

MSO Express

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Dear MSO members,

In the span of 3 months since the last edition, time seemed to have stood still, yet passed by so quickly at the same time. The nation was put under a Full Movement Control Order (FMCO) since June 1 due to the unprecedented number of cases and deaths due to Covid-19, with many new Variants of Concern (VOC). Schools were closed, and offices were restricted in the number of staff allowed at any one time. Cabin fever is real. The struggles faced by the rakyat to make ends meet is a sobering reminder of the untold damage caused by this pandemic. Our hearts go out to the families of those who have lost their loved ones directly or indirectly due to Covid-19.

Healthcare workers have trudged on bravely for more than a year now, but this recent wave of sicker patients and greater infectivity is something we are still coming to terms with. In the midst of fighting the pandemic, many of our frontline doctors (our contract medical officers) are faced with the prospect of losing their jobs in a few months' time once their contract ends.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has started a movement in solidarity with our contract healthcare workers (HCWs). The "Code Black" movement aims to raise awareness of the plight of our contract HCWs in the hope that an amicable solution can be found quickly for the affected staff. MSO is giving our full support for this movement as the current situation will have a profound impact on the future of our healthcare system if nothing is done. We hope our members will do their part in showing support to this movement. If you are unsure how you can show your support, do get in touch with us. I believe that with each of our participation, we could create a ripple effect to mandate change.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa

In this issue of the newsletter, we highlight the struggles and achievements of Dr Kamala Devi Lingam throughout her career in our Personality Focus. Being the pioneer oculoplastic surgeon in the country was certainly not an easy task, but our country is now reaping the benefits of her persistence and dedication to the profession. The Oculoplastic Special Interest Group (SIG) under the auspices of the MSO is one of the most active SIG, and we have to thank passionate doctors like Dr Kamala for this.

Another pioneer featured in this edition is the Borneo Ophthalmic Surgical Symposium (BOSS), the brainchild of Dr Dennis Kong who felt the need for more professional development activities for the ophthalmologists and trainees in Borneo. Did you know that it was originally called the Kuching Eye Forum? From its humble beginnings, it is now one of the most popular events involving participants from Malaysia and even Brunei. Do check out the article to know more about the history and future events by BOSS.

Lastly, we pay tribute to the late Dr Zainal Mohamad, consultant paediatrician and refractive surgeon at the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital (THONEH) who sadly passed away on 7th February 2021 due to Covid-19 complications. His passing is a grim reminder how this virus is closer and deadlier than ever to each of us.

Stay safe everyone and do look out for one another!

DR TEH WEE MIN

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