



Asian Pacific Association
of Gastroenterology

APDNews

April 2013

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Professor Richard H. Hunt
Retirement Festschrift

The 3rd Asian Pacific Topic Conference
(APTC 2012)

A Congress To Remember APDW 2012, Bangkok

Gathering over 2,700 delegates from 65 countries, the APDW – Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2012, held from 5th to 8th December 2012 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand was heralded as the most successful APDW in the Federation's history. The Gastroenterological Association of Thailand hosted the conference over four days which featured world-renowned speakers. "Achieving Excellence in Gastroenterology and Hepatology" was the theme.



JGHF Emerging Leader Lecturship
J H Cheon



JGHF Marshall & Warren Lectureship
K Sugano



JGHF Okuda Lectureship
J H Kao

APDW2012 began with the three Pre-Conference Courses which started from 5th December featuring the WEO Endoscopy Directors Workshop on Quality Assurance in Endoscopy, Postgraduate Course Programme and Live Endoscopy Demonstration. The main scientific programme consisted of a variety of activities including named lectures, state-of-the-art lectures, symposia, oral and poster presentations, WEO advance endoscopy course, consensus report on Cholangiocarcinoma and hand-on animal workshop. The conference focused on problems common in the Asia-Pacific region with the major input from our regional colleagues combined with the co-operation from our world renowned international speakers.

The APDW2012 in Bangkok was more than just a scientific meeting with an extravaganza of Thai Culture. The Opening Ceremony on 6th December highlighted a "larger-than-life" show that emphasized our country's unique culture and diversity along with a great honorable welcome from the Local Organizing Committee Chairperson, Professor Udom Kachintorn, accompanied by the Presidents of the APDW Federation founding societies (APAGE, APASL, ISDS, ISGE) and officers of the APDW Federation.

Among the prominent key speakers were award recipients; Professor Kentaro Sugano, Japan (Marshall-Warren Lecturer), Professor Jia Horng Kao, Taiwan (Okuda Lecturer) and Professor Kwong Ming Fock, Singapore (WGO Distinguished Global Lecturer). The JGHF Emerging Leader Lectureship awards were presented to Professor Jae Hee Cheon, Korea, and Professor Vincent Wong, Hong Kong, by Professor Ji Dong Jia, the Trustee of the JGH Foundation. The APAGE Council took the opportunity to present the APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship 2012 to Dr Samapriya Pasan Hewawasam from Sri Lanka. The Vikit Viranuvatti Lecture on "Universal Immunization for Global Control of Hepatitis B" was presented by Professor Yong Poovorawan.

Feedback from the delegates regarding the quality of the scientific programme was largely positive and a reflection of hard work of the Scientific Committee headed by Dr Varocha Mahachai. We are indeed honored and extremely delighted to receive the CME accreditation with commendation which is the highest status based on the advance scientific programme, the variety of parallel sessions and the quality of international speakers.

APDW2012 received an unprecedented number of abstracts from young researchers all over the world. They were given an opportunity to shine through their oral and poster presentations which were featured in the Presidential Award Session, Young Investigator Award session and Travel Grant Award Session.

The excellent scientific programme and spectacular social events certainly made APDW2012 Bangkok a meeting to remember.

Dr Varocha Mahachai

*Chairman, Programme Advisory Committee, APAGE
Editor of APDNews*



WGO Distinguished Global
Lecture
K M Fock



JGHF Emerging Leader Lectureship
Vincent Wong

Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2012 – WGO Global Lectureship Recap



(l-r): Professor Udom Kachintorn, President, APDW 2012, Professor K.M. Fock, President of APDWF, and Professor Varocha Mahachai, Chairperson, Scientific Program Committee, APDW 2012.

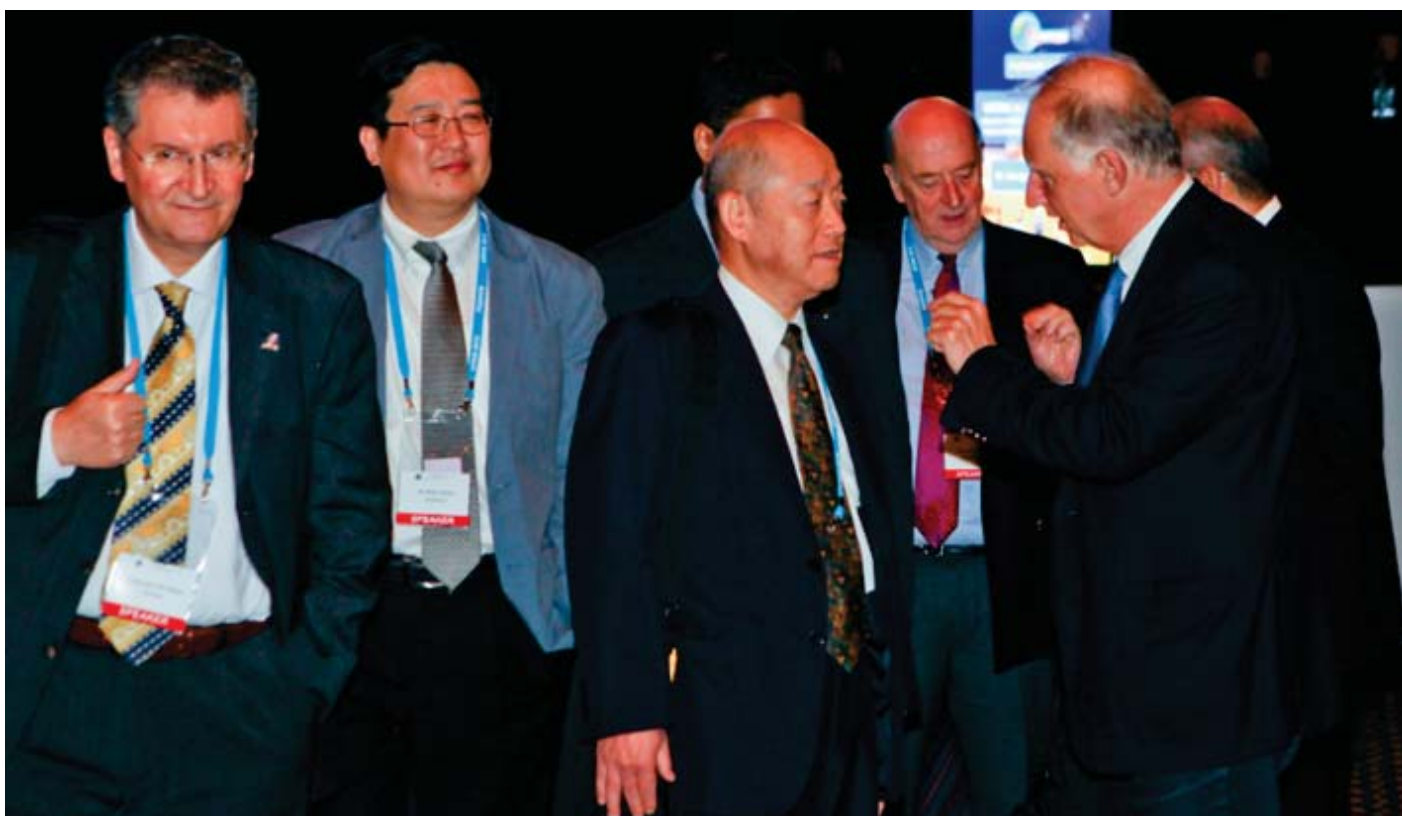
During the most recent Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW), Professor K.M. Fock (Singapore), President of the Asian Pacific Digestive Week Federation, was selected as a speaker for a WGO Distinguished Global Lecture, for the first time for APDW in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2012 on the global issue “Cancers in Asia and the Impact on Global Burden of Cancers”.

In addition to serving as the President of APDW, Professor Fock currently serves on the WGO Nominations and Outreach Committees and served in 2012 as a member of the World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) Committee. He also attended a WGO Train the Trainers Workshop in Crete, Greece in 2004.

UEGW-APDW Symposium on Healthy Stomach Initiative: How to keep your stomach healthy. East meets West – at APDW2012 in Bangkok, Thailand



The Symposium organized by members of the Healthy Stomach Initiative (HSI) group in collaboration with the Scientific Committee of APDW, was one of the key symposium at the APDW Congress held in Bangkok, December 5th to 8th, 2012, under the main theme of ‘Achieving Excellence in Gastroenterology and Hepatology’ focusing on the latest research and development which attracted over 2,700 delegates from all over the world.



For the first time, the HSI group participated in the Asia-Pacific region. Members of the HSI group including Peter Malfertheiner, Colm O'Morain, Richard Hunt, Emad El-Omar, Francesco Di Mario, Kentaro Sugano, David Graham and Varocha Mahachai, joined forces to distribute the update knowledge and exchange information with key Asian experts including Ki Baik Hahm, Ivan Hung, Michio Hongo and Ratha-korn Vilaichone.

The symposium covered the whole spectrum of gastric functions including the regulation of hunger and satiety, nutrient processing, and gastric emptying. The preventive measures, balancing the defense versus offence, H.pylori eradication and the association of inflammatory response genes and gastric cancer were presented. The application of biomarker test in assessing stomach health was another topic of interest. Gastric cancer screening in low risk and high risk countries was most relevant in the Asia-Pacific region.

The HSI Symposium was well attended and created interesting interactive discussions among the experts and participants.



Professor Richard H Hunt - FESTSCHRIFT February 23-24, 2013 McMaster University, Canada



Prominent gastroenterologists from around the world gathered to pay tribute and congratulate Professor Richard Hunt during the special occasion on his Festschrift at the McMaster University over the weekend of February 23rd to 24th, 2013. The scientific event and social functions were superbly organized by Professor Paul Moayyedi, Director of the Division of Gastroenterology, McMaster University. All speakers were close friends and associates of Richard throughout his career. The two-day conference covered different aspects of functional GI disorders, GERD, NSAID, GI Immunology, IBS, UGI bleeding, Helicobacter pylori, endoscopy and hepatology which were all connected to Richard's field of interest and work.

Richard made exceptional contributions to gastroenterology during his career and has collaborated with colleagues throughout the world. He is a pioneer in the initial work on acid secretion studies, H.pylori, GERD, NSAID and GI bleeding and has been instrumental in many consensus on these subjects. Richard has published extensively highly cited papers and received many honours and awards throughout his long and illustrious career.

He has been a role model to all younger gastroenterologists with his unwavering interest, leadership and commitment to the field both in research as well as in clinical work. Richard has an exceptional personality for being polite, kind, sincere, and genuine to all colleagues known to him and is always receptive to any requests from colleagues. He will always be remembered in our hearts. Richard will continue to influence and nurture many promising gastroenterologists for years to come.



Current Topics in Gastroenterology, round table discussion with Richard, Deerhurst, Ontario, 1989



This special Festschrift organized by Professor Paul Moayyedi and his team was very impressive and well-attended. Guests were delighted to see story of Richard's life from the very beginning of his career in the UK till his latest activities at the McMaster University on the slideshow with all contributions from many gastroenterologists around the world.



Richard has made an enormous contribution and has special relationship with the Asia-Pacific gastroenterology communities. He first visited Asia in 1978 for the Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine when cimetidine was first launched in Asia. He later visited Thailand on several occasions and has a fond memory of performing the first colonoscopic polypectomy at the Ramathibodi Hospital. Richard has long connected with collaborators from Asia and has trained many gastroenterologists from the region especially from China. We all wish Richard the best of health and happiness and always look forward to welcoming Richard in the Asia-Pacific region.

Varocha Mahachai, MD, FRCPC, FACG, AGAF
 Chairman, Programme Advisory Committee APAGE
 Editor of APDNews



Richard Hunt – A man for all seasons... ...and a true friend and mentor!

Professor Richard Hunt has been a true friend and mentor to so many of us in the Asian Pacific region. He has been part of our academic and professional lives from the beginning. Always ready to help, advise and teach, in more ways than one, I have learnt enormously from him.

As the region started growing professionally in the 1990s, Richard Hunt was always one of the first we would invite for our scientific meetings and despite his heavy schedule; the answer is always a Yes!

The Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology started slowly with our organization of meetings. In 1996 we organized a meeting entitled "Stomach 96" focusing on diseases of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Richard was one of our key invited faculty and in 1998 we followed up with the organization of 2nd Western Pacific Helicobacter pylori meeting. On 3rd November 2000, Richard delivered the University of Malaya Distinguished Lecture entitled "Helicobacter pylori and Gastric cancer". The culmination of his frequent travels to our part of the world was his delivery of the Panir Chelvam Memorial Lecture of the Malaysian Society on 31st August 2007. Dr Chelvam was a post-graduate student of Richard's in the early years at McMaster and a founder member of the Malaysian Society. A brilliant doctor, Panir met with an untimely death in 2004. He would have been truly touched to have known that Richard Hunt delivered his memorial lecture entitled "Evidence based Medicine in the Real world". The pinnacle of the Malaysian society's activities to date was the organization and hosting of the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2010 from 19th-22nd September 2010. Again it was our honor and privilege to have Richard as one of our respected international faculty.

I look forward to Richard continuing his travels to our part of the world and perhaps even to seeing him more often than before. To a much loved and respected person, colleagues and friends in the Asian Pacific region join me in wishing Richard the very best of luck and good health for the many more years to come.



Professor Khean-Lee Goh

President

Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)

APAGE/JGH FOUNDATION CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING FELLOWSHIP 2012

The APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship 2012 award was presented to Dr Samapriya Pasan Hewawasam from Sri Lanka, during the APDW2012 which was successfully concluded from 5th to 8th December 2012 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The award was presented by Professor Neville Yeomans, Chairman of the JGH Foundation, and Professor Khean-Lee Goh, President of APAGE, on 7th December 2012. Dr Hewawasam was unable to attend the ceremony. He was represented by Dr Chamila Ranawaka, his fellow colleague who was present at the Congress.



Dr Samapriya
Pasan Hewawasam

APAGE/JGH FOUNDATION CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING FELLOWSHIP 2013

Applications are now open for the APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship 2013.

This Fellowship is for up to one year of training in a member country by an applicant from another member country. For detailed information and instructions on how to apply, please access our website at

www.apage.org/trainingfellowship.html

Closing Date for Submission is 1st June 2013.



GASTRO 2013 APDW/WCOG WORKING PARTY CELIAC DISEASE - AN EMERGING EPIDEMIC IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION AND A GLOBAL CONCERN

Celiac disease is emerging all over the world and estimated to affect one percent of the world's population. Along with Europe, America (both North and South), Middle East; celiac disease is emerging even in the East including many Asian countries. While celiac disease is emerging, the level of awareness is too low not only amongst general physicians, Family physicians, internists, and other specialists but also amongst Gastroenterologists and paediatricians. The rate of diagnosis is very low in most part of the world. Gluten hypersensitivity in celiac disease was thought to be limited to small intestine, it is now realized that celiac disease is a multi-system disease and manifestations of celiac disease may be wide spread. Therefore, up to half of adult patients with celiac disease present with atypical manifestations such as short stature, anemia, osteomalacia/osteoporosis or even infertility. While celiac disease is now recognized to occur in certain countries in Asia Pacific region, it is still unknown in most of Asian nations. There are number of issues related with celiac disease (to name a few recognition of the disease, diagnostic criteria, availability of gluten free food), which require urgent attention by all the stakeholders.

The Scientific Steering Committee of World Gastroenterology Organization and Asia Pacific Association of Gastroenterology have formed a Working Party on Celiac Disease to identify the issues related with celiac disease in this region, the report of which will be presented during the combined WGO/APDW conference GASTRO 2013 to be held from Sept 21-24 in Shanghai. A preparatory Asia Pacific Focus Group Meeting on Celiac Disease is being held in New Delhi on April 20-21, 2013.

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GASTRO 2013
APDW/WCOG
Shanghai
 21-24 September
 Shanghai Expo Center
www.gastro2013.org



Official Call for Nominations for the Gastro 2013 Young Clinicians Program (YCP)

Gastro 2013 APDW/WCOG Shanghai, Shanghai, China September 2013

Official Call for Nominations:

It is with pleasure that we announce the Call for Nominations for young active GI trainees from around the world to participate in the Gastro 2013 APDW/WCOG Shanghai, Young Clinicians Program (YCP). This unique opportunity is being developed as a joint organizational venture between the host societies of Gastro 2013 —Asian Pacific Digestive Disease Week Federation (APDWF), Chinese Societies of Digestive Diseases (CSDD), World Endoscopy Organization (WEO) and World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO).

In the first part of the program, an intense one-day dedicated course and one-day Taster Visit at one of the selected hospitals in Shanghai immediately prior to the Gastro 2013 meeting, young clinicians from different cultures and geographic regions will be exposed to important GI topics and issues relevant to their current training and their future academic and practical work. The program also offers the wonderful chance to meet new colleagues and forge new friendships in a relaxed and fun environment. Furthermore, successful candidates will be hosted for the Gastro 2013 meeting in Shanghai where the themes of the YCP program will be revisited in the framework of the core meeting.

Dates and Venue:

The YCP program will take place on Thursday and Friday, 19 and 20 September 2013. Participants will be required to arrive no later than 15:00 at the selected venue on Wednesday, 18 September 2013. The venue of the YCP is the Ramada Plaza Pudong South Shanghai Hotel. YCP participants will then be included in the Gastro 2013 meeting which runs from Saturday, 21 September through Tuesday, 24 September 2013. The final event for YCP candidates will take place on Tuesday, 24 September 2013.

YCP Program:

The main components of the YCP program include case-based interactive sessions and training in practical methods as well as additional interactive components designed to ensure a vivid exchange of information between faculty and participants.

Core themes include:

- Gastric Cancer
- IBD
- Liver Cirrhosis
- Pancreatitis

Parallel skills training sessions on the following topics will be offered:

- Endoscopy - basic training using simulation / advanced imaging
- Capsule endoscopy
- Ultrasound
- LFT interpretation
- Motility testing
- Research and paper publishing

Eligibility Criteria:

- The candidate should be under the age of 35 years at the time of the meeting
- The candidate must be a junior member of the gastroenterological community still in their specialty training in gastroenterology at the time of application
- The candidate must have demonstrated some level of academic performance and intellectual curiosity as reflected by scholarly activity in teaching or research thereby indicating his/her potential role in the future as a leader in their respective country
- A good command of the English language is required
- Indication of the intent to submit an abstract to Gastro 2013 will be a favorable attribute.

YCP Offer

A total of 70 trainees will be selected from the submitted names. These successful candidates will receive the following support:

- Travel grant for economy class travel (based on the cheapest fare available) to be paid to participants after the event. Participants are responsible for their own travel bookings.
- Airport transfers
- Seven (7) nights accommodation shared with another program participant, assigned by the congress organizers (single accommodation can be arranged at a surcharge)
- Postgraduate Course/Live Demonstration Endoscopy Program registration
- Congress registration to Gastro 2013
- Transportation from the YCP venue to the Gastro 2013 venue in Shanghai
- Transportation to social events

Taster Visits to Training Centers in Shanghai:

Successful candidates will be offered the opportunity to spend one day during the YCP at a host training center in Shanghai. A selection of leading centers in Shanghai has offered to host YCP participants and to provide transportation and lunch. Further details will be provided after the initial selection process has been completed.

Application Process:

Applications for the YCP will only be accepted through official and current member societies of APDW/CSDD /WEO/WGO. Societies wishing to submit candidates for the YCP must have paid their annual dues to their respective organization. Each national society is entitled to submit the names of two (2) candidates only.

Interested societies are requested to complete the YCP Application Form by [CLICKING HERE](#) or visiting the Gastro 2013 website at www.gastro2013.org.

The following documentation must be provided for each candidate along with the accompanying Application Form:

- An introduction letter from the candidate's national society explaining why this candidate has been nominated to represent your country at Gastro 2013 YCP
- A short curriculum vitae (no longer than 2 pages or less)
- A statement from the candidate entitled "What I hope to get out of the course" (maximum 20 words)
- A statement from the candidate entitled "What I intend to contribute to the course" (maximum 20 words)
- A short personal statement on "How my career and ability to care for my community will benefit from attending the YCP"

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the YCP Organizing Committee and will be based on criteria of academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, leadership, initiative, regional and gender representation. Applicants will be advised by 15 May 2013 whether their application has been successful or not.

All selected participants will be required to attend the YCP and Gastro 2013 programs in full (19 - 24 September 2013 inclusive) and attendance at all scheduled events is mandatory, including scientific and social activities that will span over the six days. Applicants will be required to arrange their own visas, where applicable, to be able to attend the event. Selected participants may also be required to present a review of a poster or oral presentation on a pre-assigned topic.

Submission Deadline

The final deadline for submission of candidates to the YCP is Wednesday, 1 May 2013

All applications should be sent in full to:

Gastro 2013 Program Secretariat
Executive Director, Incorporated
555 E Wells, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI USA 53202
Tel: +1 (414) 918-9798
Fax: +1 (414) 276-3349
Email: program@gastro2013.org

We look forward to your nominations. Please do not hesitate to contact us at program@gastro2013.org should you have any questions relating to this program.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Kaichun Wu, YCP Director
Professor Duowu Zou, YCP Director

For further information regarding the upcoming Congress, visit the Gastro 2013 APDW/WCOG Shanghai website at www.gastro2013.org or visit us on Facebook or Twitter.



The International
Digestive Disease Forum 2013
8 – 9 June 2013 | Hong Kong

Pioneering
Research and
Practice

Investigator Award

Young researchers are cordially invited to submit their research abstracts to IDD Forum 2013. Abstracts will be selected by the Abstract Committee who will also determine the final mode of presentation either in oral or e-poster format. Outstanding abstracts will be selected for oral presentations and be published in the Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology Journal. Selected oral presenters will receive complimentary registration to the IDD Forum 2013. The awards will be presented at the opening ceremony. For further information, visit www.iddforum.com

6th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium

“New Frontiers in Gastric Carcinogenesis and Treatment”

Singapore-Japan joint conference “6th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium” on 25-26 July 2013 in Singapore. This programme is a joint symposium between Singapore and Japan supported by the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium and Kyoto University, organized by Professor Patrick Tan (Singapore) and Professor Tsutomu Chiba (Japan) as co-chairpersons of this Meeting. This event will be held at the NUHS Tower Block Auditorium, National University Health System, Singapore.

Updates from Korea

On behalf of the Korean Society of Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Society, Professor Ki Baik Hahm, Editorial Board, Senior Deputy Editor of Clinical Endoscopy, hereby welcomes manuscript submission to ‘Gut and Liver’ (www.gutnliver.org) and ‘Clinical Endoscopy’ (www.e-ce.org).

Korean Society of Gastroenterology (KSG) is hosting the “SIDDS – Seoul International Digestive Disease Symposium” to be held from 21-22 November 2013 and Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (KSGE) is hosting the “IDEN – International Digestive Endoscopy Network” in Korea to be held from 8-9 June 2013.



ASIA-PACIFIC CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDOSCOPIC AND INTERVENTIONAL MANAGEMENT OF HILAR CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA

To date, there have been a few guidelines for investigations and management of Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma (HCCA). The techniques of endoscopic and interventional management have evolved but there has been no update consensus or guideline and only a limited number of reviews are available. The Asia-Pacific Working Group on Hepatobiliary Cancers was established in 2011 under the auspices of the scientific organizing committee for the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2012. The Working Group felt that HCCA is a unique type of Asian hepatobiliary cancer that needs to be addressed specifically.

Therefore, the goal of this Consensus was to establish recommendations and management of HCCA with specific relevance to Asian data on the course, standard approach, and recent advances in the management of HCCA. The group met in Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand, in July 2012 to debate and discuss during a 2-day consensus meeting. Subsequently, all statements and relevant references were presented during the APDW2012, Bangkok, Thailand, on December 8. The full manuscript has been accepted and published online in the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2013 Jan 25).

NEW DRUG FOR FUNCTIONAL DYSPEPSIA

A new prokinetic drug, acotiamide (Zeria Pharmaceutical) has been passed through the review of Japanese PMDA (Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency) in March 2013 and will be available in a few months approved for patients with functional dyspepsia.

A guideline for diagnosis and treatment of functional dyspepsia is now under preparation and will be published next year.



The 3rd Asian-Pacific Topic Conference Welcome Dinner, November 2 2012

THE THIRD ASIAN PACIFIC TOPIC CONFERENCE (APTC 2012) ON NUTRITION-RELATED DISORDERS AND THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM 2nd & 3rd November 2012, Tokyo, Japan

The Third Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) was held at Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, on 2nd and 3rd November 2012. Co-organized by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) and the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), it was an important project for APAGE from the standpoint of research and education programs promoting the exchange of gastroenterology knowledge and skills in the Asia-Pacific Region.

APTC is a monothematic scientific conference focusing each time on one important topic related to digestive diseases. It is held annually in one of the APAGE member countries, with Japan serving as the host every other year. The first APTC kickoff meeting was held in Tokyo in November 2010, focusing on the topic of functional gastrointestinal disorders. The second APTC was held in January 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the direction of Professor Khean-Lee Goh, focusing on the important topic of *H. pylori* infection in the Asia-Pacific region. It was a great success.

This year we focused on the theme of "Nutrition-related Disorders and the Digestive System", as emerging common disorders in the Asia-Pacific region. A variety of aspects were discussed, not only topics relating to nutritional deficiency, but also those that relate to nutritional excess, such as obesity or NAFLD.

There were about 116 participants in the third APTC meeting.

It began with an evening seminar on November 2nd chaired by Dr Sumio Watanabe, with presentations by Dr Etsuko Hashimoto (the Conference Programme Director) and Dr Yoshiyuki Takei, focusing on diagnosis and management of NAFLD. The evening seminar was followed by a faculty dinner, in which the presidents of both societies, Professor Kentaro Sugano (JSGE) and Professor Khean-Lee Goh (APAGE) extended their welcome to attendees. The former presidents of both societies, Professor Kwong-Ming Fock (APAGE) and Professor Yutaka Atomi (JSGE), delivered remarks as invited guests. Dr Kazuhiko Koike (International Committee of JSGE, Director General of Japanese Society of Hepatology) and Professor Geoff C Farrell, Editor-in-Chief of JGH, also delivered speeches at the faculty dinner.

The following morning, the conference started with opening remarks by the Conference Director, Professor Soichiro Miura, JSGE Asian Liaison Committee Chairman. There were 24 plenary lectures by distinguished invited faculties representing Asian-Pacific societies. The morning sessions featured Dr Toshiji Saibara (Japan), Dr Marilyn O Arguillas (Philippines) and Dr Yong Kyun Cho (Korea) in the session Nutrition-Related Liver Disorders: NAFLD; Professor Geoff Farrell (Australia), Dr Jian-Gao Fan (China) and Dr Katsutoshi Tokushige (Japan) in the session on Nutrition-Related Liver Disorders and Carcinogenesis; Dr Kunio Torii (Japan), Dr Kenichi Ikejima (Japan) and Dr B S Ramakrishna (India) in the session on Nutrition and the Digestive System; and



Dr Bunzo Matsuura (Japan), Professor Khean-Lee Goh (Malaysia) and Professor Kwong-Ming Fock (Singapore) in the session on Obesity and the Digestive System. These plenary lectures included recent data and the current situation in the speakers' countries. The morning sessions were chaired by Dr Marilyn O Arguillas, Dr Sumio Watanabe, Professor Geoff Farrell, Dr Toshiji Saibara, Dr B S Ramakrishna, Dr Kazuhiko Koike, Professor Kwong-Ming Fock, and Dr Hisataka Moriwaki.

There were two luncheon seminars. One was chaired by Dr Kazuhiko Koike, and presented by Dr Jun Kunisawa and Dr Keisuke Hino, focusing on nutrition and the digestive system. The other was chaired by Dr Yoshinori Igarashi, and presented by Dr Teruo Nakamura and Dr Kazuo Inui, focusing on the management of pancreatic disorders. After lunch, a commemorative photograph was taken in which all the participants were invited (reprinted here).

The afternoon session started with poster presentations by 34 active researchers who were recommended by their faculties. The poster session was chaired by 11 Japanese faculty members: Dr Ryota Hokari, Dr Takuji Gotoda, Dr Yoichi Sakurai, Dr Teruo Nakamura, Dr Susumu Tazuma, Dr Junichi Shoda, Dr Masahiko Koda, Dr Katsutoshi Tokushige, Dr Hidetsugu Saito, Dr Masashi Yoneda and Dr Norihito Watanabe. The distinguished best poster awards were given to the four best posters presentations: Dr Hui Yann Lee (New Zealand), Dr Teruki Miyake (Japan), Dr Yoshikiyo Okada (Japan) and Ms Emma Halmos (Australia). The best posters were also orally presented after the poster round, chaired by Dr Yoshiyuki Takei and Dr Atsushi Nakajima.

In the afternoon session, Dr Marcellus Simadibrata (Indonesia), Dr Russell Walmsley (New Zealand), Dr Wei-Kuo Chang (Taiwan),

Dr Supot Pongprasobchai (Thailand), Dr Susumu Tazuma (Japan), Dr Ryota Hokari (Japan), Professor Peter Gibson (Australia), Dr Astushi Nakajima (Japan), Dr Viet Trung Lam (Vietnam) and Dr Yoichi Sakurai (Japan) delivered plenary lectures as representatives of the societies. The afternoon sessions were chaired by Dr Marcellus Simadibrata, Dr Mitsuhiko Moriyama, Dr Supot Pongprasobchai, Dr Susumu Tazuma, Professor Peter Gibson, Dr Hiroyuki Imaeda, Professor Khean-Lee Goh and Dr Soji Ozawa. The meeting ended with closing remarks from Professor Peter Gibson, Chairman of the Education and Research Committee of APAGE. After the meeting all participants enjoyed a farewell party at the Japanese-style restaurant Akasaka Umayu in Tokyo.

The conference was a great success. There were a lot of fruitful discussions on the important and interesting theme during the two-day meeting. We were able to exchange the most up-to-date information, and felt the conference was very helpful in providing an opportunity to deepen friendships among specialists in different fields, including gastroenterologists, hepatologists, physiologists and surgeons. It also played a key role in disseminating valuable new information to the world on these important issues. All participants enjoyed a friendly atmosphere and a beautiful autumn in Japan as well.

Soichiro Miura, MD

Chairman of 3rd APTC

JSGE Asian Liaison Committee Chairman

Program Advisory Committee Chairman of APAGE

A note from The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology

The year of 2012 was another busy and fruitful year for The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology in promoting the advancement of gastroenterology in Hong Kong. Eight scientific meetings were organized throughout the year. Two newsletters were published in June and December during the year.

Our recent Annual General Meeting cum Scientific Meeting was held on 14 March 2013 during which the honorary fellowship of our Society was bestowed upon distinguished guests, Professor Barry J. Marshall AC, Nobel Laureate, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Microbiology of University of Western Australia and Professor Ching-Lung Lai, Simon KY Lee Professorship in Gastroenterology and Chair of Medicine & Hepatology of The University of Hong Kong. They are among the 16 honorary fellows of our Society who are renowned scholars in the specialty.

The evening was highlighted by the captivating state-of-art lectures "Helicobacter pylori as an example of curiosity driven research" delivered by Professor Marshall and "The Hepatitis B Virus and I" by Professor Lai.



We look forward to organizing more activities in 2013 including a research project to promote the advancement of gastroenterology. We invite you to visit our website <http://www.hksge.org/newsletter/> for more information. Thank you and regards,

Dr. Vincent K.S. Leung
President, HKSGE

UPDATE FROM JSGE

Upcoming conferences

1. The 8th JSGE-AGA Joint Meeting
Date: March 22 (Fri), 2013
Venue: Ruby Hall Hiten, Castle Park Hotel, Kagoshima
2. The 2nd JSGE International Topic Conference
Date: March 22 (Fri) – March 23 (Sat), 2013
Venue: Ruby Hall Hiten, Castle Park Hotel, Kagoshima
3. Japan Digestive Disease Week 2013
Date: Oct. 9 (Wed) – Oct. 12 (Sat), 2013
Venue: Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa, & Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo
4. The 100th General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology
Date: April 23(Wed) – April 26 (Sat), 2014
Venue: Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo

Award

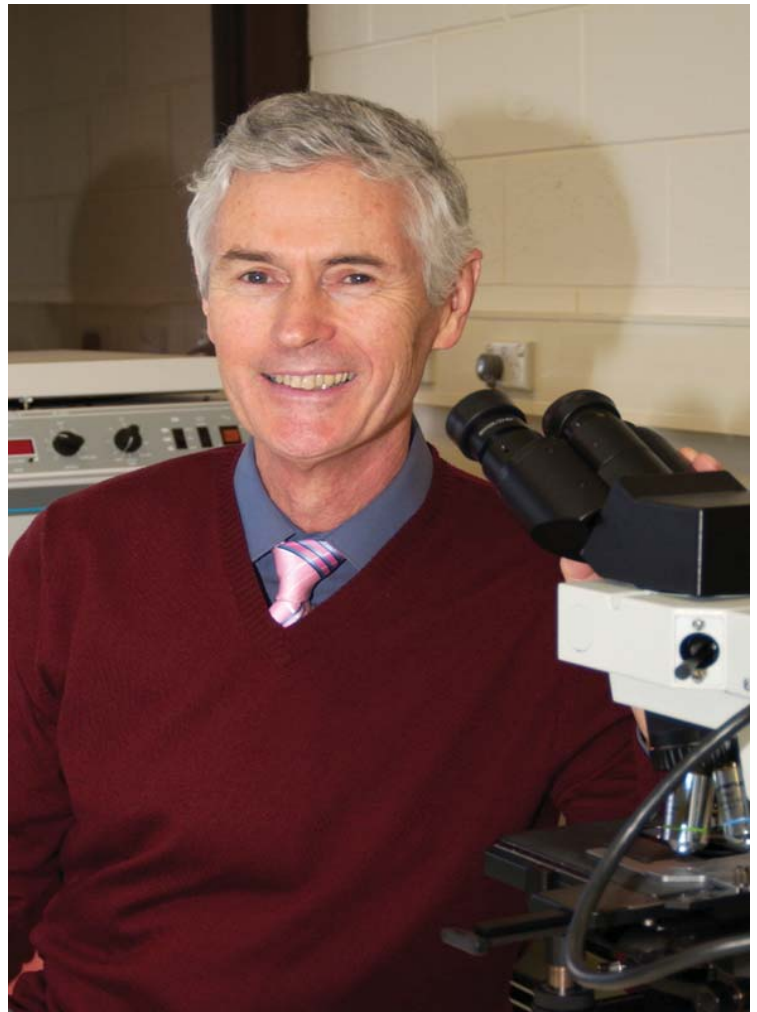
JSGE will provide JSGE Research Fellowship Program Award from the beginning of Aug. to the end of Nov. in 2013, and selected 4 young investigators from APAGE member countries. We will continue this award in 2014 and announce the application guidelines around September 2013.

H. pylori eradication approved in Japan

On Feb 21, Japanese National Health Insurance approves the coverage of H.pylori eradication therapy for patients with gastritis.

Career achievement as Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (JGH), Professor Geoff C Farrell stepping down after a 6-year term

Professor Geoff Farrell has contributed greatly to the advancement of JGH, an official journal of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology during his term as Editor-in-Chief from November 2006 – December 2012. He was also the Co-Founder of the JGH Foundation. The JGH improved remarkably under his tenure, including new features, more reviews including advances in clinical practice, scientific basic of disease, greater focus on endoscopy, hepatobiliary and pancreatic disorders, and more editorials. During his term as Editor, the JGH became widely recognized for its high scientific quality and ability to provide timely information that serves the current needs in the Asia-Pacific region. The impact factor has risen from 1.6 to 2.9. As an Editor-in-Chief, Professor Farrell has encouraged participation of high quality reviewers who are experts in their fields.



We enthusiastically welcome Professor Mamoru Watanabe to take on this important leadership role as Editor-in-Chief of the JGH starting January 2013. Professor Watanabe is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endoscopy, of the Tokyo Medical and Dental University. JGH will remain a platform of academic advancement in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the Asia-Pacific region.

Reference: Editorials in JGH 27(2012) 1763-1771

Upcoming Events in 2013

Event	Place	Date
The 2nd JSGE International Topic Conference	Kagoshima, Japan	22-23 Mac 2013
The 8th JSGE-AGA Joint Meeting	Kagoshima, Japan	22 Mac 2013
EASL 2013	Amsterdam, Netherlands	24-28 April 2013
DDW 2013	Orlando, USA	18-21 May 2013
APASL 2013	Singapore	6-9 June 2013
International Digestive Disease Forum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	8-9 June 2013
International Digestive Endoscopy Network (IDEN) Korean Society Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*	Seoul, Korea	8-9 June 2013
6th Annual Scientific Meeting Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium/Japan-Singapore Joint Conference	Singapore	25-26 July 2013
XXVI International Workshop on Helicobacter and related Bacteria in Chronic Digestive Inflammation and Gastric Cancer	Madrid, Spain	12-14 Sep 2013
Gastro 2013 APDW/WCOG	Shanghai, China	21-24 Sep 2013
Japan Digestive Disease Week 2013	Tokyo, Japan	9-12 Oct 2013
UEGW 2013	Berlin, Germany	12-16 Oct 2013
AASLD 2013	Washington, D.C., USA	1-5 Nov 2013
Seoul International Digestive Disease Symposium (SIDDS)* Korean Society of Gastroenterology	Seoul, Korea	21-22 Nov 2013

For more information:

IDD Forum: http://enews.mims.com/others/2013/february/idd_forum/index_web.html



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE
MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

GUT 2013

23rd TO 25th AUGUST 2013

PENANG, MALAYSIA



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23rd TO 25th AUGUST 2013

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10th PANIR CHELVAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

MICHAEL KAMM (AUSTRALIA)

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INVITED SPEAKERS

ALAN BARKUN (CANADA)

FRANCIS CHAN (HONG KONG)

PIERCE CHOW (SINGAPORE)

MICHAEL KAMM (AUSTRALIA)

KENNETH McCOLL (UK)

DAVID PEURA (USA)

BJORN REMBACKEN (UK)

TAKASHI SANO (JAPAN)

YOSHIAKI TAKEUCHI (JAPAN)

VIJAY SHAH (USA)

JUSTIN WU (HONG KONG)