



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been almost one year since the current committee is in office and we had been busy in the last three months since the last bulletin.

On the 6th to 8th April 2018, we had a successful ENDOSCOPY 2018 - Annual International Therapeutic Endoscopy Workshop, a collaboration with GI Endoscopy Unit, University Malaya Medical Centre endorsed by the World Endoscopy Organization. Professor Dr Ida Normiha Hilmi, the Course Director, was assisted by Associate Professor Dr Chan Wah Kheong, Associate Professor Dr Ho Shiaw Hooi and Associate Professor Dr Alex Leow Hwong Ruey as Course Co-Directors. The theme was "Therapeutic Endoscopy: Building on Basics". As before, a renowned faculty was assembled - Professor Dr Hwoon-Yong Jung (Korea), Associate Professor Dr Arthur Kaffes (Australia), Professor Dr Kazuo Ohtsuka (Japan), Dr Nonthalee Pausawasdi (Thailand), Professor Thierry Ponchon (France), Dr Noriya Uedo (Japan) and Associate Professor Dr Reuben Wong Kong Min (Singapore). The workshop was attended by 555 participants. This year's workshop dinner event coincided with a product launch by Servier and Professor Dr Thierry Ponchon presented an enlightening dinner lecture on "From Lyon to Beyond: My Journey as a Therapeutic Endoscopist".

Apart from that, MSGH has collaborated with DKSH for Gastro-Oesophageal And Liver (GOAL) 2018, a CME activity for general practitioners on the 6th May 2018 in Penang.

On the 8th to 9th June 2018, the MSGH partnered with the Singapore Hepatology Conference for the third consecutive year for the Conference - "Sharp Focused Updates in Hepatology" at Suntec City, Singapore. Ten trainees were selected for perceptorship. In total there were 24 participants from Malaysia. On 30th June to 1st July 2018, the MSGH in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Rheumatology and Abbvie supported the Asian Multidisciplinary Interactive Symposium in Immunology (MISI 2018). The Gastroenterological Society of Singapore offered travel grants to our members for the GIHep Singapore 2018 from 6th to 8th July 2018 and five members attended the GIHep meeting.

The National Gastroenterology and Hepatology Training Committee headed by Professor Dr Sanjiv Mahadeva did an entrance interview on 23rd May 2018 and three more candidates will join in July this year as the 5th batch of trainees.

As of the 15th June 2018, the MSGH has grown to achieve 842 members comprising 349 ordinary members (of whom 258 are life members) and 493 associate members. Next year 2019 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Society. We shall plan on how to celebrate MSGH's Silver Jubilee?

Dr Tan Soek Siam

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Dearest Respected Colleagues and Friends,

Firstly, may I welcome all of you to GUT 2018. In this issue, we presented reports of all the MSGH clinical and other related activities.

The MSGH will host the biggest Gastro meeting in the Asia Pacific region ie The Asia Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) in Kuala Lumpur on 17th to 20th September 2020.

In GUT this year, we have a special brief session to announce the success of bidding APDW in 2020 and to announce the committee members for APDW 2020 along with advisory board members. (It's like a council of eminent Gastroenterologists...not council of elders) and also the proposed scientific programme.

We also featured our President who was interviewed by MIMS recently and all of us should digest what has been said by her.

Professor Dr Sanjiv Mahadeva is a now the Chairman for the National Gastroenterology Training Board and we as well as gastro trainees are looking forward to work closely with him.

Again and again, I look forward to more constructive and productive contributions as well as feedback from all the members on the MSGH Bulletin as well as MSGH as a whole in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me at draffendi@ppukm.ukm.edu.my with your ideas and contributions!

May I thank those who have contacted me directly and indirectly and regurgitate your comments, ideas, feedback and appreciation for the betterment of MSGH.

We look forward to your participation and block your date for our APDW 2020 on 17th - 20th September 2020, in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre! And for those who plan to present the findings of your research work for the APDW 2020, you must start now!

Associate Professor Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali

MSGH COMMITTEE FOR 2017/2019

PRESIDENT

Dr Tan Soek Siam

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Associate Professor Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr Akhtar Qureshi

HON SECRETARY

Professor Dr Lee Yeong Yeh

HON TREASURER

Dr Tee Hoi Poh

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Professor Dr Sanjiv Mahadeva

Associate Professor Dr Chan Wah Keong

Associate Professor Dr Alex Leow Hwong Ruey

Dato' Dr Raman Muthukaruppan

Dr Nazri Mustaffa

Professor Dato' Dr Goh Khean Lee

Dato' Dr Tan Huck Joo



Endoscopy 2018 - Therapeutic Endoscopy: Building on Basics

Reported by Dr Ruveena Bhavani Rajaram and Associate Professor Dr Chan Wah Kheong

Endoscopy 2018 was held at the University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) from 6th to 8th April 2018. This Annual GI Endoscopy Workshop, jointly organised by the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (MSGH) and University of Malaya, received an overwhelming response with participation of more than 500 delegates. The opening ceremony was graced by Associate Professor Dr Nazirah Hasnan, the Deputy Director of UMMC, and Dr Tan Soek Siam, the President of MSGH.



This year's theme was "Therapeutic Endoscopy: Building on Basics". Course Director Professor Dr Ida Normiha Hilmi and Co-Course Directors Associate Professor Dr Chan Wah Kheong, Associate Professor Dr Ho Shiaw Hooi and Associate Professor Dr Alex Leow Hwong Ruey, under the guidance of Advisor, Professor Dato' Dr Goh Khean Lee, assembled an outstanding faculty consisting of world-renowned endoscopists for the workshop. Our distinguished faculty comprised Professor Dr Thierry Ponchon (Eduoard Hospital, Lyon, France), Professor Dr Hwoon-Yong Jung (Soon Chun Hyang University Hospital, Seoul, South Korea), Associate Professor Dr Arthur Kaffes (Royal Prince Alfred and Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, Australia), Professor Dr Kazuo Ohtsuka (Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan), Associate Professor Dr Nonthalee Pausawasdee (Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand), Professor Dr Noriya Uedo (Osaka

International Cancer Institute, Japan) and Associate Professor Dr Reuben Wong Kong Min (National University of Singapore, Singapore).

Two special hands-on workshops were held on the first day at the state-of-the-art animal laboratory facility at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. During the Basic Hands-On EUS Workshop, participants were guided on the proper techniques for performing both linear and radial EUS as well as EUS-FNA under the tutelage of Associate Professor Dr Nonthalee Pausawasdee. This was followed by the EMR/ESD Workshop in the afternoon, where participants learnt how to perform these highly skilled procedures under the guidance of Professor Dr Hwoon-Yong Jung and Professor Dr Noriya Uedo. Running concurrently on the first day was the MSGNMA Course, with interesting lectures and quiz pertinent to the MSGNMA fraternity.

The subsequent two days were filled with state-of-the-art lectures and live demonstration of GI endoscopy procedures. Professor Dr Thierry Ponchon delivered the MSGH and University of Malaya Distinguished Lecture entitled "Therapeutic Endoscopy: Building on Basics". Throughout the live demonstration sessions, twenty five interesting and challenging cases were shown, including ERCP in altered anatomy using short double-balloon enteroscopy, bilateral metal biliary stent insertion for malignant hilar stricture, retrieval of retained capsule,





per-oral endoscopic myotomy, endoscopic submucosal dissection, etc. Similar to the previous years, the live demonstration sessions were transmitted live on YouTube. This is the first time that the “Malaysia Boleh Best Endoscopic Video Competition” was held and it was won by Associate Professor Dr Alex Leow Hwong Ruey who showed a case of successful removal of a plastic stent which was misplaced completely into the pancreatic duct.

A trade exhibition with over thirty companies showcasing their products was also held throughout the period of the workshop. Delegates had the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones during the MSGNMA “Get Together” Dinner and the Workshop Dinner. The final

day of the workshop concluded with the Young Consultants and GI Fellows Workshop on GI Motility which was conducted by Associate Professor Dr Reuben Wong Kong Min. He shared his knowledge on upper gastrointestinal motility disorders and how to effectively read, interpret and report on manometry and impedance study.

Endoscopy 2018 was a great success, due to the excellent work by the distinguished faculty, the great effort from the organising committee including the many coordinators, moderators, doctors, nurses and support staff, the strong support from the sponsors and last but certainly not least the participation of the delegates.



The National Gastroenterology Training Board

Reported by Professor Dr Sanjiv Mahadeva

Chairman, The National Gastroenterology Training Board

Since its inception in 2016, the Malaysian National GI Training Board continues to fulfil its role in regulating and monitoring GI training in our local public institutions. The Board consists of a conjoint panel representing the Ministry of Health, University Hospitals, MSGH and the private sector. The main role of the Board has been to select (via a transparent interview process) suitable applicants for GI training in Malaysian institutions, facilitate training opportunities, conduct regular trainee appraisals and assessments.

The Board has a two-yearly rotating chairmanship and was ably lead by its' founding chairman, Dato' Muhammad Radzi for the first two years. I have recently taken over as chairman/chairperson in 2018, in accordance with the constitution of the National GI Training Board.

The pioneer batch of the Malaysian National GI training programme are currently in their 3rd year of training. The current training programme is a 3 + 1 year programme, whereby trainees undergo an exit assessment by the 3rd year, but spend an additional sub-specialisation in the 4th year before being awarded a Certificate of Completion

of Training. In total there are 17 trainees who have enrolled in the training programme thus far, with a majority from the Ministry of Health institutions.

The National GI Training Board and its activities are generously supported by MSGH in terms of funding and by providing secretarial assistance. The MSGH has additionally committed to financially assist trainees in the programme to attend MSGH-related educational activities, mainly GUT and Endoscopy workshops on an annual basis. With the continued support of MSGH, and the dedication of the Senior Gastroenterology fraternity, we aim to gain not just local but eventual international recognition for our programme in Malaysia. Current members of the GI Training Board:

- Professor Dr Sanjiv Mahadeva (*Chairman*)
- Associate Professor Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali
- Professor Dr Ida Normiha Hilmi
- Dr Soon Su Yang
- Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan
- Dr Hjh Rosaidah binti Hj Md Said
- Datuk Dr Raman Muthukaruppan
- Dr Kuang Kiat Kiew
- Dr Haniza Omar



MSGH President's Corner

Recently, our President has been interviewed by MIMS and below is her response. All of us should digest and absorb what has been said by her.



Question: Let's hear a little about the objectives and the history of MSGH.

Answer by President MSGH:

The main objectives of our Society are to promote the art and science of gastroenterology and hepatology; to conduct continuing professional development programmes for doctors and paramedical staff; and to encourage and coordinate scientific research, teaching and publication for improvement in this field.

The MSGH, originally known as the Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of Malaysia, was registered as an independent Society in 1994. It has grown by leaps and bounds over the last 24 years. As of 15th April 2018, the Society had 831 members comprising 338 ordinary members (of whom 251 are life members) and 493 associate members. Our members are of various backgrounds; we have gastroenterologists, hepatologists, upper and lower GI surgeons, GI assistants and budding specialists in training or medical officers. The MSGH has been in the forefront in organising activities, in developing clinical practice guidelines and in championing the needs of the specialty. The society organises two major events annually - the Endoscopy Workshop held in collaboration with the Endoscopy Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur since 1994 and the Annual Scientific Meetings (GUT).

The first Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was actually called 'The Stomach' in 1996 and organised in collaboration with the College of Surgeons. This was followed by the Penang Teaching Course (1997) and the Second Western Pacific Helicobacter Congress (1998). Thereafter, the GUT series started and has been held annually. In 2010, Endoscopy and GUT 2010 were held as part of the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW 2010) at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The Society also started the MSGH Oration from 2001 and established a memorial lecture in the name of Dr Panir Chelvam, a very senior member of the profession in 2004. In 2016, the MSGH conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award on Professor Dato' Dr Goh Khean Lee and in 2017 and the Excellent Service Award on Datuk Dr Jayaram Menon for their tremendous contributions to the fraternity and the Society.

Our premier event is the APDW 2020, to be held on 17th to 20th September 2020. The MSGH has been chosen to host the APDW for the second time in Malaysia; the first time was in 2010. We already had the first inspection by the APDW Federation officials and work had already begun in earnest, headed by Associate Professor Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali, the organising chair.

Additional activities of the Society include the MSGH Update which is normally held in the East Coast of Malaysia, the MSGH Clinical Meetings which are held in rotation throughout Malaysia and another endoscopy workshop in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Furthermore, we work with international societies and organisations like the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology, the World Gastroenterology Organization, the World Endoscopy Organization and the Gastroenterological Society of Singapore.

The MSGH members were invited and had participated in international and regional programmes including the Programme for Endoscopic Teachers (PET) in Singapore from 12th to 13th January 2018 organised by the Gastroenterological Society of Singapore and the World Endoscopy Organization, the

Gastroenterology Postgraduate Course in January 2018 organised by the Gastroenterological Society of Singapore and Chapter of Gastroenterologists, College of Physicians, in collaboration with the Department of Gastroenterology, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

The local meetings we had so far this year were the first MSGH Clinical Meeting 2018 in partnership with Gastroenterology Unit,

Hospital Kuala Lumpur in January 2018, the MSGH Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in partnership with Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kubang Kerian in March 2018 and the recently concluded Abbott APAC Gastro summit 2020 in Kuala Lumpur on 17th March 2018, which was co-organised by the MSGH. Target Workshop for GPs, a series of talks on GI and liver diseases commonly seen in primary care setting, has also been conducted under the auspices of the MSGH.

Question: During your tenure as president, what do you hope to achieve for the Society?

Answer by President MSGH:

I would like to enhance education and training for our members catering to the needs of our learned colleagues as well as the junior members and the healthcare professionals. Amongst many things, we have made plans to fine tune our series of educational activities e.g. the MSGH clinical meetings. We will introduce a newer approach to update the members on the recent advancements in selected relevant topics by experts and bring them to real-life clinical practice through presentations by anyone with interesting cases. In our Annual Scientific Meeting, GUT 2018, we will introduce research symposium and we have planned the programmes according to feedback from our attendees. We hope to have more basic sciences and sessions for the paramedics in future GUT meetings. We are going back to basics with Basic Endoscopy aiming to ensure standardised training for credentialing. We will continue to work with our existing partners like the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology for the research fellowship programme, Singapore Hepatology Conference for the preceptorship and the biomedical industries for educational events. The MSGH will continue to provide educational grants and research grants to its members. We will also explore and facilitate more opportunities for our members to improve their skills and to collaborate in joint activities. For the public, we have exciting news. The MSGH has been invited by the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) to be one of its global partners in World Digestive Health Day (WDHD), a public health, advocacy and awareness campaign. The WDHD 2018 Campaign is titled 'Viral Hepatitis, B and C: Lift the Global Burden' and together we will 'Take Action' and 'Celebrate' throughout this year by creating ways to advocate and raise the awareness of viral hepatitis, B and C for the public, the health care professionals and the policy makers.

According to the World Health Organization estimations, worldwide viral hepatitis kills 1.34 million people in 2015. In the recent World Cancer Day on 4th February 2018, it was reported that viral hepatitis B and C caused the majority of primary liver cancer, which is the second most common cancer in the world at an estimated 788,000 deaths each year.

In Malaysia it has been estimated there are 382,000 people with viraemic hepatitis C infection.

With the introduction of hepatitis B vaccination in the National Immunization Programmes for newborn since 1989, the

estimated prevalence rates of hepatitis B infection dropped to less than 1% in the vaccinated age groups. As the population of chronically infected hepatitis B or C people aged, they are at risk of developing liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. In the National Cancer Registry report in 2007 to 2011, liver cancer ranked 5th among males (incidence rate of 5.6 per 100,000). These have significant impacts on the individual patient and family as well as our economy at large not to mention a burden to our health care system.

Chronic viral hepatitis does not cause any symptoms until the late stages of disease, aptly described as a silent killer. However, the complications of chronic viral hepatitis are preventable by early detection of the infection and appropriate treatment. The Global Health Sector Strategy 2016-2021 by WHO has set the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health burden by the year 2030 defined as a 65% reduction in mortality and a 90% reduction in incidence compared with the 2015 baseline. The core interventions are hepatitis B vaccinations, Hepatitis B prevention of mother to child transmission, blood safety, injection safety, harm reductions, testing and treatment.

Tremendous advancements have been achieved in the treatment and management of viral hepatitis, hepatitis B can be well controlled with medications and work is being carried out in search of a cure. While with the advent of direct acting anti-viral since 2011, hepatitis C can now be cured in more than 95% of cases with 12 or 24 weeks of an all oral treatment. The Ministry of Health has taken bold and important steps to make sure people living with viral hepatitis have access to these effective treatments.

We need to work together to create more public awareness, diagnose this silent condition by offering screening to those with risks and to manage viral hepatitis appropriately based on the best evidence-based medicine. MSGH will have a series of CPD activities on viral hepatitis to update our members and for the public we are going to hold a public event in Penang on the 15th of July 2018 with public talks and other activities in Gurney Paragon.

Being a hepatologist, my passion is in improving the care and quality of life of Malaysians living with liver diseases. MSGH will also work with various non for profit organisations and patient groups to achieve this.

NATIONAL EVENT

**The Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL)
Single Topic Conference on Hepatitis C**
Expanding Hepatitis C Therapy Beyond Individual Cure to Elimination

Date: 3rd - 5th August 2018

Venue: Connexion Conference & Event Centre, Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW)

Date: 20th - 24th October 2018

Venue: Vienna, Austria

The American Association Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

Date: 9th - 13th November 2018

Venue: San Francisco, USA

Asia Pacific Digestive Week (APDW)

Date: 15th - 18th November 2018

Venue: Seoul, Korea



Malaysian Society of
Gastroenterology and Hepatology

APDW 2020

17th - 20th September 2020

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



A-PSDE
Asian Pacific Society
for Digestive Endoscopy



Asian Pacific Association
of Gastroenterology



Asian Pacific Association
for the Study of the Liver



International Society
for Digestive Surgery

Congress Secretariat

Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Unit 1.6, Level 1, Enterprise 3B, Jalan Inovasi 1

Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603 8996 0700, +603 8996 1700 ext: 201 Fax: +603 8996 4700

Email: admin@apdw2020.org Website: www.apdw2020.org