MPA Congress on Neurology at Shangri-La KL

19-22 September 2019

Precongress on 18 September 2019

The 41st MPA Annual Congress this year will be in conjunction with the 15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN) at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. This is the second time that we are hosting the AOCCN, the first being in Penang in 1999, exactly 20 years ago. The local committee headed by Dr Khoo Teik Beng, Dr Mohd Feizel Alsiddiq and Dr Wong Sau Wei, working with the international scientific committee have come up with an exciting academic programme.

While there will be deep neurology for neurologists, the committee did not forget that there are many General Paediatricians plus some Family Medicine Specialists and nurses who want to learn more about basic childhood neurology problems. There will be a track specifically for the General Paediatrician to update their neurology but they are also invited to listen to the ‘pure neuro’ symposia if they wish.

There will be a good mixture of common neurodevelopmental conditions like dyslexia, ADHD, feeding disorders, and an interactive video session of various acute childhood paroxysmal events.

Speakers and delegates

Out of a total 122 speakers, 88 are foreign and 34 local. This weightage on foreign speakers should be interesting as they bring with them different perspectives on possibly the same issues. It will also allow us to network with others in the same fraternity. To date, we have received 776 registrants (334 foreign and 442 Malaysian delegates). MPA life members aged above 60 years receive complimentary registration. The committee would like to inform that the registration fee includes the congress dinner on 20 September.

Precongress events

As usual, the 15th AOCCN will have off-site precongress workshops on Wednesday 18 September. The first will be on ‘Paediatric Movement Disorders’ at the new Women’s & Children’s Hospital Kuala Lumpur and the other on ‘Early Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Next Steps’ at Prince Court Medical Centre.

A media dialogue is also being organised at the Shangri-La Hotel by Positive Parenting entitled ‘Achieving Mental Wellness through Positive Parenting’ concentrating on depression, anxiety and addiction in kids and teens starting at 4pm.

Lastly, please do not forget our MPA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20 September (see article on AGM, page 7).

SEE U ALL AT AOCCN 2019!
Assalamualaikum and Salam Sejahtera to esteemed members of MPA! Friends and colleagues,

This message in Berita MPA will be my last as MPA President (2017 to 2019). It has been my privilege to serve the Association and I am indebted to the MPA Executive Committee Members for their undivided support, confidence and trust in me.

The past 2 years have been immensely fulfilling mainly because of the efforts and contributions we made, especially on the child health advocacy front. Let us recount some of the significant initiatives, as follows:

**Spotlight On Marginalised Children**

MPA held its 40th Congress themed, ‘Marginalised Children – Addressing the Needs, Leaving No Child Behind Towards SDG’ at the Ipoh Convention Centre, from 5-8 September 2018.

The scientific committee, led by Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail and Datuk Dr Amar Singh, comprehensively covered crucial topics pertaining to marginalised children. Great pains were taken to address issues which are all-too-often overlooked.

Graced and officiated by HRH Raja Permaisuri of Perak, the congress eventually achieved the highest number of participants for a national meeting, to date. Kudos to the Organising Committee for setting this new record!

I am confident that our upcoming 41st Congress, in conjunction with the 15th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN) will be a similarly resounding success. It will be held from 19-22 September 2019 at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. It is my pleasure to invite all of you to attend this outstanding event.

**Tackling The Twin Threats of Malnutrition**

MPA has been conducting the IMFeD programme, helmed by Professor Dr Lee Way Seah, since 2012 to train and equip paediatricians to address undernutrition, typically manifesting as stunting and failure-to-thrive. So as to enhance the effort, we organised the first IMFeD Growth, Feeding & Nutrition Summit in 2018 as a prelude to a national growth promotion campaign that saw over 20,000 children under 5 years old screened through participating paediatric clinics nationwide. The 2nd Summit was conducted this year, followed by another nationwide screening campaign. IMFeD is supported by Abbott Malaysia.

However, our children are also threatened by the other extreme of malnutrition, namely, overweight and obesity. So, MPA has taken up the responsibility to help optimise the role of paediatricians in combating this major public health concern.

With the MPA Exco’s endorsement and support of Nestlé Nutrition Institute, I was able to initiate the ProtFit Clinic programme, which ran in 2017 and 2018, to empower healthcare professionals in preventing childhood obesity.

Building on the momentum created, MPA decided to take a step up and approach the Penang State Government in early 2019 to propose a comprehensive Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme (COPP), targeting healthcare professionals, parents and teachers. Discussions are still in progress. If successful, COPP will be a first-of-its-kind initiative; it will have state government backing for a multi-partite partnership of institutional partners to drive behavioural changes at the individual, family and community level through professional advocacy (with paediatricians playing a principal role) and online support.

**Celebrating, Protecting & Promoting The NIP**

Malaysia can be proud of its extensive National Immunisation Programme (NIP). However, our high compliance rates have been slowly eroding, due to the insidious influence of the anti-vaccination lobby.

Recognised for the Immunise4Life (IFL) programme, led by Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail, MPA was invited by Ministry of Health (MOH) to participate in a number of major engagements to help strengthen our NIP. These included the MOH-WHO Joint Assessment and Planning on Immunisation and Vaccine
Preventable Disease Control and Elimination in Malaysia (February 2019), several workshops to vet counselling and education materials funded by WHO, as well as the National Immunisation Day 2019 celebration where Datuk Zulkifli and Dato’ Musa Mohd Nordin were honoured as “Vaccine Heroes” by our Health Minister, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

IFL is continuing to work with MOH in rolling out a training programme for government clinic nurses and medical officers to address vaccine hesitancy and refusal. IFL and MOH will be jointly producing a coffee table book on the history and evolution of the NIP. Its launch will be followed with a community education campaign to reinforce the importance of complying with NIP recommendations.

**Lobbying for PCV in the NIP**

MPA, together with the Paediatric Department of the Women & Children’s Hospital, Kuala Lumpur jointly organised a symposium for MOH personnel titled “Incorporating Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination (PCV) into the National Immunisation Programme: Learnings from Global Experiences” on 2 May 2019.

Chaired by Dr Hishamshah Bin Mohd Ibrahim, the symposium served as a platform for local and international experts to share their knowledge and experience on fundamental considerations prior to PCV introduction into the NIP. Closing remarks were delivered by Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail, representing MPA.

We distilled the key learnings and action points of the symposium into a booklet that was printed and distributed to all attendees. I had the honour of presenting it to our Health Minister in June 2019 and discussing related issues with him.

In July 2019, Dato’ Musa and Datuk Zulkifli accompanied representatives from My Health Outreach to express MPA’s support for the parent group’s petition that garnered over 135,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of PCV in the NIP.

Efforts to lobby the government will continue. Let’s hope for good news in Budget 2020 that will be announced later this year.

**Association Milestones**

I am also delighted to recount how the second MPA Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Sham Kasim during the official dinner of the 40th MPA Congress in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the field of paediatrics in Malaysia. In his honour, the MPA Exco also decided to start the Malaysian Paediatric Foundation ‘Sham Kasim Research Award’.

MPF will allocate 5 awards per annum, with a maximum of RM10,000 each, for research in the area of paediatrics and child health with a preference for social paediatrics.

I would also like to think of our new website www.mpaeds.my as another development we can all be proud of. Since the revamp in April 2018, we have received thousands of visitors per month. We have recently set up the ‘members only’ section which shall soon house guidelines, lectures and CPD videos exclusively for paediatricians. It is my sincere hope that existing and new members continue to find our website & digital content relevant.

Finally, thank you for giving me the honour of helming MPA with your full support. I will treasure the experience for years to come. Let us continue to take MPA to greater heights while building a healthier and brighter future for our children.

Thank you!

Muhammad Yazid Jalaludin
President 2017-2019
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Walking with Giants
5-8 June 2019, Glasgow, Scotland

Introduction
Humans are born to tell stories. We tell stories to make sense of things, it’s in our blood. I am happy to be given a chance to tell my brief story on a recent trip to Glasgow for ESPGHAN (European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition) 2019 Annual Meeting.

This is the largest Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Congress in the world with 4,500 delegates. It’s home for dedicated members with special spirit of close collaboration and friendship.

Initially I attended the conference meetings. I soon discovered that the topics were centred around minute details on various topics that are hardly relevant to my general clinical practice. But over the three-day learning journey, I learned and shared so much of insight and relevant knowledge outside of the meeting. The respite from clinical practice gave me time to reflect about life and the future. I thought I’d share some of these thoughts as follows:

- Getting ready for the impact of infotech and biotechnology to improve our quality of life and the extension of our lives. I have come to realise that staying well, alive and healthy another day takes me closer to seeing technology save me in the future, provided my bank account is healthy!

- I am living in the best time in human history: better health care, improving quality of life, living healthier and longer, easier accessibility to information and knowledge, travel more and easier to get around the world, more international collaborations etc. So why not seize the moment and seize the day. If not now, when? If not me, who?

- My view on AI (artificial intelligence) technology’s impact on medical practice. Machine is way ahead of us in diagnosis and fine precision work. Repetitive work certainly will be taken over by AI, but doctors are still in charge, involving and providing love, comfort, empathy and other human emotional needs.

- Raising and guiding a child’s dreams through inspiring rather than telling what to do, i.e. “inside out approach”. Alternative effective way of bonding with children and family: suffering together e.g.: a structured strenuous physical training program during childhood and adolescent years. This may sound controversial to the ‘new parenting styles’ but this has worked with my family.

- Physical activity is not an option, it’s non-negotiable. In the hunter gatherer era, if you are not fast you are food. The same gene, i.e. our “software” algorithm, is the same as the past. Evolution takes many thousands of years to change. I am wondering that this must be one of the major contributors to the epidemic of metabolic syndrome worldwide. Hence, I try to keep active, mobile and remain flexible.

- Clarity of mind: one of the most important skills I must equip myself with in the 21st century. To be able to differentiate what is “fake/fiction” from what is “real” based on knowledge, science and reason.

Conclusion
The one thing that I have learnt the most throughout my short stay here in Glasgow is the importance of collective learning. Collective learning is powerful.

The ESPGHAN meeting? I think there are others who are more qualified to share their views and learnings from it! I sincerely thank the BMPA editor for allowing me to share some of my (often times) controversial thoughts here.

Liew PC
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Editor’s note: Although Dr Liew attended the ESPGHAN 2019 meeting, he chose to write his insights on things rather than come up with yet another mundane report! The Glasgow air must have cleared his thinking during the many kilometres of walking we shared. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, Dr Liew.
Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and physiological changes, accompanied by acceleration in cognitive and psychosocial development. Chronic health condition will impose complex physical and emotional challenges to the individual, the immediate family members and the health care provider.

Hence, the theme “The sweet and sour in teenage life” was chosen for the 1st Perlis Paediatric Update. The event was organised by the Department of Paediatrics, Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, in collaboration with the Malaysian Paediatric Association.

The event, which was held for one full day, took place at Auditorium Dr Syed Mahmood, Health Department of Perlis State. Despite the torrential rain in the morning of the event, the course was a great success as it brought together 118 participants from different disciplines, consisting of paediatricians, family medicine specialists, pharmacists, nurse tutors, nurses and medical officers from the paediatric department, medical department and local clinic. Majority of the participants were from northern region, some were from Perak, Kelantan and even as far as Kuala Lumpur.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony by Dato’ Dr Abdul Karim bin Abdullah, Deputy Director, Hospital Tuanku Fauziah. It was followed by five lectures and two forum sessions. The talks covered teenagers issue with chronic haematological and endocrinological disorders. We were pleased to have Dr Raja Aimee Raja Abdullah (Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist, Penang General Hospital), Dr Shoba Anne Thomas (Paediatric Haematologist and Oncologist, Penang General Hospital) and Dr Anuradha Thiagarajan (Family Medicine Specialist, Klinik Kesihatan Bukit Minyak) to be our honoured speakers.

**Thalassaemia & haemophilia**

The first two lectures were delivered by Dr Shoba. In her first talk, “Optimising treatment in thalassaemia”, she discussed about the blood transfusion regime, iron overload, iron chelation, role of splenectomy and haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Next, she shared her viewpoints on the management of haemophilia, covering general care and management, treatment of specific haemorrhages and special management issues.

**Diabetes & precocious puberty**

Coupled with a few cases of poorly controlled type 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus in children and adolescents, Dr Raja Aimee illustrated the pearls to detect the hidden issues and their management. She also enlightened the participants on the approach to precocious puberty in the next talk. The talks would not be comprehensive without Dr Anuradha, who explained about the impact of chronic illness on the young people, aims of adolescent transition and key elements of an effective transition programme.

**Forum highlight**

The highlight of the paediatric update was the two forums in the afternoon session. The first case was about a teenage adolescent with transfusion dependent thalassaemia and endocrinopathy. The second case hovered around the challenge faced by a teenage boy, who was recently diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. The discussion of both cases was intense yet practical. The response from the participants was encouraging.

We hope that the topics discussed would be of help to the participants. We also hope to have increased awareness about the challenges faced by adolescents, which were multitude. The teenagers should be supported and treated in age-appropriate ways, so that they could take an active role in optimising their health and personal life. The joint effort of the individuals, their families and health care professionals remained critical.

We would like to thank the Malaysian Paediatric Association for the support rendered in organising this course. We hope to organise the Perlis Paediatric Update again in the coming years.

Cheng Hooi Peng
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IPA Statement on Child Detention

The International Pediatric Association, devoted to the well-being of children across the globe and composed of 169 national, regional and subspecialty pediatric societies representing over one million paediatricians, caring for more than one billion children, issues the following declaration:

Declaration of the international pediatric association on the conditions of child detention facilities at the borders of the United States of America

All countries have a moral and legal obligation to protect children, both within their country as well as those immigrants fleeing danger elsewhere. The future of the world rests on this obligation. Therefore:

The International Pediatric Association (IPA), representing more than one billion children, issues the following declaration:

The IPA calls on the United States of America to take immediate action to protect child’s rights and cease detention of children under such conditions. We call on all of our members to urge the US Government to end these abusive practices, and to urge their governments to promote and advocate for the protection of all children, including immigrant children seeking to enter other countries.

Dr. Errol Alden, President
Dr. Naveen Thacker, Executive Director
International Pediatric Association

On behalf of IPA Executive and Standing Committee

Sri Lanka is Measles-Free

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Sri Lanka as measles-free on 9 July 2019. The last case of measles reported was in May 2016, with sporadic importation cases reported the last three years being responded to rapidly.

Sri Lanka has a strong surveillance system and all vaccine-preventable diseases are an integral part of the communicable disease surveillance system.

Measles in United States which was declared eliminated in 2000, faced resurgence with 1,109 confirmed cases, in addition to Europe and Ukraine that are seeing resurgence of measles in 2019.

Two factors have been identified as contributing to the measles outbreaks:

1) Measles is being imported into the US via travellers with measles who bring the disease from other countries where large measles outbreaks (defined as 3 or more cases) are occurring.

2) The low vaccination rates because of vaccine refusal facilitates spread in unvaccinated people.

Measles is still common in many parts of the world. India accounts for one-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide. India has set itself a target to eliminate measles by 2020, and to achieve its target, the first step should be to strengthen the surveillance system.

At least 95% of the population must have immunity to prevent spread of measles i.e. not less than 95% of the population must be vaccinated against measles to ensure community protection for everyone “herd immunity”. This happens when unvaccinated people are protected because so many of those around them are. About 15% of vaccinated children fail to develop immunity from the first dose, meaning that if only 80% are fully immunized, an outbreak is likely.

This calls for intensification of efforts to ensure maximum coverage of the population with the MR vaccine.

Original article published in emedNexus website on 14 July, from Dr KK Aggarwal, President Elect Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and Past National President of India Medical Association, Original article https://www.emednexus.com/post/12830/

Editor’s note: Malaysia’s latest measles outbreak was in June 2019 among Orang Asli of Kg Kuala Koh in Gua Musang. Only a handful of the community received the MMR vaccination, and malnutrition compounded the problem. Access and reluctance to seek medical help are some issues related to the outbreak. However, the loud voice of the anti-vaccine pro-choice in the urban population, despite access to correct information and medical facilities, are hampering efforts. More needs to be done to educate our community and ensure that universal health coverage does not leave anyone behind.
Elections at MPA AGM
Friday, 20 September 2019

As usual, our MPA Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with our 41st Annual Congress coinciding with the 15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN). The usual turnout at the AGMs have thus far been disappointingly low.

We hope that more people will attend this year’s AGM during which we will elect a new President and executive committee members. The AGM is also where all the financial and activity reports are sieved through and discussed. MPA has a membership exceeding 800 paediatricians and the quorum is just twice the number of committee members. Hence we manage to have our AGM every year because the founding members had the foresight to put this condition. If the quorum was a fraction of the total membership, we would never have been able to hold any AGM!

I have attended the AGMs of other national paediatric associations where the hall is packed and the lobbying for the posts of President and Secretary General is akin to any national election. Here we (usually it’s Dato Dr Musa) have the unenviable task of persuading and cajoling members to attend. Is this part of Malaysian apathy or just us paediatricians?

We hence urge all members to please spare about an hour plus on the afternoon of 20 September 2019 to attend our AGM and exercise your right as a member, to listen, to be heard and to vote.

We look forward to seeing you on 20 September.

Zulkifli Ismail
For the Executive Committee
2017-19

Most Well-Dressed MPA President

If there is an award for being the most well-dressed President, I am certain that our current President Associate Prof Dr Muhammad Yazid Jalaludin should receive it!

As MPA Presidents go, he has shown such commitment exceeding his predecessors, perhaps equaling Dr Thiyagar Nadarajaw. As far as dress sense is concerned, I personally think he takes the bag. I’m not sure how many of you have noticed how many different coloured jackets he has worn and the different styles of shirt materials throughout his presidency.

Recognised Paediatric Endocrinologist

Don’t get me wrong here, he’s not just a smart dresser and a pretty face. As a paediatric endocrinologist, he has started a few programs on diabetes and obesity prevention and treatment. He works very hard for his paediatric department that he heads and also for the MPA. He responds to WhatsApp and emails promptly, and delegates others to attend meetings that he is either not able to attend or are beyond his scope.

He is also recognized internationally and represents Malaysia in the Asia Pacific Pediatric Endocrinology Society (APPES), having successfully bid for the APPES Congress in 2020 to be held on 18-21st November. Consider this as an early announcement so you can block the dates in 2020! He is a regular speaker at international paediatric endocrinology and diabetes congresses.

Early years

Having graduated from Universiti Malaya, he did the Masters in Paediatrics and proceeded to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia to do paediatric endocrinology after spending time with Prof Fatimah Harun at UMMC. He has championed paediatric endocrinology since returning and has never looked back.

As a medical student, he must have impressed some lecturers. In 2017, when I told my wife who taught medical microbiology at UMMC, that the new MPA President was Dr Yazid, her response was ‘Oh, the boy with the big eyes’. I teach medical students too and I don’t recall remembering any student with such a description!

As a postgraduate, the late Prof Fatimah Harun must have had an influence on him. There were occasions when he quoted her in the talks that he gave on growth.

In September, he will step down as MPA President unless he gets re-elected. Like past presidents who have passed the baton, he has propelled MPA a few steps upwards in public and professional advocacy. He has left his legacy in obesity and diabetes work, among others and we hope that he will continue to work with MPA for many years to come..... together with his fashion sense.

Zulkifli Ismail
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Climate change and dengue?
Dr Duane Gubler gave an exceptional talk on global warming and the environment in the propagation of dengue outbreaks. Although there has been a lot of news on global warming and the melting of the ice caps, in reality the global temperatures have actually come down over the last few decades and the polar ice caps have not disappeared. He quoted neighbouring areas in the US and Mexico where the temperatures and climate conditions are similar, yet one has a dengue epidemic and the other clear. The conclusion was that we cannot blame dengue outbreaks on climate change alone when there are other factors like rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, high density population overcrowding, mosquito breeding places, etc that may be easier to control.

Vaccine pipeline
Other than Dengvaxia by Sanofi Pasteur, other dengue vaccines in the pipeline by Takeda and Merck (NIH and Butantan vaccines) were also presented. The use of Dengvaxia in the state of Paraná in Brazil was presented showing low adverse events. An update by the Philippines on the latest developments regarding Dengvaxia was presented and discussed. The updated deaths related to the issue were also presented.

With pretesting being a requisite prior to vaccination with Dengvaxia, companies that have or are developing test kits were invited to give short ten-minute briefings on their products. Sanofi Pasteur is also working with a company to develop a point-of-care test kit to detect dengue antibodies with high specificity and sensitivity.

World Dengue Day
The International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (SNdT) founding chairman, Kamran Rafiq came with a proposal that will be presented at the United Nations General Assembly to recognize World Dengue Day (WDD) that will coincide with our existing ASEAN Dengue Day on 15 June. The ministries of health of different nations are encouraged to write in support of this proposal so we have a unified Dengue Day worldwide. We are still waiting for our MOH to write in to support this initiative!

Background
The Asia Dengue Summit is an annual event organized by the Asia Dengue Voice & Action (ADVA) group in collaboration with Global Dengue & Aedes-Transmitted Diseases Consortium (GDAC) and Fondation Merieux, the first of which was in Bangkok (2016) followed by Manila (2017) and Kuala Lumpur (2018). ADVA is already planning the next one which will most likely be in Bangkok. With the rapidly evolving research, immunology, prevention and community involvement in vector control and vaccinology, there should be a lot more information to be gleaned next year.

Zulkifli Ismail
ADVA steering committee member
druzulkifli.ismail@gmail.com

The 4th Asia Dengue Summit’s pre-summit deliberations started on 13 July at the Indonesian Medical Educational & Research Institute (IMERI) situated next to the Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital in Jakarta. The opening paid tribute to the late Prof Sumarmo for his extensive work on dengue fever in Indonesia and the region. The Indonesian Minister of Health gave a moving speech in front of his widow and daughter, who is currently a professor herself. Slides depicting his work were shown before the audience was divided into two groups for the breakout sessions, one in Bahasa Indonesia and the other in English.

The 4th ADS proper started on 14 July at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel with an overview of dengue in Indonesia. It then went into high gear to in-depth immunology, vector control measures, genetically-modified and Wolbachia infected mosquitoes, vaccines in the pipeline, the use of the 1997 vs 2009 classification and newer 2011 classification. The classifications are also getting more confusing.

Classification debate
The classification controversy was discussed by a panel consisting of Prof Lucy Lum (Malaysia), Dr Hasitha Tissera (Sri Lanka) and Prof Sri Rezeki Hadinegoro (Indonesia) moderated by Prof Olaf Horstick. While most countries have been using the newer 2009 classification, there are some countries and individuals that are still stuck at the 1997 one. To confuse matters, Prof Sri Rezeki Hadinegoro then stated there was also a 2011 classification!
At the end of the IPA Congress in Panama on 22 March 2019, Prof Zulfiqar Bhutta ended his three year term as IPA President. As the President, I have seen him give extraordinary lectures, chair meetings, delegate tasks, meticulously coordinate activities, run from one meeting to the next and rush to the airport immediately after giving a plenary lecture.

During a meeting with the young Paediatric LEADers in Panama, he sat comfortably and proceeded to talk about leadership without any slides or prompts, admitting that there will be failures and burnout. He outlined all of the issues related to child health worldwide. He engaged the crowd perfectly that at the end, Dr Errol Alden, his successor as IPA President whispered to me “That’s a hard act to follow”. That I agree! It’s just as hard to give a talk after he’d mesmerized the crowd with his.

First memorable encounter
My first encounter with Zulfi was when I was invited to talk at an infectious disease conference in Karachi. I had heard about him and thought it appropriate to make a ‘courtesy call’ since I was in the neighbourhood. I was taken to the Aga Khan University and was introduced to him. His passion showed instantly when he described the programs that he was overseeing and the issues of child health in Pakistan. This was our first meeting and we had not met before but the rapport was instantaneous!

My subsequent encounters were at a number of conferences where he gave exceptional talks on social issues, vaccinology and nutrition. When we invited him to Sarawak, Malaysia for the 14th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in 2012, he gave a plenary lecture that was simply awesome with data from his own country, Pakistan and the world. I think it was during that meeting that I learnt that he was going to be based in Toronto, Canada.

Zulfi’s thinking on issues has been absolutely clear and he seems gifted in solving problems. The crisp thinking process and succinct presentation of ideas and practical solutions are only superseded by his majestic posture and commanding nature that portrays the committed leader that he is. There is no doubt that he is respected worldwide and his opinions related to child health are highly valued.

Worldwide respect
As IPA President, he has eloquently represented us in the United Nations, WHO, the Partnership in Maternal, Newborn and Adolescent Health (PMNCH) group, most national and regional Paediatric associations, the obstetrics n gynaecology societies, among others. His leadership did not stop at rhetorics. He has managed to mobilise funds to help humanitarian agencies involving displaced populations and war torn countries, and he has visited refugee camps in affected countries to witness first-hand.

We at IPA and APPA are proud to have had Zulfi as our President for a term and I am sure he will be stepping into bigger things in his life as he steps down as IPA President.

All the very best, Zulfi and thank you for representing all of us and leaving behind fond memories of your leadership.

Zulkifli Ismail
APPA Secretary General
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MPF Dr. Sham Kasim Research Award

Terms and Conditions

1. Background
The Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) firmly supports research among its members and has established the Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali Research Award since 1998 to encourage research among paediatric medical officers and trainees in various paediatric subspecialties.

As the paediatric fraternity and researcher’s pool is getting larger with time, the MPA Executive Committee 2017/2019, together with the trustees of Malaysian Paediatric Foundation (MPF) have agreed to establish from 2017 more research awards with the aim to provide seed money to encourage and develop research in the field of Paediatrics and Child Health in Malaysia. This is in line with the third aim and objective of Malaysian Paediatric Association to encourage research among its members.

Professor Datuk Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim, a senior consultant paediatrician, is one of the past MPA president and MPF trustee. He not only had done and published many original researches in childhood injuries and accidents, infectious diseases, child abuse and state of child health in Malaysia, he is also a great teacher and mentor to many paediatricians in Malaysia. Hence, in honouring his contribution, these new research awards will be named after him as MPF Dr. Sham Kasim Research Award.

The MPA executive committee recognises that there must be accountability and transparency when providing these research awards and hence, outlined below are the terms and conditions for the applicants when applying for the above awards.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Applicant needs to be working or researching in the field of Paediatrics and Child Health.
2.2. Must be a current member of MPA for at least one year.
2.3. All research award application need to have ethical approval by the relevant ethics committee.
2.4. Applicant with other pre-existing research grants will still be considered (but preference will be given those who have no pre-existing grants).

3. Amount and Disbursement

3.1. The maximum number of research awards is five (5) for each calendar year between the MPA Annual Scientific Congresses.
3.2. The maximum amount for each research award is RM 10,000.
3.3. Upon successful application of the award, 50% of the total research award will be disbursed to the applicants. The remainder 50% of the total research award will be disbursed after the MPA Exco has reviewed the mid-term research progress report.

4. Research Output

4.1. A report needs to be provided to MPA Exco at mid-way and at completion of the research.
4.2. The research award recipients are required to provide an oral or poster presentation of the research findings in the MPA Annual Scientific Congress. The award recipients are also encouraged to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals.

5. Application

5.1. All applicants must submit the following documents via email to MPA Secretariat:
   - Completed application form (mandatory)
   - Updated brief curriculum vitae (mandatory)
   - Ethics approval or institutional agreement documents (mandatory)

5.2. All applications will be evaluated by the MPA executive committee. Decisions will be made known via e-mail (followed by official letter) to the applicant within 4 weeks of initial submission.
5.3. All decisions made by the executive committee are final. No appeal will be entertained.

6. Acknowledgement

6.1. Recipients of the research award must acknowledge the funding source at the end of their oral or poster presentations, abstracts or journal write-ups.

7. Further information

7.1. Any additional information regarding the MPF Dr. Sham Kasim Research Award can be directed to:

The Malaysian Paediatric Association secretariat
Unit 16-07, Menara Arina Uniti 97, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz 50300 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel: 603-2202 9007
Fax: 603-2602 0997
Email: mpaeds@gmail.com
Executive Secretary: Datin Saadiah Ahmad
MPA Sam Abraham Overseas Training Grant

At the MPA Executive Committee meeting dated 11 May 2008, it was decided to create a training grant to honour the contributions of our first President, Datuk Dr Sam C.E. Abraham, called the MPA Sam Abraham Overseas Training Grant.

This is an outright grant not exceeding RM 8000 given to qualifying candidates who have been approved by the MPA Executive Committee. The purpose of this fellowship is to enable deserving paediatricians who require financial assistance to do a training attachment overseas. The following criteria shall apply:

1. Applicants must be fully paid members of MPA for at least 3 preceding consecutive years.
2. Applicants must possess a paediatrician specialist qualification recognised by the Ministry of Health and have successfully finished their gazettement.
3. The attachment must be at a centre that is deemed satisfactory to the MPA Executive Committee.
4. The position to which the applicant is applying is not a salaried position.
5. The applicant must not have a full scholarship from the government or other institutions for the same training attachment.
6. Any publication ensuing from this attachment will credit the MPA as a sponsor.
7. A written report will be submitted to the MPA Executive Committee within one month of completion of the attachment.
8. The application for the grant should be submitted at least 3 months before the intended commencement of the attachment.
9. Each member will only be eligible to receive this grant once.

The Executive Committee hereby invites applicants for this grant.

Positive Parenting Updates

The Programme conducted parenting talks this year at Baby Sensory Sunshineville, Kota Kemuning, with the theme “Raising Future-Ready Children: Does over-protective parenting harm kids?” Speakers Dr Cindy Chan, a developmental and behavioural paediatrician, spoke on creating conducive environment for children’s learning and growth. This was followed by behavioural psychologist Mr Alexius Cheang, who spoke on parenting re-boot whereby parents need to tailor their parenting approaches to suit today’s children.

In June, psychologist Ms May Liu was invited to Setia Alam Club for their Parents’ Day celebration, and shared on balancing EQ & IQ in children. There are a few more parenting talks running this year, so do keep an eye on Positive Parenting’s Facebook page. (FB: @positiveparentingmalaysia)

Positive Parenting will also be organising a media dialogue session, in conjunction with the 41st MPA Annual Congress & 15th AOCCN on 18 September at Shangri-La Hotel from 4.00pm.

Themed Achieving Mental Wellness through Positive Parenting, the panellists include Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail, Dr Rajini Sarvananthan, Dr Thiyagar Nadarajaw, Assoc Prof Dr Yen Tech Hoe (consultant psychiatrist), Assoc Prof Dr Alvin Ng (clinical psychologist) and Ms Bawany Chinapan (registered licensed counsellor). With the increasing cases of emotional-social problems reported in the media, the programme seeks to address this as the current generation of children and adolescents are more prone to stress, anxiety, depression and suicide. Do drop by, if you are around!

Zulkifli Ismail
Chairman
Positive Parenting Management Committee
Our MPA website, mpaeds.my, is doing very well in terms of visitors for 2019. The website committee is constantly keeping the website updated.

Below is the website performance report which we would like to share. There are some dips but in the long run, we hope to see the numbers continue to grow in coming months.

### Top 10 Page views

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Screen shots from website www.mpaeds.my
Immunisation Educators Training & Accreditation Programme

The World Health Organisation recently announced vaccine hesitancy and refusal (VHR) as one of the top 10 global health threats that member countries need to address. In an effort to curb VHR in Malaysia, Immunise4Life (IFL) programme, an initiative under the purview of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA), Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) and Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy (MSIDC) organised an initiative named the Immunisation Educators Training & Accreditation Programme (ITAP).

The objective of ITAP is to equip MOH front liner healthcare professionals (HCPs) such as family medicine specialists, nurses and medical officers with the necessary skills to effectively address vaccine hesitancy and refusal at their respective clinics.

Main modules

There are two main modules under the ITAP initiative namely “Basic Immunisation” and “Vaccine Hesitancy & Refusal”. The former driven by MOH and funded by a grant from the World Health Organisation (WHO), focuses on empowering HCPs to effectively communicate the benefits of vaccines to all parents. The latter driven by IFL and funded by a grant from Sanofi Pasteur, focuses on enabling HCPs to address parents who are vaccine hesitant or refusers.

Four phases

There are four phases under the ITAP initiative. The first phase was the development of module by an expert panel comprising of representatives from MOH, MPA and MSIDC as well as co-opted medical professionals from relevant areas such as family medicine and psychiatry. The second phase involves the roll-out of Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions in selected states. The attendees of TOT are then expected to conduct echo training at their respective area of service during the third phase. During the fourth and final phase, revisions will be made to the modules based on feedback gathered from participating MOH clinics.

The IFL driven “Vaccine Hesitancy & Refusal” component is currently in its second phase with the recently concluded TOT in Kedah, Terengganu and Putrajaya. These locations were selected due to high VHR cases reported over the past few years. A total of 120 MOH staff comprising of family medicine specialists, medical officers and nurses from each district within the respective states were trained.

During the two-day TOT session, participants were exposed to common issues that contribute to VHR and how to address them. Issues highlighted include religion, conspiracy theories, safety of vaccine, adverse events following immunisation and effective communication techniques. Participants of the session are expected to conduct echo training at their health facilities between August and September 2019.

Zulkifli Ismail
drzulkifli.ismail@gmail.com
Announcements

Local Venues

**Annual Scientific Meeting on Intensive Care (ASMIC) 2019 & 3rd Asian Paediatric Intensive Care Congress**

- **Date:** 5-8 September 2019
- **Venue:** Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
- **Tel:** 03-8996 0700, 8996 1700, 8996 2700
- **Fax:** 03-8996 4700
- **Email:** secretariat@msic.org.my

**1st Genomic & Genetic Counselling Workshop**

- **Date:** 10 September 2019
- **Venue:** Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya
- **Tel:** 012-374 7426
- **Email:** gcsocietymalaysia@gmail.com

**3rd UM-CUHK Certificate Course in Clinical Genetics & Genomics**

- **Date:** 11-13 September 2019
- **Venue:** Department of O&G, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre
- **Tel:** 019-690 0838
- **Email:** umgeneticcourse@gmail.com
- **FB:** UM Genetic Course

**15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN) in conjunction with the 41st Malaysian Paediatric Association Annual Congress 2019**

- **Date:** 19-22 September 2019
- **Venue:** Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
- **Tel:** 03-7931 2131
- **Fax:** 03-7932 2132
- **Website:** www.aoccn2019.com
- **Email:** secretariat@aoccn2019.com

**Children with Palliative Care Needs; Can We Do Better?**

- **Date:** 28 September 2019
- **Venue:** Auditorium Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Seremban
- **Tel:** 03-2731 7669 / 7072
- **Fax:** 03-8656 8018
- **Email:** icl imu edu.my
- **Website:** www.imu edu.my

**3rd Asia Pacific AKI CRRT 2019**

- **Date:** 11-14 October 2019
- **Venue:** Connexion Conference & Event Centre, Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur
- **Tel:** 011-3197 1491
- **Email:** apcrrt2019@crestevendz.com.my

International Paediatric Events

**10th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) in conjunction with the 15th Congress of Asian Society for Pediatric Research**

- **Date:** 7-11 September 2019
- **Venue:** Manado, Indonesia
- **Website:** https://ptlika-asrmanado2019.com

**Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) 2019**

Immunization: Sustaining Health Security in Asia

- **Date:** 13-15 September 2019
- **Venue:** Yangon, Myanmar
- **Tel:** +65 6389 6640
- **Fax:** +65 6292 4721
- **Email:** iteopaco@kenes.com, dnur@kenes.com
- **Website:** http://asvac2019.com

**13th European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress (EPNS2019)**

- **Date:** 17-21 September 2019
- **Venue:** Athens, Greece
- **Website:** www.epns2019.org
- **Email:** info@epns2019.org

**The European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP) Congress 2019**

- **Date:** 19-22 September 2019
- **Venue:** Porto Palacio Hotel, Porto, Portugal
- **Tel:** +41 22 5330 948
- **Fax:** +41 22 5802 953
- **Email:** congress@eapaediatrics.eu
- **Website:** http://eapcongress.com/

**16th World Pediatrics & Neonatology Congress**

Interpreting Science, Technology and Research into Cures for New-born and Children

- **Date:** 14-15 October 2019
- **Venue:** Rome, Italy
- **Email:** pediatricshealthcare@gmail.com
- **Website:** https://pediatrics.cmesociety.com

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

- Teoh Yen Lin (1174)
- Cheah Boon Eu (1175)
- Khaw Yao Lin (1176)
- Tan Lay Teng (1178)
- Neoh Siew Hong (1179)
- Nor Diyana Ismail (1180)
- Sindhu Viswanathan (1181)
- Tan Mei See (1182)
- Wong Kar Yen, Abigail (1184)
- Claudia Lim Siaw Fung (1185)

**NEW ORDINARY MEMBERS**

- Lau Puong Sing
- Sum Wai Thean
- Hariminder Kaur Karnail Singh
Supporting you to protect your patients against influenza

Influenza can be devastating to children in Malaysia

Children hospitalised for community acquired seasonal influenza:
- 88% survived
- 2% did not survive

Influenza has considerable impact on children, with or without pre-existing medical conditions.

36% of children admitted with influenza had an underlying medical condition.

Influenza vaccination demonstrates substantial benefits for children and their parents

- 80% reduction in LRTI
- 77% fewer absences from school
- 75% fewer hospitalisations
- 61% fewer parental absences from work

RECOMMENDATIONS

Influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older, and especially children at high risk of complications.

Vaxigrip Tetra® benefits

- A quadrivalent vaccine proven to be immunogenic with demonstrated efficacy in children aged 6 to 35 months
- More than 40 years of influenza experience and expertise
- Well tolerated with a good safety profile
- Simple dosing and convenient to use - 1 compact box with unique dosage of 0.5 mL

Sanofi Pasteur heritage

- A world leader in the research and development of influenza vaccines
- With a wealth of Sanofi Pasteur expertise, ranging from basic science to clinical development and service development, Sanofi Pasteur provides a complete portfolio of vaccines.

References:
Axcel Paracetamol satisfies 8 out of 10 mothers for effective fever relief in their children. Children will love its fruity flavours, and the whole family will love the peaceful sleep, night after night.

Prescribe one for your patients today.