

OCULOPLASTICS SIG FORMED

Despite their busy schedules and disparate locations, Oculoplastic surgeons found time in November to vote in the founding committee of the Oculoplastics Special Interest Group (SIG) under the umbrella of the Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology (MSO).

The Oculoplastics SIG comprises six members namely, chairperson Dr Alice Goh Siew Ching, vice chairperson Dr Vanessa Naseem, secretary Dr Ho Su Fen, vice secretary Dr Tsiang Ung, treasurer Dr Fazliana Ismail and one committee member, Dr Akmal Haliza Zamli.

The formation of the group had been in the pipeline for some time, beginning with an informal WhatsApp group among Oculoplastic surgeons to express and share their views, before the decision to formally establish the group in the first week of November 2017.

“One of the reasons we wanted to form the group is to get our Oculoplastic surgeons together outside of attending cataract meetings and scientific conferences – to have a regular and common meeting point,” said Dr Alice Goh.

“Right now we have 22 Oculoplastic surgeons, most of whom are in government service, and less than 10 in the private sector. Twenty-two is quite a substantial number to create a group and to create more activities revolving around Oculoplastics.”

Dr Goh explained that while there are regular meetings focused on the subspecialty in private, public and university hospitals, these meetings are held separately and

sporadically. “There is no connection between hospitals, and so there is no strong network,” she added.

“We hope to draw up some guidelines on the subspecialty, to provide guidance to those who want to venture into the field, and to encourage younger ones who are already interested. When I was young, I did not know where to go to, who to go to and where to study.”

Dr Goh herself leveraged on her own personal network that she built during her training years to help organize the program and speakers for the Joint UMERC-MSO 6th Annual Scientific Meeting titled “Oculoplastics Surgery Redefined” with Dr Ong Chin Tuan in March 2015.

“We might be looking to organise an international or regional meeting and invite speakers from the Philippines, Korea and Singapore in 2018 to 2019. In between we might organize some smaller meetings, and one of those may focus on aesthetics around the eye, where doctors can share their experiences and discuss topics that are not covered in the Malaysian syllabus.”



by
**Dr Alice Goh Siew
Ching**

Oculoplastics Special Interest Group