

MSO Express

Contents

Sub-specialty Focus
-Part 2
The Unforeseen
Journey of
Fellowship: The
Mentors'
Perspective

Page 3

Cataract Surgery in
Post-LASIK Patients

Page 6

3D Heads-up
Ophthalmic Surgery
comes to
Postgraduate
Teaching Centre:
Will it Stay?

Page 8

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Unit #UG33 PJ Midtown
Jalan Kemajuan, Seksyen 13
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

03-7931 8728 / 012-240 3318
admin@mso.org.my
msophth@gmail.com



Dear MSO Members,

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter for the year 2020. This year had been one of the most awaited years for many of us Malaysians. It is the year when our "Vision 2020" was supposed to have been achieved. For some of us, this meant being perched high up the new world order as a modern, multi-racial, first-world nation. For the rest of us who were children in the 90s, who have been dreaming of flying cars, bionic humans, levitating bullet trains and buildings that reach into the stratosphere, this was our version of Atlantis. Globally this was supposed to be the Renaissance 4.0 with man and machine working seamlessly, where money is to be fully digital and mankind is to be setting off to explore new planets light years away, travelling from giant space stations.

Unfortunately the fantasy bubble burst, we seem to be stuck and undone in a world with growing income disparity and lesser humanity, rapid overpopulation and reducing quality of life. With the global Covid-19 threat restricting travel and trade on an unprecedented scale, coupled with political uncertainty domestically and abroad, it feels as if a dark cloud is lingering above us preventing the ray of sunshine from reaching us. However, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche proffered "From chaos, comes order". When you are at the lowest point, the only way is to go up. Martin Luther King Jr. correctly pointed out that, "only in the darkness, can you see the stars". Let's continue to be hopeful for things to take a positive turn for the rest of 2020.

As for our fraternity, we started off the year quite successfully with the 35th Singapore-Malaysia joint meeting in Ophthalmology in conjunction with the 1st Asia Pacific Ocular Imaging Society Meeting which was held in Singapore from 17-19th of January. Participation from Malaysian delegates in this event was indeed commendable. A global YO symposium was also held during this meeting and saw many of our brilliant YOs as speakers. We would like to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to all the YOs involved, as your active and enthusiastic participation did light up the event.

The highlight for the month of February was the Malaysian Oculoplastic Conference 2020 (MOC 2020) which was held at the Nexus, Bangsar South from 22-23rd. Several experts shared invaluable information in the field and it turned out to be a fruitful weekend for those who took time from their busy schedules to participate. Recognition was given to two prominent figures in the field of Oculoplastics during the event, namely Dr Kamala Lingam and Dr Radzlian Othman. We would like to thank both of them on behalf of MSO for their invaluable contribution to the field of Ophthalmology. We would also like to congratulate the Malaysian Oculoplastic Interest Group for this great effort. Many more events have been lined up for the rest of the year and we look forward to share more insights on these events and welcome your active participation.

This current issue of MSO Express brings to you Part 2 of the subspecialty focus. This article focuses on the perspective of the mentors with regards to the subspecialty programs in Malaysia. We hope it would be a useful guide to the younger members of the society who aspire to subspecialize in their fields of interest. Apart from that, we get some insight on the first 3D Heads-up Ophthalmic surgery performed in our National University of Malaysia by Prof Dr Mae-Lynn Catherine Bastion and an interesting article by Dr Azura Ramlee on cataract surgery in post-LASIK patients. With the growing number of post-LASIK individuals entering the age group that requires cataract surgery, we hope this article is timely and beneficial. With that, we hope all of you enjoy reading this issue.

Before we sign off, we would like to take a moment to mention the brave Ophthalmologist Dr Li Wenliang, 33, who died of COVID-19 on Feb 7th. He was the first person to sound the alarm about the illness. On Dec 30th 2019, Dr Li sent out a warning over the WeChat messaging app advising fellow medical school grads to wear protective clothing to avoid infection after several patients from a local seafood market exhibited symptoms similar to SARS. The young doctor fell ill on January 10th, later saying that he was probably infected by an 82-year-old glaucoma patient. "The patient did not have a fever, and I didn't wear extra protection while taking care of her," Li wrote in his blog. "I was careless." Fellow Ophthalmologist Mei Zhongming, 57, is said to have been infected after working long hours treating patients. He is the second Ophthalmologist to die from COVID-19 from Wuhan Central Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the frontliners who are combating COVID-19.

Thank you.

DR SUDHASHINI CHANDRASEKARAN

Co-Editor, MSO Express
Ophthalmologist
Hospital Ampang, Selangor



DR. MANO SHUNMUGAM

Editor, MSO Express
Honorary Secretary, MSO



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