

MSOExpress

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Dear MSO members,

It's Great to be Back!

I hope this edition of the newsletter finds you in good health. It is almost 2.5 years to the date when we were first introduced to the dreaded but necessary Movement Control Order (MCO) and its various iterations (EMCO, CMCO and RMCO – do they still ring a bell?) in the following months. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about seismic shifts in the way we go about our lives and also in our clinical practice. Social interactions such as school playtime, sports and recreation, face-to-face meetings, conferences or simply having a meal together were not possible at one point.

Thankfully, things are much better now. It has been four months since the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions in Malaysia, and we have welcomed the resumption of face-to-face meetings and conferences with huge sighs of relief (and perhaps even a tear in the eye).

Most recently, Malaysia was host to the 6th Asia-Pacific Glaucoma Congress, which was held in conjunction with the 12th MSO Annual Scientific Meeting and 36th Malaysia-Singapore Joint Ophthalmic Congress. We had almost a thousand attendees, with 55% of them choosing to attend the meetings on-site. We also had successful completion of the 11th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference (COSC) on 17-18 September 2022.

A few notable international conferences have also been held recently, including that of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS) on 11-12 June 2022 and EURETINA on 1-4 September 2022 and the 40th Congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) in Milan, Italy.

Upcoming conferences include the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in Chicago and the 15th Asia-Pacific Vitreo-Retina Society (APVRS) Congress in Taipei, Taiwan. Certainly it is an opportune time to scratch that travel itch! Just remember to observe and adhere to the travel requirements of the countries you plan to visit.

For those of you who are still undecided about travelling or having physical meetings, fret not. Many congress organisers are still maintaining a hybrid meeting option. Virtual meetings are also here to stay. These include our very own series of webinars such as the MSO Grand Ward Rounds, MYOSIG Surgical Webinar and BOSS (Borneo Ophthalmic Surgical Symposium).

For those who have visited our website (www.mso.org.my) recently, you may have noticed some changes taking place. Some subtle but significant changes are taking place on our website, with the addition of a Calendar of Events and Members-only contents, amongst others. Be sure to check out the new-look website, and let us know what you think.

Here's to a productive end to the year 2022 and let us start our preparations to welcome the new year and APAO 2023 in Kuala Lumpur!

DR TEH WEE MIN

Editor, MSO Express
Consultant Ophthalmologist
OasisEye Specialists, Seremban



38th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress

APA 2023
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
23-26 FEBRUARY 2023
Reconnect & Collaborate

Host: ASIA-PACIFIC ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
Co-Host: MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
Supported By: Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau, Meet in Malaysia, Malaysia Daily Asia

APAO 2023 Congress Website
<https://2023.apaophth.org/>

Online Registration
<https://2023.apaophth.org/registration/>

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION UNTIL OCTOBER 10, 2022
SAVE UP TO 30% OF STANDARD PRICE

VENUE:
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE,
MALAYSIA

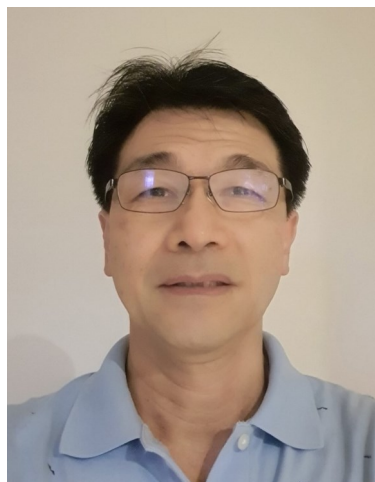
PERSONALITY FOCUS: DR DENNIS KONG—THE BOSS OF BORNEO**Early Life and Background**

I am born and bred in Sarawak and studied in St Joseph Secondary School in Kuching and received my medical education in University of Melbourne in Australia.

Career in Ophthalmology

After that I decided to go to UK to pursue my ophthalmology training. In my first ophthalmology job in 1988 I still vividly remembered my consultant saying that he was still not convinced that ECCE was a better operation than ICCE and aphakic glasses. So, I was routinely assisting my consultants doing ICCE during my initial training.

After completing my training and getting my training in UK, I came back and did my gazettement in HKL in 1993 and then returned to join Eye Department in Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching. During that time there were very few Eye Specialists around in Sarawak and Sibu and Miri Hospitals were staffed by expatriate Eye Specialist and basic eye equipment were lacking too. Argon and YAG lasers were still not available there then.



Dr Dennis Kong

Phacoemulsification was introduced to Malaysia around 1995 and it was a very exciting time. In those early days phaco machines were less sophisticated and dense cataracts were very challenging. Fluidics control of the old phaco machines was not so precise and anterior chamber stability was still a huge issue. Back then as well, capsulorhexis and nuclear disassembly techniques were also not so well established yet. It was a bit like the blind leading the blind in those early days of learning phaco and transitioning from ECCE.

Subsequently, I joined Normah Medical Specialist Centre and private practice in 1996. Dr Tiong Tung Hui and myself have always been talking about starting an eye centre in Kuching for many years and finally our dreams came true with the establishment of Eye Specialist Centre in Kuching in May 2015. Ophthalmology practice has improved and advanced tremendously over the years with many more advanced and expensive equipment. Solo practice has many limitations and a group practice has the added advantage of sharing expensive advanced equipment and being more cost effective. With more ophthalmic subspecialties, group practice will also help improve the standard of ophthalmology in this region.

How did you Establish BOSS?

BOSS (Borneo Ophthalmic Surgeons Section) is a special interest group and part of MSO. It was primarily set up in 2018 to promote and improve continuing professional development (CPD) activities in the Borneo states of Sarawak and Sabah. Borneo is not just physically isolated from Peninsular Malaysia geographically but also in CPD activities. The initial meetings were in person but with limited participation due to physical distances and logistic issues. The pandemic was actually a blessing in disguise as it forced us to organise virtual events which has enabled us to reach a much wider national audience. I foresee that we will organise mainly virtual events in future but with hybrid events too occasionally. Virtual events do have its limitations and cannot replace the personal interactions and connections in physical meetings



Dr Dennis chatting with the great innovator Dr Shin Yamane at APACRS in Kyoto 2019

Many good friends and colleagues Dr Peter Kong, Dr Lee Mun Wai, Dr Choong Yean Yaw, Dr Chan Jan Bond, Dr Mahadhir Sulaiman, Dr Chin Pik Kee and many others have been very supportive and instrumental in ensuring the success of BOSS. BOSS will continue to evolve and hopefully find niche areas to promote CPD and raising ophthalmic standards particularly in the Borneo states and the region. Our core belief is surgical video recording, editing and presentation to improve microsurgical skills.

What do you think of the future of Ophthalmology in Sarawak?

I think the future of Ophthalmology in Sarawak is very bright and promising with many YOs having been well trained locally and also some returning from overseas. Eye Specialist Centre will continue to encourage and support subspecialist practice and also collaborate with UNIMAS and Sarawak General Hospital in raising the ophthalmic standards locally.

What is your advice to the future ophthalmologist?

I would like to offer a bit of advice to all the budding YOs. Ophthalmic career is a marathon to be run over many tears and not a sprint. It is important to have a balanced holistic approach to your career and to keep yourself healthy physically, mentally and spiritually since your performance as an ophthalmologist will be affected by your health. Family and friends support are very important too.



Cataract camp in Daro, Sarawak in 2013 with Dr Thomas Law and Dr Yupar Aung

Holidays and breaks must not be neglected to recharge your batteries and interests. Ophthalmology like the rest of medicine is always progressing and advancing and it is critical to keep up to date by regularly attending meetings and conferences and maintain a keen interest.

At the end of the day if we can help our patients see better, help and learn from our colleagues and make the world a better place, we would have achieved something.



DR CHAN JAN BOND

Editor, MSO Express
Consultant Ophthalmologist & Cataract
Refractive Surgeon
International Specialist Eye Centre (ISEC)

RECENT EVENTS: THE 12TH MSO-ASM AND THE 36TH MSJOC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 6TH APGC

The 12th Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology Annual Scientific Meeting (MSO-ASM) and the 36th Malaysia-Singapore Joint Ophthalmic Congress (MSJOC) was held in conjunction with the 6th Asia-Pacific Glaucoma Congress from 4 – 7 August 2022 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. This meeting marked the first face-to-face meeting that was organised by MSO since the Covid-19 pandemic hit our shores. It also came at a time when international travel restrictions were being relaxed not just on our shores, but also in most countries. Nevertheless, some remained wary of the threat of the coronavirus and played it safe. This is reflected in the overall attendance, which was almost 50-50 in terms of virtual and physical attendees. Of the total 928 participants for the whole meeting, 208 of them were international participants who attended physically. This was certainly an encouraging response from our overseas friends.

The scientific programme had 124 speakers and session chairs from various subspecialties, contributing to the wealth of knowledge and experience disseminated throughout the meeting.

The MSJOC was conducted over three days (5-7 August 2022), beginning with the free paper presentation which was held online on the first day. It was a very interesting session with a good mix of case series as well as clinical and basic science research presentations.



The MSJOC meeting had its opening ceremony on 6th August 2022, together with the opening ceremony of APGC. There were speeches by the Congress Chair, Dr Wong Hon Seng as well as the Presidents from the Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology (Dr Manoharan Shunmugam) and Singapore Society of Ophthalmology (Dr Lee Shu Yen). The overwhelming theme was one of gratitude for finally being able to meet up again for physical meetings, and for the support shown by both our Malaysian and Singaporean counterparts for making the effort to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting had a variety of topics arranged according to subspecialty (Paediatric Ophthalmology, Cornea, Retina, and Cataract and Refractive Surgery). This was complemented by the glaucoma plenary sessions arranged for APGC. Among the highlights were the Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) talks, which showcased many new MIGS devices and surgical techniques. We also had a Young Ophthalmologist (YO) session for MSO & SSO where members discussed their journey in residency and fellowship training, as well as an upcoming program for YO called the APAO YO Rising Stars program.



The highlight of the meeting for me was at the tail end of the program on Sunday, 7th August 2022. This was during the awards symposium and closing ceremony, where we had the

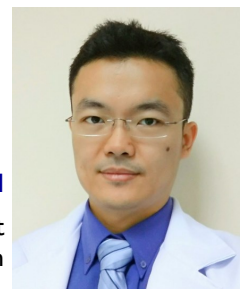


Keshmahinder Singh Oration (KSO) and the MSO Keynote Lecture. It was a privilege to have Sir Peng Tee Khaw receive the KSO award and to hear his talk titled, "Innovations and advances in translational research". While providing a glimpse into the future, Sir Peng Khaw also reminisced on his past, including his time in Malaya. An interesting tidbit shared by Sir Peng Khaw – the late Dato' Dr Keshmahinder Singh was Sir Peg Khaw's eye physician when he was a child!

In conclusion, this meeting was successfully conducted and participation was very encouraging. It was a good testbed for upcoming conferences in the post-pandemic era, and it was truly heartwarming to finally meet our counterparts in person.

DR TEH WEE MIN

Consultant Ophthalmologist
OasisEye Specialists, Seremban



OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DATUK' DR BHAJAN SINGH

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ਜੇ ਆਇਆ ਸੇ ਚਲਸੀ ਸਭੁ ਕੋਈ ਆਈ ਵਾਰੀਐ ॥

"Whoever has come, shall depart; all shall have their turn."



Datuk' Dr. Bhajan Singh Manocha
1932-2022 (89 Years)

With profound grief and sorrow, we are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather on **7-8-2022**.

Devoted soul-mate & husband to: **Datin Dr. Jeroo Daruvala**

Most loving and caring Father to:
Dr. Anita & Ina Bhajan Manocha,
Dr. Narinder Singh Shadan

Affectionate and joyous 'Dada' to: -
Premdyl & Jasdyi Singh Shadan

Patient and dedicated caregivers:
Cristita & Maryvic
Salina, Prishanthini & Emilyana from Homage Services

He will be dearly and forever cherished by brother, sisters-in laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends

Cortege will leave residence, No 4 Lengkok Barat, Penang at **12:30 pm, Monday August 8th, 2022**, and cremation at **1:30 pm at the Mount Erskine Crematorium, Jalan Mount Erskine, Penang**

For enquiries, please contact
Anita 012-4866576, Ina 019-4772583

Dear family and friends, due to Covid-19 situation & related MOH's guidelines, the paying of Last Respects, Funeral Service & Cremation will be held in a controlled manner in compliance with the SOPs.

The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to St. Nicholas School of the Blind in lieu of flowers.