Dear Friends and Colleagues

One year has passed since the present council took office. Recently we had the APDW2011 held in Singapore from the 2nd to 4th October. We had our council meeting as well as the annual general meeting on Saturday, 1st October in the congress venue of the APDW. We had no elections of office bearers as this is held biennially. The APDW2011 was again a huge success and congratulations go to the local organizing committee headed by Professor Teo Eng Kiong.

We look forward to our next event which will be the 2nd Asian Pacific Topic Conference – The Asian Pacific Helicobacter Pylori Meeting which will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 13th to 15th January 2012. A highly attractive 2-day programme has been drawn up by the scientific committee with a total of 28 speakers have been invited predominantly from the Asian Pacific region. This meeting has so far generated huge interest around the region and we hope as many delegates as possible will attend this meeting.

Moving forward, we look forward to two further monothematic meetings – One in Spring 2012 in Australia under the stewardship of Professor Peter Gibson and a third APTC to be held in Japan under the sponsorship of the Japan Society of Gastroenterology in Autumn 2012. The APDW2012 is confirmed to be held in early December 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Udom Kachintorn, one of our APAGE council members and President of the APDW 2012, and his committee are already hard at work preparing for I am sure an outstanding APD 2012 meeting!

Meanwhile, the Awards Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Tan Huck Joo has streamlined the application and award process of the APAGE/JGHF clinician scientist award. The award for 2010 and 2011 were officially presented at APDW2011 by Professor Neville Yeomans (representing JGHF and APAGE) to Dr Arlinking Kho Ong, who had completed her one-year training in clinical hepatology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, under Professor Henry Chan and Dr Mohamed Hadzri Hasmoni, who plans to work for a year in Royal Adelaide Hospital, Australia, under Professor Richard Holloway.

Our secretariat welcomes our new financial clerk based in Hong Kong, Ms Venus Yeung. Venus started work in the Hong Kong office again by kind courtesy of the HKSGE in August 2011. Ms Molly Kong continues to be our executive director with the able support of Ms Michele Theng from our Kuala Lumpur office which is provided by courtesy of the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

As the year draws to a close and we welcome the New Year, may I wish all of you a Happy New Year 2012 and we look forward to your full participation in all the APAGE activities!

Yours sincerely,

KL Goh
President APAGE
Dear APAGE Colleagues

As we approach the end of 2011, which has been an eventful year, it is time to make resolutions for the new year and reflect upon our achievements in 2011. From feedback received from delegates and sponsors, APDW 2011 was a successful event. Altogether more than 820 abstracts were received, the scientific programme was relevant, and the organization and facilities were of high standard. Up till the last day of conference there was still a sizeable audience in the lecture halls. The organizers were encouraged by the support and I sincerely hope that APDW 2012 in Bangkok can better APDW 2011.

Just as Malaysian LOC has passed on many useful tips to APDW 2011, the Singapore organizers will be happy to share their experience with the Thai local organizing committee and help in any way to make APDW 2012 a resounding success!

Looking at the external environment, there is a financial crisis in Europe and USA. In this environment, attention from sponsors is shifting to Asia. This is an opportunity for APDW to firmly establish itself not only as a regional conference but also as a global conference with international standing.

There will be a survey conducted on the impact of clinical guidelines on clinical practice. Quite a few clinical practice guidelines / consensus have been written by experts in the region. It is timely to review the usefulness of these guidelines to clinicians in the region. When you receive the questionnaire in the email, I ask for your assistance in providing your invaluable feedback so that we can better design future clinical practice guidelines.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Professor Kwong-Ming Fock
Editor-in-chief

For 2012, the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology will be holding a few international conferences.

The 98th General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology
Date: April 19-21, 2012
Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (Tokyo)
URL: http://www2.convention.co.jp/98jsge/

The 3rd Asian Pacific Topic Conference
(Date and Venue to be announced)

The 3rd International Forum of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology
Date: April 20-21, 2012
Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (Tokyo)
The Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2011

A major scientific gathering of the digestive community

The Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2011 was held from 1–4 October in Singapore at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year’s conference attracted more than 2,400 participants with a record high number of 877 abstract submissions. Over 200 faculty from the region and beyond were invited to share their valuable insights and knowledge.

There were a total of 777 accepted posters and the poster presentation was held across three days of the conference. Participants could tour around the poster area, interacting with the poster presenters while having coffee and tea breaks.

1 Oct 2011, Pre-Conference Day
Four concurrent sessions were held in Suntec Singapore and the National University Hospital:

(1) The APDW Postgraduate Course, which featured four major topics of discussion covering Upper GI, Liver, Pancreatobiliary and Lower GI, saw an attendance of 135 participants.

(2) The World Endoscopy Organisation (WEO) Postgraduate Endoscopy Course provided a comprehensive full-day session with more than 10 international speakers presenting on a wide array of endoscopy related topics.

(3) The half-day Nursing Workshop focused on the latest trends in endoscopy procedures, and attendees also had the opportunity to interact with the speakers who were expert nurses.

(4) One of the major highlights during APDW 2011 was the Hands-On Workshop in Therapeutic Endoscopy with Animal Models, held in the Advanced Surgical Training Centre (ASTC), National University Hospital. This workshop was a first amongst all APDWs held and was successfully led by Dr Bhavesh Doshi and Dr Asim Shabbir. Simultaneous stations were set up ranging from Simbionix endoscopic simulators, animal tissue models and Live Animal models, which enabled attendees to experience real case scenarios.

A total of 777 posters were accepted and exhibited
2 October 2011, Conference Day 1
The first day of the conference started off with the plenary session – JGHF Okuda Lecture by Professor Masashi Mizokami from the National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Ichikawa. He spoke on Optimising Treatment for Chronic Hepatitis C – Incorporating Pharmacogenetics into Clinical Practice. State of Art lectures and concurrent symposia sessions were held throughout the day. A/Professor Ramnik Xavier from Boston presented on Genetics, Biology and Microbiome in Inflammatory Bowel Disease; Professor Hisao Tajiri spoke on Endoscopy Imaging – Past, Present, Future; the session on Irritable Bowel Syndrome – An Insight into the Future saw Professor Nicholas Talley share his views and insights.

Held concurrently with main sessions was the Live Endoscopy Workshop. This workshop featured a world-class cast of experts in their respective fields to demonstrate practical points in the performance of endoscopic imaging and therapeutic endoscopy. Advanced and mid-level procedures were demonstrated, moderated by a panel of regional experts. The Live Endoscopy Workshop was one of the most well received sessions in the conference and many participants provided positive feedback on the cases presented.

The Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception took place in the evening. The Minister for Health, Singapore, Mr Kim-Yong Gan officiated the conference, and this was followed by a tour around the exhibition area accompanied by Presidents of the organising associations.
3 October 2011, Conference Day 2
Day 2 of the conference began with the plenary session – JGHF Marshall & Warren Lecture, delivered by Professor Francis Chan from Hong Kong. He talked about Anti-platelet Therapy and Managing Ulcer Risk. Dr Manoj Sharma who spoke for the JGHF Emerging Leadership Lecture touched on Chronic Hepatitis B Infection and Normal ALT: Treat or Not to Treat?

In the evening, all faculty were invited to the Faculty Dinner sponsored by Pentax. The organising committee hosted nearly 200 faculty at 1-Altitude, the highest rooftop bar in the world. Before dinner began, all guests enjoyed the drinks and the breathtaking panoramic view while networking with friends and colleagues.

4 October 2011, Conference Day 3
The plenary lecture on Day 3 of the conference was presented by the Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Oration, featuring Professor Wan-Cheng Chow who shared on Coping with the Evolving Epidemiology of Liver Diseases in Asia: From Viral Hepatitis to NAFLD – the Outcome of Our Socioeconomic Success?

During the JGHF Emerging Leadership Lecture 2, Dr Ping-I Hsu from Taiwan shared his findings on A New Look at Antiplatelet Agent-Related Peptic Ulcer: An Update of Prevention and Treatment. The President of APDW 2011, Professor Eng-Kiong Teo chaired the session and announced the winner of the Young Investigator Award (YIA) – Dr Lee-Guan Lim from Singapore.
The organising committee would like to express their greatest appreciation to all sponsors and exhibitors who provided tremendous support to APDW 2011, and not forgetting the participants from all over the globe, for making the conference a major success.

**World Hepatitis Day - 28 July 2011**

The first World Health Organization-sponsored World Hepatitis Day was an offshoot of the passage of a resolution by the WHO during its general assembly last May, 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. The resolution recognized for the first time that Viral Hepatitis is a global health hazard and that more efforts should be made towards prevention and treatment of these diseases. It also stated that the WHO was committed to support member countries in the fight against Viral Hepatitis.

The Cebu GI group headed by Dr. Judy Lao-Tan sponsored free hepatitis B screening, a lay forum with 500 Bar-angay Health Workers Viral hepatitis, and inaugurated Liver Clinics in the different hospitals in Cebu designed to register data on patients with liver diseases including chronic hepatitis B.

A successful and very well attended Fun Run was sponsored by the Cebu GI group last August 7, 2011 in Cebu City to raise awareness on Viral Hepatitis and liver diseases.

In Davao City, the Davao Doctors Hospital was the venue for the World Hepatitis Day celebration with free hepatitis B screening and Barangay Health Workers seminar-workshop on Viral Hepatitis.
THEME “Translating Science into Clinical Medicine: H. Pylori Infection in Asia-Pacific in the New Millennium”

13TH to 15TH JANUARY 2012
Shangri-La Hotel
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS ON
• Endoscopic Diagnosis And Treatment of Early Gastric Cancer
• Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics of H. pylori

HIGHLIGHTS
• H. pylori and Gastric Cancer
• Molecular Epidemiology of H. pylori
• Best Treatment Regimens for H. pylori
• Controversial Issues in H. pylori infection: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, Dyspepsia, NSAID Gastropathy, Extra-Gastric Diseases

SCIENTIFIC POSTERS
Accepted posters will be published in a supplement of THE JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY. A formal poster review session will be held during the meeting.

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