The 15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology in conjunction with the 41st Malaysian Paediatric Association Annual Congress 2019

19-22 September 2019, Kuala Lumpur

AOCCN 2019 at a Glance

- 1,108 participants
- 24 countries represented
- 2 pre-congress workshops
- 6 plenary presentations
- 33 symposiums
- 11 morning sessions
- 8 lunch symposiums
- 30 oral free papers
- 30 moderated poster presentations
- 293 poster presentations
- 6 MPA Young Investigators Award Presentations
- 30 exhibitors

continued on page 3...
Dear Esteemed Members of MPA, friends and colleagues,

First, as the newly elected president of MPA for 2019-2021, I would like to thank ALL of you for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead MPA for the next two years.

My heartfelt gratitude to MPA immediate past-president Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Yazid Jalaludin and the Executive Committee members 2017-2019 for their outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication in carrying out the mandate and responsibilities of the association. We would like to thank Datuk Dr Soo Thian Lian for his many years of dedication and contributions to MPA, and Dr Khoo Teik Beng for his enormous contribution in ensuring the success of the just completed 15th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOC CN) in conjunction with the 41st MPA Annual Congress.

New Exco Members

I am proud to introduce our new MPA executive committee members 2019-2021; Vice-President Dr Selva Kumar Sivapunnam, Honorary Secretary Dr Tang Swee Fong, Assistant Honorary Secretary Dr Mohamad Ikram Ilia, Honorary Treasurer Dato’ Dr Musa Mohd Nordin, and committee members Datuk Dr Zulkiﬁt I Ismai, Dr Noor Khatijah Nurani, Dr Thiagar Nadarajaw, Dr Ong Eng-Joe, and two new members, namely, Dr Fauziah Zainal Abidin who hails from Sabah, and Dr Rakhee Yadav, a private paediatrician from the Klang Valley. Welcome Dr Fauziah and Dr Rakhee to the MPA Exco.

It is heartening that we have two new members in the Exco. There was no voting required during the election of ofﬁce-bearers, with withdrawal of nominated members and reluctance of members to accept posts. MPA needs and encourages young members to be involved in MPA activities, to chair MPA state committees, the 19 subcommittees/task forces, and to be in the central executive committee. This is to ensure good succession planning so that young members can take over and lead the association in future.

Communication with members

In this fast moving digital era, MPA has upgraded its website www.mpaeds.my in order to communicate with our members more effectively. It has the ‘members only’ section where association activities, announcements, current issues, guidelines, protocols, and slides on scientiﬁc meetings are shared. Members are encouraged to access our website to derive maximum beneﬁts. In addition, the MPA Newsletter, printed and mailed to members quarterly, is another means to keep members informed of our activities and the developments in paediatrics and child health.

Continuous Professional Development

Since its ofﬁcial registration in 1979, MPA has been organising its annual scientiﬁc congresses for its members. This year, MPA successfully co-hosted the 15th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology in conjunction with the 41st MPA Annual Congress. With wider collaboration with paediatric subspecialty societies and international organisations, the next three MPA annual congresses will also be international conferences. In 2020, the 11th Asia Paciﬁc Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES) Scientiﬁc Meeting will be held at KLCC Convention Center from 17-21 November 2020 in conjunction with the 42nd MPA Annual Congress. The organising chairman of the APPES conference 2020, our immediate past-president Assoc Prof Muhammad Yazid, has already assembled an impressive scientiﬁc programme with an equally impressive list of international and local speakers. Mark your calendar!

In the midst of vaccine hesitancy and refusal, re-emergence and rising numbers of vaccine-preventable diseases, MPA will co-host the Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) 2021 in conjunction with 43rd MPA Annual Congress. The date and venue for the ASVAC have yet to be determined. Datuk Dr Zulkiﬁt Ismai is leading this. Year 2022 will bring you the Asian Pan-Paciﬁc Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (APPSPGHAN) Conference led by Prof Dr Lee Way Seah.

To encourage new paediatricians to do training attachments overseas, the MPA Sam Abraham Overseas Training Grant was created in 2008, with a grant not exceeding RM8000.00. MPA is also afﬁliated to IPA, APPA and APF where many training opportunities are available.

Research

MPA supports research among its members and has established the Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali Research Award since 1998 to encourage research in the ﬁeld of paediatrics and child health.

As the paediatric fraternity gets larger, MPA, together with the Malaysian Paediatric Foundation (MPF) started the MPF Mohd Sham Kasim Research Award in 2018 to promote and support more
research among its members. There will be five awards per year and the maximum amount for each award is RM10,000.00. Members are encouraged to learn more about the awards on the MPA website and apply.

Our online journal, Malaysian Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health (MJPCH) has been having regular online publications over the last two years. With more research, I hope that members will submit manuscripts to the journal and the journal can qualify to be indexed in the near future.

**Advocacy Programmes**

To promote child health, MPA has subcommittees on breastfeeding, Immunisedlife, child protection, health of the underserved children…. among others. MPA would like to thank ALL who had been tirelessly lobbying for the provision and inclusion of pneumococcal vaccine in our National Immunisation Programme. Kudos to ALL!!

As I reflect on the activities that MPA has and will continue to provide to its members, the roles that MPA plays in contributing to improving the health and welfare of the children and the community in Malaysia, my mission is that more can be done in the next two years to better serve our members, the paediatric fraternity, the children and the community.

I would appreciate if members would offer new ideas or suggestions in improving our activities either at the national level or through the various subcommittees in order to achieve our missions.

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The 15th AOCCN & 41st MPA Annual Congress

Following the congress theme of ‘Synergy to Challenge Boundaries in Child Neurology’, delegates heard the latest, highly stimulating and cutting edge scientific lectures. It was a platform where clinicians, subject-matter experts and researchers from various fields of child neurology came together and shared their valuable clinical experience and research findings relevant to the broad spectrum of participants from this region. Apart from the usual concurrent symposia, two pre-congress workshops and several morning teaching sessions were held to cater to the needs of general paediatricians, trainees and allied health professionals that are involved in the care of children with the neurological disorders. These sessions were a hit amongst the delegates even though conducted as early as 7.30am.

Professor Dr Ikuya Nonaka from the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Japan was the speaker for the Yukio Fukuyama Memorial Lecture, and his lecture was on Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to floppy infants.

This congress featured a plethora of innovative, exciting topics and speakers. Over and above, the organising committees’ objective achieved as the fostering for closer networking, and collaborative work in the advancement of diagnostic and therapeutics on various neurological disorders affecting children was very evident during this four-day event.

Congratulations to the local hosts, Malaysian Paediatric Association and Malaysian Society of Neurosciences for organising this fantastic congress yet again, after twenty years. A special thank you to The Asian & Oceanian Child Neurology Association for the trust and confidence given to the local organisers. Thank you as well to the exhibitors and sponsors for the continuous support and their generosity. I was then a young paediatrician attending the 6th AOCCN, held in Penang in 1999, and now again after twenty years as a mature paediatrician, attending the same congress.

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Faculty group photo with committee
The 7th Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) was successfully organised at the Lotte Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. It was preceded by a meeting for EPI Managers on 11-12 September at the administrative capital city of Naypyidaw, about 60 km away.

**Extensive pre-congress programme**

The pre-congress workshops on 12 September involved an ASAP (Asia Strategic Alliance for Pneumococcal disease prevention) symposium on PCV, a workshop by CoMO (Confederation of Meningitis Organisations) organised in the morning, followed by an ASVAC Vaccinology Masterclass in the afternoon that ended at 6.00pm! The all-encompassing masterclass covered everything from history through disease surveillance, communications, vaccinations for all ages and case discussions. Our Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail gave a talk on communications and handling vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccinationists.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Union Minister H.E. Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister of Health and Sports who gave an eloquent and inspiring talk that was directed at his ministry officers as much as to the delegates.

**Packed first day programme**

After the usual traditional dance, Roger Glass started with his plenary on partnerships and collaborations. This was followed ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-reliance (AVSSR) panel discussion moderated by Nakorn Premstri, Director of Thai National Vaccine Institute (morning NVI), participated by representatives from WHO, UNICEF, Thai FDA and Thai National Health Security Office.

The program for the day then went on to maternal vaccination, adolescent vaccination, dengue vaccines, respiratory vaccines and ending with a sponsored dinner symposium on maternal vaccination. Datuk Dr Zulkifli again spoke on pertussis in adolescence and pregnancy, in the adolescent vaccination symposium.

A symposium specifically dissecting dengue and vaccine safety had Dr Edsel Salvaña giving a chronological account of what happened in the Philippines regarding the politicising of the Dengvaxia vaccine.

The full first day programme was really exhausting and the dinner was greatly appreciated! So was the sleep!

**Second day**

The second day started with enteric vaccines with Rotavirus and Norovirus, typhoid conjugate vaccines and an economic evaluation. A panel discussion on vaccine hesitancy moderated by Dr Daniel Goh from Singapore and Datuk Zul then followed. The panelists were Dr HT Wickramasinghe from Sri Lanka and Prof Saw Win from Myanmar. It was a series of rapid questions and comments involving the audience and panelists due to the short 30-minute time slot.

For completeness sake, updates on polio vaccines, hepatitis vaccines and neuro vaccines were included before a one hour meet-the-expert session. Prof Kim Mulholland’s closing remarks on future trends stressed on the issue of equity. New vaccines do not necessarily result in equity of distribution especially when new expensive vaccines are given to those who can afford in the private market while neglecting the poor.

**Take home messages**

1. Maternal vaccination at 27-32 week gestation for pertussis
2. Tdap Vaccine needs to be given to all healthcare professionals so we don’t inadvertently spread pertussis to our patients
3. Serum Institute India has a new 10-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) that has serotype 19A and a Rotavirus vaccine with three presentations, including a freeze-dried thermostable form.

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YDSG UKM Diabetes Camp 2019
14-15 September 2019, Port Dickson

On the morning of 14 September 2019, the lobby of Pusat Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (PPUKM) was buzzing with excitement. A special group of children waited eagerly to set off on their yearly adventure. It was time for the YDSG UKM Diabetes Camp again. This time round, we had 27 participants, aged from 7 to 15 years. Many of the young ones were participating for the first time. Unfortunately, due to the timing of school holidays this year, we had to hold the camp over a weekend. Much to the chagrin of the children (and some parents), this year’s camp was a 2-day 1-night camp instead of our usual 3-day 2-night affair.

Upon completion of registration, everyone packed into 2 buses and set off for Eagle Ranch Resort, Port Dickson. The children were accompanied by 24 facilitators – doctors, nurses, psychologists, diabetes educators and 3 young type 1 diabetic adults (who themselves had been regular participants of this camp while growing up). We arrived in time for mini clinic, where all the children had their blood glucose checked, followed by morning tea. Thereafter, they had some boisterous fun playing ice-breaking games, led by our psychologists. It was heartening to observe the “seasoned” participants readily embrace their new friends into the fold, and the first-timers participated in all activities whole-heartedly.

Packed Program
Owing to the limited time that we had, it was planned to be a packed two-day camp. Immediately after ice-breaking, we had our first teaching session. The children were divided into 3 groups according to age, and over the 2 days they rotated through 4 teaching stations. The teaching stations comprised of hypoglycaemia and exercise, and sick day management which were led by doctors. The other 2 stations focused on carbohydrate counting, taught by diabetes educators. We feel that accurate carbohydrate counting is imperative for good glycaemic control in these children, and this skill helps to empower them as they gradually take charge of their diabetes. What they learnt was immediately put into practise during camp as they had to count carbohydrates during all their meals, supervised and verified by the facilitators. Injection techniques were also supervised as the facilitators went round observing the participants injecting insulin. Some milestones were achieved in this camp where a few young ones, encouraged by their friends, overcame their anxiety and injected their own insulin. Their pride at achieving this milestone was apparent, they could not wait to tell their parents about it.

The children also managed to observe for themselves what they learnt about exercise and hypoglycaemia. We had an enjoyable, albeit competitive, telematch organised by the resort. Participants and facilitators alike, had a lot of fun. Expectedly, many of the children had to put into practice hypoglycaemia management. Everyone played their hearts out, especially since there were prizes at stake. It also warmed hearts to see the older children helping their younger friends along. It was interesting to note that most of the children were still full of energy after the 2-hour telematch. Needless to say, everyone had a hearty dinner that evening.

Cancelled treasure hunt
The next morning began with aerobics exercise, led by one of our nurses. There was a plan for a treasure hunt after breakfast. However, the bad haze that enveloped us that morning threw a wrench into those plans. Fortunately, the resort’s team stepped up and organised another game for us, a team-building game that boosted communication and teamwork. There was a spirit of competitiveness in the air as once again, prizes were at stake. After a final teaching session, we had our prize-giving and closing before lunch. Prizes were also given to participants with the best sugar control in each group. There was plenty of moaning and groaning as the children packed up and got ready to go home, they collectively and loudly demanded for the 3-day camp to be reinstated next year. Everyone arrived safely in PPUKM that evening, and parents were greeted by happy children bearing a bounty of prizes, already looking forward to the next camp.

As always, the facilitators learnt as much from the children as they from us. It was an eye-opener for a few who experienced this diabetes camp for the first time, especially for 4 lawyers from Rahmat Lim & Partners. Indeed, even as healthcare professionals, we never cease to learn from our patients. This camp continues to be an invaluable experience for both participants and facilitators.

We would like to acknowledge the following for their support and contributions to the YDSG UKM Diabetes Camp: Rahmat Lim & Partners, Malaysian Endocrine and Metabolic Society (MEMS), Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA), McDonald’s, Johnson & Johnson, Roche, Pharmaforte, Nestle, Abbott, Medtronic, and Novo Nordisk.

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Basic Paediatric Echocardiography Course: A Practical Workshop

26 September 2019, Kuala Lumpur

The Paediatric Cardiology Unit of Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Kuala Lumpur and the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) jointly organised the Basic Paediatric Echocardiography Course for the first time at the newly commissioned hospital.

The origins of this course can be tracked back to November 2007, when the paediatric cardiology unit headed by Dr Hung Liang Choo, Senior Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Cardiologist, alongside the radiology department, headed by Dr Zaleha Bt Abd Manaf, Senior Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, organised the first Basic Paediatric Echo and Ultrasound Hands-on Course which was held in Institut Pediatrik Hospital Kuala Lumpur. After 2 similar courses, Dr Hung realised that the need for basic paediatric echo course was immense; and she developed and established a one-day Basic Paediatric Echocardiography Hand-on Workshop which was first held at Institut Pediatrik Hospital Kuala Lumpur with 24 participants and 4 stations in 2009.

Over the course of the years, this course has been conducted in various states and as part of pre-congress workshops, each accommodating up to 48 participants. It can be viewed that this course has completed a full circle by returning to its place of origin after 10 years.

Participant profile

We had a total of 5 hands-on station and 35 participants from all over Malaysia including Sarawak attending this course. The participants ranged from paediatric specialists, medical officers and allied health personnel.

We had the pleasure of having Dr Hishamshah Mohd Ibrahim, the Head of Paediatric Department Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Kuala Lumpur and National Paediatric Head of Services to give the participants the welcoming address and a quick photography session.

Intense lectures

The course kick-started with a lecture on introduction to echocardiography and techniques to optimise acquisition of good echocardiography images by Dr Johan Aref Jamaluddin (Hospital Serdang). This was followed by Standard transthoracic echocardiography views by Dr Hung Liang Choo. The series of didactic lectures was then concluded by Dr Mohd Amin Itam (Hospital Serdang) who described the principles of Doppler imaging and M-Mode in echocardiography assessment.

Following a short tea break, the participants were then assigned to one of 5 groups whereby they had ample opportunities to practise and perfect their echocardiography skills. Each station was led by experienced facilitators who are well-known paediatric cardiologists with vast amount of knowledge and experience in echocardiography – Dr Johan, Dr Mohd Amin, Dr Norliza Ali (Hospital Serdang), Dr Norazah Zahari (PPUM) and Dr Putri Yubbu (Hospital Serdang). We are extremely grateful to have had the esteemed paediatric cardiologists leading and facilitating each group.

Hands-on experience

Each group had the opportunity to examine two paediatric patients whose condition ranged from normal heart to simple cardiac lesions such as atrial and ventricular septal defects and patent ductus arteriosus.

The hands-on session resumed after a lunch break whereby the participants had the opportunity to examine another set of 2 new patients, whose lesions were more complex. Candidates had ample time to hone their newly learned skills from the morning session and applied it to more complex lesions including heterotaxy syndromes and giant coronary artery aneurysms to name a few. Altogether the candidates had approximately 5 hours of total hand-on session to acquire and expand their knowledge of echocardiography.

Closing quiz

The course was concluded with a short spot quiz which the candidates excelled in followed by a closing speech given by Dr Hung Liang Choo and appreciation certificates handed out to the speakers and facilitators. No doubt, the course wouldn’t be possible without the continued support offered by the Malaysian Paediatric Association as well as the graciousness of the speakers who sacrificed their work commitments for the course. We extend our deepest appreciation to them as well as to all participants, who were all instrumental in the running of this course. We look forward to organising more such courses in the future.

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Candidates test their skills under the watchful tutelage of Dr Norliza

Group picture
The theme of the event sparks the need for us to prioritise and re-look at our management for children with palliative care needs. We recognise the fragility of life in human, what more in our little ones or young people when faced with diseases that we do not have a resolution. The impact towards the family unit is undeniable, and we need to equip ourselves with the knowledge to provide care, comfort and support to the patient and family.

The workshop was held in Hospital Tuanku Jaafar Seremban (HTJS), jointly organised by International Medical University (IMU) and Paediatric Department of HTJS; with the collaboration of Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA). We had a total of 70 participants from various backgrounds, consisting of paediatricians, family medicine specialist, medical officers, nurses, hospice workers, pharmacists, volunteers, medical students etc.

**Humanity, compassion & hope**

The event kicked off with an introduction by Datuk Dr Kuan Geok Lan, an Associate Professor of Paediatrics in IMU and also one of the pioneers in the paediatric palliative care service in our country. She highlighted the importance of ‘the human touch’ to our patients and family that we, as health care workers, are often in contact with. The core of palliative medicine is to bring back humanity, compassion and hope back to the heart of medicine. It begins when the illness is diagnosed and continues regardless of whether or not a child receives treatment directed at the disease. The therapy is directed towards the patient and includes the family.

We had various speakers covering the whole array of topics relevant to managing a child with palliative care needs. Dr Fahisham Taib enlightened us about strategies for pain management, which is often a very distressing symptom to the child and family. By controlling the pain, the child and family could have significantly better quality of life. Dr Lee Chee Chan, Paediatric Palliative Paediatrician from Women and Child Health Hospital (WCH) Kuala Lumpur, covered on end of life care and a holistic approach to symptom management for patients with palliative care needs. He also shared his experience on communication about death with young and older children. It was humbling to listen to his experiences with children about their concept of illness and dying; and we should respect the child’s need to express their feelings and understanding of their condition, no matter their age or maturity.

Dr Erwin Khoo and Dr Tan Ru Wei, both Paediatricians trained in bioethics, gave us an interesting view point of the huge dilemma in ethics. Using case presentation as examples, we acknowledge the presence of conflicts between the health care provider and parents, or even between different health care providers; the resource limitation factor etc. Communication is still the key to bridge the gap.

**Music therapy**

We moved onto our afternoon session with more sharing from our interesting speakers. Miss Kar Gee, a music therapist by occupation, shared her experiences in helping children express themselves through music. It enables the children to use music as a tool to voice their feelings and concerns; and vice versa music as a communication tool to provide comfort and care to children with palliative care needs. Sister Mary Kristen emphasised the need to be present and to listen is of utmost importance as a grief counsellor.

Our panel of Paediatric Palliative Paediatricians, i.e. Datuk Dr Kuan, Dr Fahisham and Dr Lee, further provided practical ways in the management of different patients with palliative care needs. We went through several case scenarios and the discussions from the panel were intense and indeed helpful to better equip us to improve our management plans.

The participants were also introduced officially to Malaysian Paediatric Palliative Care (MyPPC). It gathers all the people from parents, nurses, therapists, volunteers and health care providers to be advocates for children with palliative care needs; to support the child and also the families. The first National Conference of Children Palliative Care Malaysia 2020 will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 25-27 June. We wrap up the one-day workshop with new insights and knowledge about palliative care; hopefully with more passion as well for our children and families in need. As the famous quote of Hippocrates goes, cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always.

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

28 September 2019, Seremban

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I have been looking forward to this trip. Being in private practice as a general paediatrician, it is not a regular thing that we get to attend overseas congresses. The opportunity to take time off and travel is something I would not want to let go.

Bali is just a few hours away by flight. Despite that, the thought of the sun and sea will definitely give you a wisp of fresh air compared to my small enclosed air-conditioned office back home.

This year, the Asia Pacific Academy of Paediatric Respirology And Immunology (APAPARI) congress collaborates with the 6th Indonesian Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IPACI) congress presented an array of topics ranging from food allergy prevention, to understanding the relationship between microbiome and allergy to management of allergic rhinitis and many more. Impressive I might say.

The programme had been nicely tailored to accommodate all levels from the general doctors to the sub-specialists and scientists. Personally, I am very happy to listen to the experts from different parts of the world about their bedside experiences. Some candidly sprinkled some tips on basic practical approach that are likely to be more suitable to our setup.

**Take home messages**

Some take home messages from the talks that I attended:

1. Breastfeeding is the optimal nutrition for our children and the uniqueness of breastmilk prepare us for a better gut immunity and microbiota interactions, hence reducing the risk of developing food allergies and certain atopies.
2. Breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to continue breastfeeding as recommended by WHO; exclusively 6 months up to 2 years old. Mothers should not be restricting their diet from potential allergenic food as there is no evidence it will reduce the risk of food allergies in their children.
3. Not all formulas are the same.
4. “Asthma” under five are mostly triggered by respiratory viruses especially rhinoviruses (HRV). Viral induced wheeze are usually self-limiting and may not benefit from steroid therapy. Maintenance ICS (inhaled corticosteroids) however may be beneficial for those with positive Asthma Prediction Index (API).
5. Chronic urticaria in children is not usually allergic. Often we forget that it can impact the child’s quality of life, hence management requires a proper stepwise approach and follow ups.
6. Allergic rhinitis (AR). The best take home message on this is, you treat the nose, you’ll get rid of the cough. Compared to other atopic illnesses that may resolve over time, 80% of AR may persist into adulthood as chronic rhino-sinusitis.

**Other attractions**

So enough about the lectures, let’s see what else the trip had offered me.

The Stones Hotel location is so near to Kuta beach, you’ll be crazy not to cross over the street to reach there. Mesmerising over the sunset, the white sandy beach on one side and then witnessing the hustle and bustle of the streets on the other side.

As a foodie traveller, I didn’t want to miss the seafood, es kacang, sambals and their ever famous bebek - ducks (they have more halal options nowadays). A group of us managed to squeeze in a trip to Jimbaran for a nice sunset seafood dinner by the beach. And rubbing shoulders with a group of established paediatricians from Malaysia is always a plus point!

Have I mentioned the traditional Balinese massage? That too…

Overall it was a fulfilling trip. As what Joey (from the Friends sitcom) would say, Hotel? Good. Congress? Good. Food? Gooood.

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15th AOCCN & 41st MPA Annual Congress Snapshots

- First time Conference App – very good response!
- Invited speakers from all over
- Tea break
- Young Investigator Award judges
- Many poster presentations to read
- Question time
- Photo booth time
- Dinner
- Buffet queue at dinner
- Dinner group photo
- Faculty Dinner at De.Wan 1958 Restaurant by Chef Wan
- Teacher meets Student
- Paediatric Neurologists doing locum as Dikir Barat performers
- Paediatric Neurologists’ version of Dikir Barat
- Older generation paediatricians in a row
- Old friends sharing
- MPA Exco with part of AOCCN Organising Committee
- Old MPA Exco group picture
- Honorary MPA membership given to Dato’ Dr Narimah Awin
The above course was organised by the child protection sub-committee of MPA in collaboration with the Department of Paediatrics, University of Malaya. The objective was to address gaps in skills required by paediatricians when they encounter circumstances of possible child abuse and neglect. To enable more effective learning, an interactive format was used and numbers limited to 6-8 participants per facilitator.

We had a total of 26 attendees, consisting of 11 paediatricians and 15 trainee medical officers. Speakers and facilitators included 4 paediatricians with clinical experience in leading SCAN teams in their respective hospitals: Dr Irene Cheah, Prof Mary Marret, Dr Hargeet Kaur and Dr Zahilah Filzah Mohd Zulkifli. A legal expert, Dr Farah Nini Dusuki, from the Law Faculty, University of Malaya, provided input regarding the application of child rights and local child protection laws.

The interactive format in which participants worked in small groups with facilitators was well-received. Assigned tasks included interpretation of clinical signs and imaging investigations, formulation of management plans, grappling with challenges of working with other agencies and writing of medical reports. Topics ranged from evidence-based interpretation of injuries, abusive head trauma, child sexual abuse, child rights and child protection laws, inter-agency collaboration, writing medical reports and preparing to give evidence in court.

From the feedback received, it was heartening to learn that the topics covered met or exceeded the needs and expectations of participants. Some comments from the participants:

“Very helpful course. Thumbs up to the organisers.”
“Very informative and interactive.”

“I found the training session extremely fruitful. This helped to answer many questions I have had regarding SCAN cases.”
“Interactive case-based sessions were very stimulating intellectually.”
“Eye-opening on the issues of child protection, what is lacking and what more can be done. Inspires me to do more although it is a difficult road to take.”

The positive response and enthusiasm of participants at this inaugural course of this recently-formed subcommittee is encouraging. We hope to deliver the request for more such courses in the future, extending our coverage to different parts of the country and addressing additional topics.

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Positive Parenting organised a media dialogue at Shangri-La Hotel on 18 September 2019. Moderated by TV personality Daphne Iking, the event was well attended by various media and invited guests. This year’s media dialogue with the topic “Achieving Mental Wellness through Positive Parenting” focused on combating depression, anxiety and addiction in children and teens.

The panellists this year were Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail (Chairman of the Positive Parenting Management Committee), Dr Rajini Sarvananthan (Consultant Developmental Paediatrician), Dr Thiyagar Nadarajaw (Consultant Paediatrician & Adolescent Medicine Specialist), Dr Yen Teck Hoe (Consultant Psychiatrist), Assoc Prof Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon (Clinical Psychologist), and Ms Bawany Chinapan (Registered Licensed Counsellor, psychotherapist and family therapist).

The panellists shared their expertise, opinions, and personal experiences with the audience. Core messages from the dialogue included:

• The importance of parents setting a good example for their children to follow
• Shifting the focus from getting good grades to learning skills and staying relevant
• Building up children’s communication skills
• The importance of school-connectedness in mitigating high-risk behaviour such as smoking, drug use, alcohol consumption, and promiscuity.

Footage of the media dialogue is available on our Facebook page. Find out more on what our panellists had to say on this topic of concern.
To date, there have been three confirmed deaths associated with recent vaping, and a fourth is under investigation, CDC officials told reporters on Friday. The agency currently knows of 450 total possible cases of severe lung disease associated with vaping; these span 33 states.

At the media briefing, researchers discussed 53 cases that occurred in Wisconsin and Illinois from April 21 through August 20. Patients presented with respiratory, gastrointestinal, and constitutional (e.g., fever) symptoms. All reported e-cigarette use within the prior 90 days (and most within the prior week), and 80% of those interviewed said they had vaped tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), with “Dank Vape” products commonly reported. All had abnormal findings on lung imaging. Nearly 60% required ICU admission. The cases are detailed in a New England Journal of Medicine report; the report also includes the CDC’s current case definition for severe pulmonary disease tied to e-cigarette use.

Also at the briefing, a North Carolina physician reported on a cluster of five cases of lung injury tied to vaping THC products. Ultimately, all patients were diagnosed with lipid pneumonia, which can occur when oils or lipid-containing substances enter the lungs. He urged clinicians to consider lipid pneumonia in patients with respiratory failure and a vaping history.

CDC officials maintained that no single device or substance has been linked to all cases, and testing of samples is ongoing. They reiterated that, “most importantly,” people should consider not vaping at this time, as this is the only way to avoid the related lung injury.
The Immunise4Life (IFL) programme conducted a two-day Training of Trainers Session (TOTS) for Immunisation Educators. The event was organised in conjunction with the 21st Annual Scientific Conference of the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM).

The aim was to empower primary care personnel to effectively handle vaccine hesitancy and refusal (VHR) cases. Lectures and interactive exercises were delivered/facilitated by members of the Expert Panel. Participants were selected by the Kelantan State Health Department and comprised nurses, medical assistants, medical officers, family medicine specialists, and even a few health inspectors.

Modules delivered included:
1. Immunisation: History, Science & Contribution
2. Updates on The Malaysian National Immunisation Programme
3. Importance of Additional Recommended Vaccines
4. Vaccine Hesitancy & Refusal in Malaysia
5. Vaccine Safety – Facts vs Myths
6. Vaccine Surveillance
7. Conspiracy Theories
8. Immunisation from Different Religious Perspectives
9. Naturopathy, Prophetic Foods & Medicine as Vaccination Substitutes
10. Persuasive Communication with Parents

Each segment ended with an interactive Q&A session. Besides posing burning questions, speakers, participants also shared their personal experiences handling VHR cases. Some also gave suggestions on how to approach VHR cases.

All participants were encouraged to share the learnings with their colleagues by conducting echo training in their respective centres.

The IFL programme had conducted three other TOTS earlier this year, in Putrajaya, Kedah and Terengganu. This initiative was developed in response to rising vaccine hesitancy and refusal among parents. It is supported by an unconditional educational grant from Sanofi Pasteur.

Zulkifli Ismail
drzulkifli.ismail@gmail.com

Report

Training For Immunisation Educators
15-16 October 2019, Kota Bharu
Announcements

Local Venues

Sarawak Paediatric Orthopaedic Symposium 2020
Date: 10-12 January 2020
Venue: Pusat Islam Tun Abang Salieh UNIMAS, Sarawak
Tel: Dr Mohd Anuar (012-6973470), Dr Haniza (013-8048108), Ph Nur Alyza Benjamin Abdullah (012-8550323)
Website: www.moa-home.com/

19th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)
Date: 20-23 February 2020
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Email: info@icid.org
Website: www.icid.isid.org

Malaysian Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Conference 2020 in conjunction with HKL Paediatric Course
Date: 3 April 2020
Venue: Hospital Kuala Lumpur
Website: www.mso.org.my

International Paediatric Events

Hot topics in Infection & Immunity in Children - The Perth Course (2019 IIC Perth)
Dates: 5-6 December 2019
Venue: The University Club of Western Australia, Western Australia
Phone: +61 (8) 6488 8770
Email: IICPerth@telethonkids.org.au

The 26th Cognitive Neuroscience Congress
With Specimens And 3D Print Models
Congenital Heart Diseases In Your Hands: Abnormalities Of The Atrioventricular Junction
Date: 6-7 December 2019
Venue: Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
Tel: +1 416 813 6029
Email: caroline.robertson@sickkids.ca, shi-joon.yoo@sickkids.ca

The 2nd Contemporary Morphology Course With Specimens And 3D Print Models
Congenital Heart Disease Surgery With 3D Print Models
Date: 9-10 December 2019
Venue: Parkroyal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
Website: Apaci.asia

The 5th Hands-On Surgical Training (Host)
Congenital Heart Disease Surgery With 3D Print Models
Venue: Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
Tel: +1 416 813 6029
Email: caroline.robertson@sickkids.ca, shi-joon.yoo@sickkids.ca

The 11th Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES) Scientific Meeting in conjunction with 42nd MPA Annual Congress
Date: 17-21 November 2020
Venue: KLCC Convention Center

NEW LIFE MEMBERS
- Teh Khian Chew (ID 1186)
- Lim Wei Yi (ID 1187)
- Ahmad Bazli Mohamad (ID 1190)
- Lee Guey Peng (ID 1192)
- Chiew Siok Kwong (ID 1193)
- Siti Sulhoon Mohamed (ID 1196)
- Siti Nuralham Nordin (ID 1197)
- Mohd Zaini Abd Hamid (ID 1198)
- Choo Minn Yin (ID 1199)
- Teoh Sze Teik (ID 1200)
- Tee Pixel Tian (ID 900)
- Cheng Hooi Peng (ID 1112)
- Mohd Feizal Alsiddiq Mohd Fakharuddin (ID 584)
- Mervin Hwa Teik Lee (ID 605)

NEW ORDINARY MEMBERS
- Yeoh Kheng Song
- Adam Al-Anas Mat Ali
- Muhammad Syarhan Nor Hadid
- E Hui Chean
- Armaaz * Hazirah Abdullah

MPA Membership Fees

The membership fees were discussed at our first Exco meeting on 20 October 2019. It has become a trend for paediatricians to register with an annual subscription to attend the Annual Congress at a subsidised rate, and many subsequently let the membership lapse. This is unfair to other paying and life members. There are more benefits than the subsidised Congress rate that they can look forward to especially with our new members-only access to the website www.mpaeds.my.

The current annual membership fee of RM100 and Life Membership of RM1,000 are considered low for a professional association under current economic conditions. This was extensively discussed and a decision was made to increase both the annual and life membership fees. A proposal will be put forth at the next annual general meeting (AGM) to amend the constitution.

The last time the membership fees were adjusted was in April 1997. With the many abuses that we have noticed, and to be fair to paying and life members, it is time to review the dues, pending the next AGM.

The Executive Committee
2019-2021

14 • BERITA MPA – NOV 2019
Supporting you to protect your patients against influenza

Influenza can be devastating to children in Malaysia

Children hospitalised for community acquired seasonal influenza:

- 88% <5 years old
- 2% DID NOT SURVIVE

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.

VaxigripTetra® benefits

- A quadrivalent vaccine proven to be immunogenic with demonstrated efficacy in children aged from 6 to 35 months to help you protect adults and children from 6 months of age against 4 key influenza strains.
- Well tolerated with a good safety profile
- Simple dosing and convenient to use - 1 compact box with unique dosage of 0.5 mL syringe with attached needle

Sanofi Pasteur heritage

- A world leader in the research and development of influenza vaccines
- More than 60 years of influenza experience and expertise
- With a wealth of Sanofi Pasteur expertise and a range of services, materials and initiatives to boost your immunisation efforts

References:

SANOFI PASTEUR (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.

SANOFI PASTEUR c/o sanofi-aventis (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.

Vaccine is Protection
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.