participants to identify new practices in training, share training methodologies with fellow teachers, and experience the use of models in training.

Highlights were the interactive hands-on simulators sessions and the excellent work of the staff at Ramathibodi Hospital, who engaged and imparted their expertise and knowledge in a realistic teaching environment, which was most valued and appreciated by the participants. The overwhelmingly positive responses received in the post-meeting survey clearly showed the benefits of the program.

The World Endoscopy Organization and the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand are thankful to Professor Jonathan Cohen and Professor Varocha Mahachai for their great support in arranging the course. The organizers are proud of the great success of PET in Thailand and hope it will now become a regular event.

PET is designed to provide attendees with both cognitive and technical instruction in teaching methods for GI endoscopy. Participants experienced both hands-on training and lectures, so that they can improve the teaching of endoscopy to trainees in residency or fellowship programs under their supervision. The course is organized in partnership with local and regional societies and includes simultaneous voting and hands-on training, with simultaneous translation available upon request.

The next WEO PET Course will take place in Rome, Italy, on 14 to 16 September 2017. For more details, please check the WEO event calendar.
Program for Endoscopic Teachers (PET) in Hyderabad, February 2017

For the first edition of PET in 2017, the World Endoscopy Organization (WEO) organized a course, taking place in the context of ENDO 2017 – 1st World Congress of GI Endoscopy.

Under the chairmanship of the WEO PET Coordinator Jerome D Waye (USA), Program Director Jonathan Cohen (USA), and the PET Co-Director Douglas O Faigel (USA), the half-day day training (the so-called “Mini PET” format) was held on Saturday morning, February 18, 2017, in Hyderabad, India, at the Hyderabad International Convention Center (HICC).

The course was well attended by approximately 40 participants, comprised of the highly international audience of ENDO 2017.

The faculty consisted of five international and eight local experts, who covered themes such as training in endoscopy, techniques and methodologies, use of models in training, common challenges and limitations, and the assessment of competency. The objective of the course was to impart skills necessary for teachers in digestive endoscopy worldwide, focusing both on organizational, structural issues for training programs, as well as on the principles and techniques which lead to excellence in individual endoscopy teaching skill.

The World Endoscopy Organization is thankful to Jerome D Waye, Jonathan Cohen and Douglas O Faigel for their great support in arranging the course.

The WEO Program for Endoscopic Teachers is designed to provide attendees with both cognitive and technical instruction in teaching methods for GI endoscopy. Participants experience both hands-on training and lectures, so that they can improve the teaching of endoscopy to trainees in residency or fellowship programs under their supervision. The course is organized in partnership with local and regional societies and includes simultaneous voting and hands-on training, with simultaneous translation available upon request.

The next WEO PET Course will take place in Rome, Italy, on September 14-16, 2017. For more details, please check the WEO event calendar:

http://www.worldendo.org/events/
The Annual Scientific Meeting was successful and attended by 166 healthcare professionals. The Honorary Fellowship of the Society was bestowed upon distinguished guest, Prof Kwong-Ming Fock, Senior Consultant, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Changi General Hospital, Singapore. He is among the 20 honorary fellows of the Society who are renowned scholars in the specialty.

Prof Fock delivered an enlightening lecture sharing his valuable experience on the topic “From H.pylori to Colorectal Disorders: A Personal Perspective”. It was followed by a case on Endoscopy in IBD presented by Dr Moe Kyaw. The panel discussion led by Prof Wai-Keung Leung, Dr Kin-Bon Lai and Dr Wai-Man Yip was actively participated.

The next AGM cum Scientific Meeting will be held on 22 March 2018. Please visit our website www.hksge.org for more information.
The Gastroenterological Society of Singapore, in collaboration with Chapter of Gastroenterologist, Academy of Medicine (Singapore) and Changi General Hospital organized the 12th edition of GIHep Singapore from 7 – 9 July, 2017. The conference was endorsed by APAGE under the leadership of the President of Gastroenterological Society of Singapore, Associate Professor Ling Khoon Lin. Held over three days, GIHep Singapore 2017 included both local and international faculty of experts in various fields of gastroenterology and hepatology with a full day of live endoscopy workshop at Singapore General Hospital and the Annual Scientific meeting and the Endoscopy Nursing program at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel. The meeting was well attended and received by all participants.

**H. pylori Management in ASEAN: The Bangkok Consensus Report**

“H. pylori Management in ASEAN: The Bangkok Consensus meeting held in November 2016, 2558 key opinion leaders (34 international experts from ten ASEAN countries, Japan, Taiwan and the United States) gathered to review and evaluate clinical aspects of H. pylori infection and to develop consensus statements, rationales and recommendation on the management of H. pylori infection in clinical practice in ASEAN countries.”

The manuscript has been accepted for publication in JGH.

**APDW2016 : Management of H. pylori in Asia-Pacific**
The Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has once again successfully organized its Annual Scientific Meeting from 11 to 13 August 2017 at the G Hotel Gurney, Penang, Malaysia. The meeting received more than 300 registrations from both local and international participants. Professor Paul Moayyedi from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, was the 17th MSGH Orator and his topic of oration was “Population Screening and H. pylori Eradication to Reduce the Incidence of Gastric Cancer”. Professor Lawrence Khek-Yu Ho from the National University of Singapore, on the other hand, was the orator for the 14th Panir Chelvam Memorial Lecture and the topic of his oration was “Latest Progress in Endoscopic Robot”. They were among the 15 international renowned speakers invited for the meeting including Professors Roger Barton, Ajay Duseja, George Hopkins, Rupert Leong, Wai-Keung Leung, Teerha Piratvisuth, Seng-Gee Lim, Govind K Makharia, Simon Ng, Choon-Jin Ooi, Gerhard Rogler, Samir Shah and Reuben K Wong.

Among the topics discussed in this meeting were Obesity, GI Bleeding, IBD, Colorectal Cancer Screening, Functional GI Diseases and latest hepatology developments. The event received 62 oral and poster presentations.

The highlight of the event was the conferment of the Excellence Service Award to one of the Society’s past presidents, Datuk Dr Jayaram Menon. He has spent 24 years as the head of gastroenterology in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, and served ten years as the national head of gastroenterology service. He has trained a total of 75 physicians and 20 gastroenterologists, besides pioneering the Post-Basic Gastroenterological Assistant (GIA) training program.

On the evening of 11 August, the Society honored the invited speakers with the President’s dinner at the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, a 19th century historical building in the island. The dinner was preceded with a tour of the mansion and a surprise durian treat was arranged by the organizing committee at the end of the dinner.

The meeting received good participation from the biomedical industry in terms of booth participation and both lunch and tea satellite symposia. The event also witnessed the launch of two new drugs in Malaysia namely Entyvio (Vedolizumab) by Takeda and Zepatier (Elbasvir/Grazoprevir) by MSD.
Asia-Pacific Consortium on Gut Microbiota

One of the recent and major developments in understanding the gastrointestinal health and its disorders is understanding the gut microbiome and dysbiosis, which means either a quantitative (small intestinal bacterial overgrowth) or qualitative alteration in the gut microbiota. Moreover, manipulation of gut microbiota by several means, such as dietary modification, prebiotics, probiotics, antibiotics and fecal transplantation, is being established rapidly to treat various gastrointestinal diseases. In an attempt to recommend the formation of an Asia-Pacific Consortium on Gut Microbiota similar to those established in Europe and North America, and to review the current evidence supporting manipulation of gut microbiota using probiotics in gastrointestinal disorders in the Asia-Pacific region, a consensus has been developed and published in the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.¹

The consensus members included experts from nine countries primarily from the Asia region including India, Singapore, Australia, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, North America and Uruguay. The first meeting of a group of international experts in adult and pediatric gastroenterology was held at the Sorbonne University, Paris, France, on 11 & 12 April 2016. Subsequently, the consensus process was continued by electronic communication among the members. The final meeting was held at Asian Pacific Digestive Disease Week in Kobe, Japan, on 2 November 2016.

The major conclusions of this consensus were, there is growing evidence to support the therapeutic potential of probiotics in modulating gastrointestinal functions and relieving symptoms of these disorders, but more research is needed both in the Asia-Pacific region and internationally. Since the spectrum of disease seen across Asia-Pacific differs from those in Europe or North America, an Asia-Pacific Consortium on Gut Microbiota is recommended to define the nature of the Asia-Pacific microbiome and its relationships with health and disease across the region. In addition, an expert panel should be established to provide clear recommendations on the use of probiotics in adults in Asia-Pacific, as well as highlighting important avenues for the future.

REFERENCE


APAGE RESEARCH FUND

The APAGE has set up a Research Fund Committee which is headed by Professor Kazuichi Okazaki. This is in line with one of the objectives of the APAGE which is to encourage, stimulate and aid gastroenterological research and investigation into the causes and treatment of gastroenterological diseases. The Committee is in the midst of finalising the guidelines.

The proposal is to provide an annual award to one promising research project proposed from the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology member societies for one to two-year period. The research project will consist of internationally cooperative studies proposed by members of the APAGE member societies, but not by those of a sole country society.

The APAGE will call for applications after the APDW2017, and will make the final selection of one promising international research project from among the applicants recommended by the APAGE member societies.
On behalf of the Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan, it is my pleasure and honor to announce the Taiwan Digestive Disease Week (TDDW) 2017, which will be held at the NTUH International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan, from September 29 to October 1, 2017.

The Taiwan Digestive Disease Week (TDDW), as a professional platform to communicate and exchange knowledge, is held from the experts of four digestive societies in Taiwan, namely the Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan (GEST), the Digestive Endoscopy Society of Taiwan (DEST), the Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver (TASL) and the Taiwan Surgical Society of Gastroenterology (TSSG), and which has successfully played its role as the optimal venue for sharing and learning since 2011.

Moreover, TDDW was first held in southern Taiwan - Kaohsiung in 2014 and enlarged its scale with the cooperation of other five digestive medicine-associated societies, including the Taiwan Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (TSPGHAN), the Taiwan Pancreas Society (TPS), the Taiwan Liver Cancer Association (TLCA), the Taiwan Society of Coloproctology (TSC) and the Taiwan Association for the Study of Small Intestinal Diseases (TASSID).

In 2015 December, TDDW 2015 was incorporated into the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2015 which was held in Taipei and has been remarked the most stimulating and memorable APDW conference ever. In 2016, the TDDW was successfully held at Taipei with the participation of 2,156 delegates, 3 key note lectures, 13 special lectures, 12 symposia, and 12 satellite symposia. With these successful conference experiences, I believe that everyone will enjoy this forthcoming TDDW 2017, and our energetic and beautiful city of Taipei and Taiwan. I sincerely welcome all colleagues participating in the TDDW 2017!
COMING EVENTS

GASTRO 2018
5-8 December, Bangkok
WGO-GAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
www.gastro2018bangkok.com

Global Perspectives in Gastroenterology

- A platform for networking among the digestive disease practitioners
- An East-meet-West exchange opportunity
- A place to find out the latest state of the art technology and best practices
- An occasion to meet new friends and rekindle old friendship

SPACE AGE ENDOSCOPY
2017 LIVE ENDOscopy WORKSHOP
Exploring beyond the GI lumen...

NOTES POEM ROBOTICS

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY
Amit Mazdeja, MD – Global Hospital, India
Anthony Tech, M.D. – Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dong Wan Seo, M.D. – University of Ulsan, South Korea
Hironori Yamamoto, M.D. – Jichi Medical University, Japan

OCT 5-6, 2017
Clowne Plaza Manila Galeria Hotel, Ortigas, Ortigas City
Cardinal Santos Medical Center, San Juan City

CME UNITS

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Early bird registration before September 1, 2017
Asian Pacific Digestive Week
APDW 2018

Connecting Excellence on Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Asia-Pacific

November 15(Thu) - 18(Sun), 2018
Coex, Seoul, Korea

“Find Out Why you Should Come to APDW 2018 Seoul!”

✓ It will be a highly professional and memorable event held in the stunning city of Seoul, Korea;
✓ It will be an exciting platform to share practices and opinions with experts;
✓ Socializing and networking will be another benefit of APDW 2018 Seoul;
✓ It will be held during Seoul’s most beautiful month with the best weather, mid-November.

Visit our website at www.apdw2018.org