

# MSO Express

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Dear MSO Members,

More than 600 delegates and speakers descended upon Malacca in March this year to make the 33rd Malaysia-Singapore Joint Ophthalmic Congress 2018, focussed on Cataract & Refractive Surgery, one of the most successful international ophthalmic meetings to be held in Malaysia this year. There were delegates from afar as the Maldives and Canada and we welcomed our neighbours from Singapore and Thailand as, for the first time, the Asean Ophthalmology Society (AOS) officially joined in to support the congress. The MSO must record its gratitude to all who participated in this effort to organise, present, sponsor, and part-take in the sharing of knowledge at this annual congress which has grown to become a 'staple event' for Ophthalmologists in Malaysia.

The four Keynote speakers, namely Dato' Dr. YC Lee, Dr. Arup Chakrabarti, Dr. Fam Han Bor & Professor Hungwon Tchah held the audience in the usual fashion with enthralling videos of how cataract surgery has been performed historically right up to the cutting-edge technologically-advanced FLACS. Almost a third of the attendees were trainees, who not only greatly benefitted from the broad range of didactic lectures but also contributed to the many free paper sessions held concurrently. Once again, the Paramedic workshop held on the first day was a hit, with more than 200 paramedics joining us to learn about the nuances of topography to the importance of biometry. A noteworthy session was the AOS Symposium on Cataract & Prevention of Blindness programs in SEA which was chaired by AOS Secretary Dr. Paisan Ruamviboonsuk. Speakers from Laos, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Phillipines, Indonesia and of course our very own Dr. Mohamad Aziz Salowi, all shared their invaluable experience on how to optimally and effectively tackle preventable blindness in the region. Suffice to say, there are many diverse and unique challenges in each of the abovementioned countries in this effort and we all learned something about the difficulties our close neighbours face in this effort that unites us all. In this respect, Dr. Ronald Yeoh also reminded us all of the close relationship that Singapore and Malaysia has had since the incep-

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-tion of MSJOC and why it was one worth preserving – one of the many reasons he always makes time to join us at this biennial gathering. And with AOS also growing in strength, the South-East Asian community will certainly be better served with the ophthalmic collaboration within the region.

As always, the Congress Dinner was an important highlight for attendees with the charismatic Adibah Noor stealing the limelight for the night. Her presence was literally not limited to the stage, as she mingled with the audience affording them an opportunity for selfies, all whilst she continued to delight the audience with her repertoire of melodies without missing a single note! The MSO also took to stage to recognise their poster awardees and to confer the MSO Gold Medal Award and MSO Achievement Awards for 2018. Needless to say, the sponsors were also given their due recognition as without the support from the industry, none of this would have been possible.

The MSO Annual General Meeting held during the congress saw a healthy attendance with a positive response from the floor on the direction in which the MSO committee is steering the society. The MSO has clearly shown that it has the ability to organise world-class conferences for the benefit of the fraternity and country. The latest addition would be the 3rd Ophthalmology Optometry Conference 2018 (OOC2018) being organised by & Hospital Sungai Buloh & Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh and facilitated by MSO. This is being held on 10-12 Aug 2018 at Ipoh.

The MSO also facilitate the formation and organi-

sation of clinical 'Special Interest Groups' (SIGs) which continue to grow in number. Almost all subspecialties are now represented within the society, namely, Paediatric Ophthalmology, Glaucoma, Cornea, Vitreoretina, Uveitis, Oculoplastics and soon Refractive Surgery. These SIGs play an important role in representing the MSO at subspecialty conferences and ensuring that the any pressing issues related to the sub-specialty is brought to the attention of the MSO committee. Furthermore, members of the respective SIGs meet regularly to discuss interesting and difficult cases both from the government and private sectors. The SIGs will also play an important role in the upcoming APAO 2021 which MSO has secured as host where there will be numerous scientific sessions which will need vetting, organising and chairing.

The MSO is also excited to announce that for the first time, we shall be organising the MSO Leadership Development Program (LDP) which has been slated for Aug 4-5 2018. This LDP will cover essential leadership and management skills that are usually not taught in postgraduate training and will be led by the APAO LDP Chair, Dr. Catherine Green from Melbourne. This course will be fully sponsored by the MSO and is open to all MSO members who have completed their postgraduate training so ensure you do not miss this golden opportunity.

Do log on to your own personal membership portal on the MSO website where you can register your details, pay for your membership and register for any MSO-organised conferences. As always, this is your society and the MSO needs your support to carry on its activities; by its members, for its members.

## SAVE THE DATE



**EVENT** | MSO Leadership Development Programme (LDP)

**DATE** | 4 - 5 August 2018

**VENUE** | Sheraton Hotel, PJ



**EVENT** | 3rd Ophthalmology Optometry Conference 2018

**DATE** | 10 -12 August 2018

**VENUE** | Aman Jaya Convention Centre, Ipoh, Perak



**EVENT** | 8th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference 2018 (COSC2018)

**DATE** | 15th – 16th September 2018

**VENUE** | The Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur