

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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