May I bid a warm welcome to all delegates to the APDW 2018, Seoul, Korea! The venue of the APDW 2018 is COEX, a large, modernised convention center complex with shopping malls, restaurants, theaters and an aquarium. It is located in the trendy Gangnam area where transportation system connects to major areas of Seoul and the airports. Although this is the second time the Korea societies are hosting the APDW in Seoul, this time around, the APDW is held in conjunction with the Korean Digestive Disease Week (KDDW), a newly established confederate gastrointestinal society meeting which started last year. This type of multi-society meeting requires a long-term preparation in terms of achieving harmonisation among the societies on allocation of speakers and chairpersons, topics, timing and meeting halls.

Adjustment between the APDW and KDDW programmes and schedules would have been more complex and difficult. Therefore, I really thank all the members of the local organising committee, led by Professor Won Ho Kim, for their tremendous work to accomplish this mission. In this regard, I also extend my appreciation for the co-operation of KDDW chaired by Professor Dong Ki Lee and APDW 2018 Congress Chairman, Professor Hyun Chae Jung.

The recent annual APDW meetings have been attracting many participants (around 3,000) as the quality of educational sessions (post-graduate course, hands-on sessions), lectures and symposia, and presentation of original works (done via electronic system rather than conventional poster), are among the highest in the global gastrointestinal conventions. I am sure you will learn the latest progress in the field of gastroenterology during this meeting. Attending the meeting provides you with a networking opportunity; information obtained by face-to-face discussions with distinguished speakers and colleagues certainly are unsurpassed and are better than just reading or listening. You will also enjoy world renowned Korean hospitality during the meeting. Also do not forget to savor the unique Korean culture and delicacy.

Last, but not least, I thank all who have supported and collaborated in the APAGE activities during the last four years of my presidency of APAGE. I believe it will further develop into a core society uniting the Asian-Pacific gastroenterologists.

Professor Kentaro Sugano
President
APAGE

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The APDNews continues to serve as a platform for the APAGE member societies to share their academic activities and events to promote regional collaboration. The Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2017 was successfully held in Hong Kong on 23rd - 26th September 2017 with 2,879 participants from 44 countries. The scientific programme was very comprehensive and well attended. Throughout the year there have been a series of scientific conferences including the annual meetings and workshops of the member societies and APAGE endorsed conferences including: The 9th Asian Pacific Topic Conference on Colorectal Cancer held in Tokyo on 20th April 2018 organised by JSGE and APAGE and the 3rd APAGE Clinical Forum on IBD which was successfully held in Cebu, Philippines on 20th - 22nd September 2018 with over 480 participants and 34 international and regional IBD experts. The meeting surpassed the previous two meetings which was suggestive of the increasing disease burden and more interests in the region. Frontiers in Fecal Microbiota Transplant gathered a group of regional experts in Asia Pacific on 8th June 2018, organised by the University of Hong Kong led by Professor Siew Ng to share their views on microbiota research in the region and to set out the criteria for common understanding in the field.

I am grateful to the ongoing support and advice from the APAGE President, Professor Kentaro Sugano and the contribution from my co-chair, Associate Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali and the technical support of Ms Molly Kong, the Executive Director of APAGE, and her team.

Professor Varocha Mahachai
Chairman
APDNews
The Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2017 (APDW 2017) themed "The Future in Digestive Diseases" was held in Hong Kong from 23rd to 26th September 2017 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. APDW 2017 was the concerted effort of 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, Hong Kong IBD Society and Hong Kong Society of Endoscopy Nurses.

It was a very successful Conference that attracted 2,879 participants from 44 countries/cities including 305 faculty members. Japan, China and Korea ranked top three for the number of participants.

The scientific programme was very comprehensive with the Postgraduate Course, the Nurses Programme and seven parallel workshops on the pre-congress day on 23rd September 2017. Named Lectures, the Live Endoscopy Workshop, Young Clinician/Investigator Programme, sponsored symposia and workshops and 56 parallel scientific sessions were conducted over three days from 24th to 26th September 2017.

WGO Distinguished Global Lecture 2017:
Artificial Intelligence and Gastroenterology: Is There Still a Role for Gastroenterologists?

JGHF Marshall & Warren Lecture:
Lessons Learnt from the Epidemiology of Helicobacter Pylori Infection in a Multiracial Asian Population in Malaysia

JGHF Okuda Lecture:
Chronic Hepatitis B: HBsAg Seroclearance, cccDNA and Treatment Under Trial

JGHF Emerging Leader Lecture (GI):
Eosinophilic Esophagitis and Proton Pump Inhibitor Responsive Eosinophilia: Distinct Disease Entities?

JGHF Emerging Leader Lecture (Liver):
Non-invasive Assessments for Liver Fibrosis - The Crystal Ball We Long For
Out of 1,002 abstracts received, 786 were accepted for presentation in different categories, the Young Investigator Awards, Posters of Distinction Awards, Best of APDW Plenary Abstracts, Moderated e-Poster, Pure e-Poster Display and Video Display.

1st Prize YIA, Dr Ka Sing Cheung
2nd Prize YIA, Dr Mung Seong Wong
3rd Prize YIA, Dr Xiaoquan Huang

APDWF Poster of Distinction Award

Scientific Sessions
Supported by 45 industry sponsors, the exhibition area provided a platform for displaying advances of the digestive medicine while delegates met for views and friendship.

Industry partners, faculty and delegates enjoyed the participation in the Conference, friendship, and cultural experience in Hong Kong.

Welcome Reception

Opening Ceremony

Faculty Dinner
Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Annual General Assembly
10th December 2017
Royal Hotel, Macau

Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (MSGEH) had held her Annual General Assembly on December 10th, 2017 at the Royal Hotel, Macau. New council board of 2018-2020 was elected and fruitful sharing on the skills of treatment on Fatty Liver was earned.
Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Annual General Assembly
28th - 29th July 2018

Macao Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (MSGEH) had held her Annual Scientific Meeting on July 28th - 29th, 2018 in the Lecture Theatre of Dr Henry Fok Medical Specialist Block. Around 30 experts from two coasts and four regions were gathered happily together!
To promote the advancement of gastroenterology, The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology continues to organise academic activities.

On 22nd March 2018, the Annual General Meeting cum Scientific Meeting was held and the Honorary Fellowship was bestowed upon Professor Emad M El-Omar, Professor of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia and Editor-in-Chief of GUT. During the meeting, Professor El-Omar delivered a state-of-art lecture on “The Gut Microbiome and GI Disease - Where Are We Now”.

The 20th 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 26th August 2018. To mark the 20th anniversary, the Meeting was much honoured to have Professor Joseph Sung delivered a keynote lecture on “Frontiers in Gastroenterology: Looking at the Next 20 Years” on this special occasion. In addition, renowned overseas and local guest speakers delivered lectures that covered hot topics in gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy. Delegates participated actively throughout the panel discussions. The Meeting this year continued to provide a valuable platform for local and overseas gastrointestinal professionals and experts to exchange knowledge and share experience in different perspectives of GI diseases.
For the 12th time in Indonesia, the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) in collaboration with Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia/Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital Jakarta, organised a great event, “Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2018”.

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

On the first two days, a Hands-on Workshop on EUS-ERCP was held at Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Centre, Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia on 18th to 19th April 2018. The workshop was supported by the Asian EUS Group (AEG) and the Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy (ISDE).

On the next day, the Scientific Sessions of the Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2018 were held at the Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia on 20th to 21st April 2018. The meeting consisted of five plenary lectures, 14 symposia, three satellite symposia, two snack with the expert sessions, two meet the expert sessions, one dinner symposium and poster sessions. The meeting provided the most updated information and knowledge in the field of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy. All sessions were delivered by international faculties from Malaysia, Singapore, India, and also experts from Indonesia and were attended by more than 400 participants.

The Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology will hold the next "Indonesian Digestive Disease Week 2019" on 26th to 27th April 2019. We look forward to a successful meeting and welcoming participants from Asia Pacific and all around the world.
The 9th Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) was held at Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, on 20th April 2018. 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 and encouraging mutual friendship.

APTC is a monothematic scientific conference focusing each time on one important topic related to digestive diseases. The augural APTC 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 May 2017, the eighth APTC was held in Bali, Indonesia, with good success.

This year, we focused on the theme of “Up-to-date of Colorectal Cancer” which is a recent topic in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. In recent years, pathogenesis has been elucidated on genetics and risk factors, and advance in diagnosis and treatment is remarkable, contributing to improving disease characterization and outcomes. From these basic and clinical viewpoints, a variety of aspects were discussed.

There were about 127 participants in the 9th APTC meeting. The conference started with opening remarks by Professor Kazuichi Okazaki, an adviser of JSGE Asian-Liaison Committee. There were 18 plenary lectures by distinguished invited faculties representing the Asian-Pacific societies. The morning sessions focussed on pathogenesis from the viewpoint of genetics and risk factors. These plenary lectures included recent data on genetic analysis of colon cancer and hereditary disease and multicenter retrospective study, and the current situation in the speakers’ countries.

After lunch, a commemorative photograph was taken of faculties and participants.

The afternoon sessions focussed on diagnosis and treatment for colon cancer, and nine faculties delivered plenary lectures as representatives of the societies. Interestingly, the difference of screening system in Japan, Taiwan and Korea became clear, contributing to possibly improving the system in the Asian-Pacific countries and discovering colon cancer at an early stage. Furthermore, the advance of treatment including endoscopy, chemotherapy and surgery in Asian-Pacific Region was remarkable, and, in near future, better treatment outcomes will be expected.

A Poster Exhibition by 18 active researchers who were recommended by their faculties was held. The distinguished best poster awards were given to the three best posters presentations: Dr Eiichiro Yamamoto (Japan), Dr Ka-Ching Cheung (Hong Kong) and Dr Vicki Whitehall (Australia).
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The meeting ended with closing remarks by Professor Kentaro Sugano, APAGE President.

The conference was good success. There were a lot of fruitful discussions on the important and interesting theme during the one-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 strengthen friendships among specialists in different fields, including gastroenterologists, hepatologists, physiologists and surgeons. It also played a key role in disseminating new valuable information to the world on these important issues. All participants enjoyed a friendly atmosphere and a beautiful spring in Japan as well.
Frontiers in Fecal Microbiota Transplant
8th June 2018, Hong Kong
Reported by Professor Siew Ng

Back row (from left to right): Akira Andoh, Yongjian Zhou, Yun Kit Yeoh, Paul Chan, Chun-Ying Wu, Faming Zhang, Ajit Sood, Choon Jin Ooi, Naoki Omiya, Francis Chan and Tao Zuo

Front row (from left to right): Kentaro Sugano, Michael Kamm, Siew Ng and Varocha Mahachai
“Captivating Science, Inspiring Minds”
The International Digestive Disease Forum (IDDF) 2018 had an overwhelming response from over 1,100 participants from 26 countries. This year, IDDF 2018 collaborated with GUT the first time for the GUT-IDDF YIA awards. We had over 260 abstracts!

Highlights of IDDF 2018
A diverse programme was designed which covered areas of Hepatitis, GI, Endoscopy and Basic Science. Sessions included HBV-Behind the Guidelines, Quality Colonoscopy by the Masters, NAFLD Update, Gastric Protection in NSAID Therapy, Live Demonstration on Endoscopy, Asian Frontiers in GI Endoscopy (AFGIE) Symposium, State Key Lab Meeting on Gut Microbiome in GI Diseases and Cancer and Symposium on HCV Treatment and Future Treatment were very popular.

We held a successful “Meet the Editor” session with Editor-in-Chief of Gut, Professor Emad M El-Omar, on tips of writing top quality papers. In addition, Professor Michael Kamm was interviewed on his philosophy of life as an academic and how he manages IBD. It was entertaining and delegates greatly enjoyed this innovative and fun session.

Sharing from Renowned Named Lecturers and Speakers
IDDF 2018 was an important platform to foster knowledge advancement, international collaboration and to stimulate the next generation. Our renowned speakers made the event memorable. Professor Gary Wu and Professor Jake Liang delivered the Joseph Sung Lecture and Tzu-leung Ho Lecture respectively. They shared their views on the 21st century human microbiome and molecular virology to cure viral hepatitis.

We look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong for IDDF 2019 on 8th – 9th June 2019
IBD Centre of Excellence

5th - 7th July 2018
Singapore

Building on the success of the inaugural Inflammatory Bowel Disease Centre of Excellence (IBD CoE), Singapore held its second IBD CoE on the 5th - 7th July 2018 organised by leading Singaporean IBD Specialists in close collaboration with the Gastroenterological Society of Singapore (GESS) and supported by Johnson & Johnson.

This year’s multidisciplinary faculty consisted of distinguished local and international IBD specialists, including Dr Dermot McGovern, Director of Translational Medicine Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Professor Stephen Hanauer from the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Professor of Digestive Surgery, Dr Yves Panis from Université Paris VII. Themes ranging from biologic therapy, paediatric IBD, pregnancy in IBD and surgical management and techniques in IBD were presented. The role of therapeutic drug monitoring in optimising treatment in IBD patients was discussed, as well as the topic of new drugs and novel biologic agents were explored.

The event was attended by 155 delegates from eight countries across the Asia Pacific region. Delegates had the opportunity to participate in interactive case discussions that combined research and clinical practice. The Best of DDW was also presented as part of the CoE.

The IBD CoE aims to empower local and regional IBD specialists by presenting the latest evidence-based literature to delegates, allowing health care providers to provide patients with the best possible care.

Preparation for 2019’s CoE is already underway and will be held on the 11th - 13th July 2019 in Singapore.
The Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has once again successfully organised the Annual Scientific Meeting from 13th to 15th July 2018. The meeting has more than 400 registrations both locally and from overseas. Professor Rakesh Aggarwal from the Department of Gastroenterology, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India was the 18th MSGH Orator, delivering a lecture on "Hepatitis E in Asia". Professor Peter Gibson from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia on the other hand was the orator for the 15th Panir Chelvam Memorial Lecture on the topic of “My journey in FODMAPs”. They were among the 15 international renowned speakers invited for the meeting. Others were Professor Steven Flamm, Dr James Fung, Dr Yock Young Dan, Professor Henry Chan, Dr Wan Cheng Chow, Dr Kok Ann Gwee, Professor Jidong Jia, Dr Alfred Wei Chieh Kow, Dr Michael Larvin, Professor Rupert Leong, Associate Professor Choon Jin Ooi, Professor Keijiro Sunada and Professor Hidekazu Suzuki.

Many topics were discussed in this meeting including Colorectal Cancer Screening, Functional GI Diseases, Hepatorenal Syndrome, Hepatitis B and C, Liver Cancer and Obesity Liver Diseases. The highlight of the event was the expert forum on Colorectal Cancer Screening in Malaysia on 13th July which was a debate on methods of screening between Dato’ Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan with Professor April Camilla Roslani and Associate Professor Choon Jin Ooi with Professor Rupert Leong, debating if stool-based or endoscopy-based screening is best for Malaysia. There was a research symposium on the 13th July catering for the young delegates with interest in medical research. The session was chaired by Professor Yeong Yeh Lee and Associate Professor Raja Affendi and was attended by many despite running late into the evening.
On the evening of 13th July 2018, the Society honoured the invited speakers with the President’s Dinner at The Library, Kebaya Dining Room at Seven Terraces, Penang. The guests were treated with local authentic Nyonya cuisine.

The meeting received 82 oral and poster presentations. The winners for best paper award presentation was Comparing Shear Wave Elastography and Transient Elastography for the Diagnosis of Fibrosis Stage in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Using Liver Biopsy as the Reference Standard presented by Dr Wai Ling Leong and best poster award was Screening For Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease by Dr Lee Lee Lai.

On the 15th July, the audience was treated to a video launch of APDW 2020 by Associate Professor Alex Leow followed by speeches by Organising Chairperson Associate Professor Raja Affendi and APDWF President, Professor Khean Lee Goh.

On the same day, the MSGH co-organised Malaysian Hepatitis Day with Datuk Dr Robert Ding commemorating World Hepatitis Day and World Digestive Health Day 2018 at the Gurney Paragon Mall, Penang. The event offered free hepatitis B and C screening to the public besides two lectures delivered by Professor Henry Chan and Dr Soek Siam Tan during the public forum.

Meet-the-expert breakfast sessions are a tradition of GUT meeting. This year four topics were organised, namely double balloon enteroscopy by Professor Keijiro Sunada, Liver Transplantation by Professor James Fung and Dr Alfred Wei Chieh Kow, Fibroscan session by Dr Yock Young Dan and Associate Professor Wah Kheong Chan and Probiotics session by Dr Kok Ann Gwee. These sessions provided good opportunity for the participants to interact with the speakers.

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The 3rd APAGE Inflammatory Bowel Disease was successfully held on 20th to 22nd September 2018 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in the beautiful island of Cebu, Philippines. This forum brought together experts, researchers, postgraduate students and enthusiasts of IBD from all over Asia and other parts of the globe. The third in the series of IBD Forum was a follow-up of the second meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2016 and the first held in Penang, Malaysia, in 2014.

IBD has become an important emerging condition in Asia and given the huge population and the rapid economic growth of this region, it is projected that the burden of IBD in Asia Pacific will be enormous. The aims of this Clinical Forum include promoting awareness of the disease, addressing knowledge gaps, providing expert updates and creating a platform for scientific discourse and data sharing on IBD.

The meeting was hosted jointly by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) and the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG), Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy (PSDE) and the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Club of the Philippines (IBDCP). Together, we had assembled 34 international and regional IBD experts and investigators from outside the Philippines and 15 local moderators who were eager to share state-of-the-art knowledge and current management approaches in IBD.

The Conference was well attended with a total number of 453 registrants; 120 overseas delegates and 393 local delegates. This was the highest number of delegates since the inception of the meeting in 2014. We were also very fortunate to have the continuous support of the JGH Foundation (JGHF) which had generously provided a Special Project Grant for the event. This enabled the Organising Committee to make available travel grants to 48 qualified young investigators. A total of 72 abstracts was received out of which three were selected to compete for the best oral presentation whilst the rest were accepted for poster presentations. The best poster presentations were also awarded to three presenters.

The meeting began with an Opening Dinner Symposium, followed by the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Addresses by Professor Kentaro Sugano, President of APAGE, Dr Leticia Guzman, President of PSG, Dr Mark Anthony de Lusong, President of PSDE, Professor Jose Sollano, Local Organising Chairman and Associate Professor Choon Jin Ooi, Organising Chairman.

The second day commenced with two hot topic workshops; the first one focusing on “Endoscopic Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease” and the second one on “Fecal Microbiota Transplantation”. This was followed by the main congress with an opening talk by Professor Rupert Leong on “Disease Modifying Drugs in IBD: The End of the Beginning” followed by an entertaining debate on “Biologics are Forever - A Tale of Two Experts” by Professor Michael Kamm and Professor Vineet Ahuja. Other highlights of the meeting included a Young Investigator’s Award Presentations by three young ‘up and coming’ researchers in the field of IBD. An interesting Case Discussion session and highlights from the APAGE/AOCC Consensus Guidelines were held on the second day, which were made more lively and interactive through audience voting. There were also five industry-sponsored symposia on IBD and related topics.

A Welcome Dinner was held on 21st September 2018 at the Shangri-La Resort which was attended by the faculty, organising committee and the recipients of the Young Investigators Award travel grant. The guests were thrilled and honoured that the Honourable President of the Republic of the Philippines, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, graciously made time to attend the dinner, despite his busy schedule. Professor Kentaro Sugano expressed his condolences for the recent typhoon hit at the Philippines and it was unanimously decided that the APAGE and PSG would contribute a proportion of the proceeds of the meeting to help the victims.

The Conference ended with a prize-giving ceremony and Closing Remarks. The feedback from the delegates were overwhelmingly positive and the faculty also enjoyed themselves tremendously; especially those who also had the opportunity to enjoy what Cebu had to offer; from beautiful waterfalls and stunning beaches to snorkelling with magnificent whale sharks. Overall, we felt that the meeting had more than achieved its objective in furthering the knowledge of IBD as well as strengthening ties in the Asia Pacific region.
In 2018, the 2nd Korea Digestive Disease Week (KDDW 2018) will be held from 15th to 17th November at Coex, Seoul, Korea in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018 (APDW 2018). KDDW 2018 promises to be an international congress that provides deeper knowledge and new perspectives in the field of digestive diseases.

In this regard, the KDDW 2018 Organising Committee is happy to announce that it will provide Travel Grants to international presenters whose abstracts are accepted and presented at the congress. A total of 31 presenters from 12 Asian countries will be selected for the Travel Grants.

Also, we are planning to have the 3rd Korea Digestive Disease Week (KDDW 2019) in November 2019 at the Grand Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Korea. Prior to the 2019 edition of KDDW, the 2019 KDDW In-Depth Symposium will be held on 20th April at the Grand Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Korea under the theme of “Microbiome Research in Gastroenterology: Current Status and Future Directions.” A large number of professors, doctors, and distinguished leaders from the world will get together at 2019 KDDW In-Depth Symposium to discuss recently emerging issues and exchange the latest information.

The Korean Society of Gastroenterology provides useful information on the society and its meetings on its official website, www.gastrokorea.org, which is revamped in August to allow visitors from various user environments to have easier and more convenient access to frequently used menus and all the diverse information available on the site including important Society updates. The Korean Society of Gastroenterology looks forward to your active interest and visit.
The Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT) was founded by Professor Vikit Viranuvatti in 1960. Over the years, the association has grown and become one of the most prestigious organisations in the country with more than 900 members. With global recognition, the GAT has continued to maintain its strength in organising tremendous national annual scientific meetings while expanding the network to neighboring countries by participating in international educational and training programs. Within the past year, we have been conducting many national scientific meetings and involving in international academic activities.

We had the pleasure of having Professor Kentaro Sugano, the President of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) as our guest speaker for the “Vikit Viranuvatti Lecture” at our annual meeting in December, 2017. Other guest speakers included Professor Wai Keung Leung from Hong Kong and Dr Ashley Brown from the United Kingdom. The meeting went exceptionally well with more than 320 delegates.

To honor Professor Viranuvatti at the 2018 annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Thailand (RCPT), one of the largest medical conferences in the nation, we invited Professor Francis KL Chan, the Dean of Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong to be the speaker for the “Vikit Viranuvatti Lecture 2018”. He gave a very inspiring lecture on “Eat, Drink, and be Merry”. Professor Chan was also installed as an honorary fellow of the RCPT at this meeting.

In January of 2018, the Endoscopy Organization (WEO), in partnership with Gastroenterological Society of Singapore (GESS) and GAT held the Program for Endoscopic Teacher (PET) in Singapore. The PET program is designed to impart skills necessary for teachers in digestive endoscopy worldwide. Dr Taya Kittiyakala and Dr Nonthalee Pausawasdi, representing GAT, were invited to be the course faculties in this program. The course was very successful and had more than 30 delegates from many countries in Asia with exciting interactive discussions between the panels and delegates.

Finally, it is our great pleasure to invite you to attend the Gastro 2018 (WGO-GAT international conference) to be held in Bangkok during December 1st - 2nd, 2018. This meeting is jointly organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and GAT, together with the Thai Association for the Study of the Liver (THASL), the Thai Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (TNMS), and the Thai Association for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (TAGE).

Besides from organising high standard national meetings, GAT has also encourage members to seek opportunities for both clinical and research training. Between 2017 and 2018, GAT members have received scholarships to participate in international educational and research training programs including Dr Chuncharunee, recipient of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) Research Fellowship Program Award 2018 and Dr Chantarojanasiri, recipient of the Asian Young Endoscopist Award (AYEA) by Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. The experience obtained from these programs allowed them to develop professionally for their future endeavors.

With a strong commitment to education and training, GAT has been a part of World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) GI training project for more than 10 years. The Siriraj GI Endoscopy Training Center in the Honor of Professor Vikit Viranuvatti, Bangkok, has been inaugurated as a WGO training center since 2006. Through WGO-GAT training program, more than 45 international trainees from over 10 different countries and at least 40 local trainees have been trained in GI endoscopy up to now.
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