A REPORT ON THE 2ND ASIAN PACIFIC TOPIC CONFERENCE ASIAN PACIFIC HELICOBACTER PYLORI MEETING 2012 (APHP 2012)

The Asian Pacific Helicobacter Pylori Meeting 2012 with the theme “Translating Science into Clinical Medicine: H. pylori infection in Asia-Pacific in the New Millennium” held from 13th-15th January 2012 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and organized under the auspices of the Asian Pacific Association Of Gastroenterology and The Japanese Society Of Gastroenterology in collaboration with the Malaysian Society Of Gastroenterology And Hepatology proved to be a resounding success.

With a participation of over 500 delegates, this focuses meeting attracted participants from 12
Asian Pacific countries and from Europe and North America. The meeting started with an auspicious note with a sell-out crowd for the Takeda Satellite symposium followed by the Welcome ceremony and dinner; the highlight of which was the Dinner Lecture by Nobel Laureate 2005 Professor Barry Marshall - “The Helicobacter pylori story- the road to the Nobel Prize!”

The lectures that followed in the course of the ensuing 2 days were well attended with lively discussion between the faculty and the audience. A scientific poster round with 2 categories: Clinical and Basic Science was held on Saturday lunchtime with 10 of the best posters being selected for presentation.

The winners of the best poster awards were Yoshimasa Saito, Osamu Matsunari, Ernest Abegil C.Dela and Takashi Kawai.

Abstracts were published in a supplement of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Other highlights included the gastric cancer workshop organized in collaboration with the Asian Pacific Digestive Oncology Group and also the 2 special workshops on early detection of gastric cancer and a molecular biology genetics workshop on the Sunday afternoon.

All in all it was a most enjoyable meeting for all participants who benefited greatly from this meeting.
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List of faculty APHP Meeting

Varocha Mahachai   Bangkok, Thailand
Udom Kachintorn   Bangkok, Thailand
Ratha-Korn Vilaichone   Bangkok, Thailand
Francis Megraud   Bordeaux, France
Uday Ghoshal   Chandigarh, India
Min-Hu Chen   Guangzhou, China
Francis KL Chan   Hong Kong, China
Enders Ng   Hong Kong, China
Joseph JY Sun   Hong Kong, China
Ivan Hung   Hong Kong, China
Justin Wu   Hong Kong, China
Rupa Banerjee   Hyderabad, India
Peter Malfertheiner   Magdeburg, Germany
Felix Zano   Manila, Philippines

Fritz Francois   New York, USA
Yoshio Yamaoka   Oita, Japan
Huck Joo Tan   Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Masahiro Asaka   Sapporo, Japan
Kwong-Ming Fock   Singapore
Tiing-Leong Ang   Singapore
Khek-Yu, Lawrence Ho   Singapore
Peter Katelaris   Sydney, Australia
Hazel Mitchell   Sydney, Australia
Jaw-Town Lin   Taipei, Taiwan
Kentaro Sugano   Tochigi, Japan
Takuji Gotoda   Tokyo, Japan
Nguyen Lam Tung   Hanoi, Vietnam

Full participation at APHP scientific sessions
28th Annual Meeting of Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & G.I. Endoscopy

The 28th Annual congress of Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & GI Endoscopy took place in Karachi at Pearl Continental hotel from 28th Feb to 3rd March 2012 with joint sessions with SOLES (Society of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic surgeons) and was endorsed by APAGE. "New Horizons in the Gastroenterology and Liver diseases" was the theme of the conference.

Pre-Congress Workshops started with Advanced Laparoscopy Workshop on 28th February and Advanced Endoscopy Workshop on 29th February 2012 to 1st March 2012.

Renowned national and international faculty performed the procedures, which were broadcasted live to a large audience.

The faculty included delegates from India, UK, USA, Singapore, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Advanced endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures were performed.

Furthermore, a Laparoscopic Workshop covered a variety of Upper G.I, Obesity & Single Port Surgeries over a three day period. The Advanced Endoscopic Workshop covered various routine and advanced upper & lower G.I Procedures, for two days. These included: difficult corrosive oesophageal strictures, large and difficult biliary and pancreatic stones, high and difficult biliary and pancreatic strictures and advanced EUS, with the latter being performed by Professor Lawrence Ho.
**28th Annual Meeting of Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & G.I. Endoscopy**

A large gastric cancer was removed by ESD by Dr Takuji Gotoda of Tokyo. Spyglass & EHL were performed for a very large biliary stone by Dr GV Rao Hyderabad of India. Both procedures were performed for the first time in Pakistan.

A post graduate course was organised which was well attended and covered major advances in diseases particularly prevalent in Pakistan.

The Chief Minister of Sindh was the chief guest present at the inaugural ceremony. He specially thanked the 29 international delegates who travelled to Pakistan despite the negative press. This was followed by a key note lecture on the Future of Endoscopic Surgery by Dr GV Rao.

The PSG excellence award was given to Professor Qasim Aziz of St Bart’s, London, UK. The Special award was given to Dr GV Rao. The Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & The GI Endoscopy Society awards for the Hepatologist and Gastroenterologist of the year were awarded to Professor Wasim Jafri and Dr Saad Khalid Niaz, respectively. This was followed by a traditional live instrumental folk music and dinner.

The core meeting, which was one of the most well attended meetings of the country, started with the Presidential lecture by Professor Arif Siddiqi on the issue of prevention of Hepatitis B and C in Pakistan. The meeting comprised of 14 state of the art lectures and 13 symposia, where eminent international and national speakers covered current issues in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in line with the theme of the conference. The plenary symposium on GI motility was organized in collaboration wit St Barts of London, UK. Over 60 abstracts were selected for oral presentations and all posters and presentations were published in a special supplement of the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association.

Faculty dinners were organized at the famous Sindh Cluband Boat Club. The closing ceremony took place on the 3rd March followed by dinner and live musical programme. The organizing committee was grateful to the international faculty for their invaluable contribution and was thankful to all those who helped in making this event successful.

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**Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2012 & The 8th International Endoscopy Workshop**

The Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISGE) in cooperation with the Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy (ISDE) and Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia/ Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital are planning to hold “Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2012 & the 8th International Endoscopy Workshop” in Jakarta, Indonesia from September 12 - 15th, 2012. An expected 800 delegates will be attending, comprising mostly General Practitioners, Internists, and Gastroenterologists. This important scientific event will be endorsed by World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) and American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). The official venue will be the Borobudur Hotel in Jakarta.
The Editorial Board of APD news wishes to congratulate our Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology president, Professor KL Goh for being awarded the highly prestigious Merdeka Award on 10th October 2011 from the prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

The Merdeka awards recognize and reward outstanding individuals or organizations for their significant and meaningful contributions to Malaysia and its people in 5 categories: Education and Community, Environment, Health Science and Technology, Contribution to the People of Malaysia and Outstanding Scholastic Achievement. According to the Merdeka Awards criteria, “the selection process for the awards is stringent and exhaustive, participated by 22 independent nominators comprising of some of the country’s most respected and distinguished personalities”.

Professor Goh received his award for the category of Outstanding Scholastic Achievement category for “Outstanding contribution to the elevation of the study of gastroenterology and hepatology in Malaysia to global standards”.

In his letter of Award, the chairman of the Merdeka Trustees Award Trust, Dato Shamsul Azhar Abbas stated that “……I believe your journey to achievement is a story that should be shared to inspire the nation”.

In his written profile, Professor Goh highlighted his 3 guiding principles in his life: humility, honesty and hard work as being the cornerstone of his professional and academic life. His contribution to research and academic publications in gastroenterology and the formation of the gastroenterology and GI endoscopy unit at the University of Malaya Medical Centre and his immense contribution to the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology were cited as reasons behind his award.

We hope Professor KL Goh will have a long and fruitful career and will continue to serve the gastroenterology and hepatology fraternity in the Asia Pacific for a long time more to come.
On 9 December 2011, the Society celebrated its 30th Anniversary in a dinner meeting. Prominent scholars, Prof. Joseph J.Y. Sung, Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Ching-Lung Lai, Simon KY Lee Professorship in Gastroenterology and Chair of Medicine & Hepatology of The University of Hong Kong, delivered lectures on the future development of gastroenterology and hepatology. The opening ceremony was officiated by honourable guests Dr. York Chow, GBS, JP, Secretary for Food and Health of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Mr. Anthony Wu, GBS, JP, Chairman of the Hospital Authority, Hong Kong. All guests enjoyed the lectures, performances, and games while sharing friendship throughout the evening.

A new council was formed in March this year and I was elected President of the Society for the term of 2012-2014.

Our Annual General Meeting cum Scientific Meeting was held on 8 March 2012 during which our distinguished guest, Prof. Kentaro Sugano from the Jichi Medical University, Tochigi, Japan was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Society. Prof. Sugano is among the 14 honorary fellows of our Society who are renowned scholars in our specialty.

The Society will continue to organize activities to promote the advancement of gastroenterology and GI related disciplines. Reports and updates will be published in our newsletters, scheduled for June and December this year. We invite you to visit our website http://www.hksge.org/newsletter/ for more information. Thank you and regards,

Dr. Vincent K.S. Leung
President, HKSGE
Update from the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology

Photos of JSGE Research Fellowship Program awardees at JSGE annual meeting

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT: 3rd Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC)

The 3rd Asian-Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) will be held on November 3rd, 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. The theme will be Nutrition Related Disorders and Digestive System. It is hoped that the conference will provide encouragement to young brains in the dramatically growing Asian-Pacific region. For more information, visit the official website: www.jigyou.com/APTC/index.html