On behalf of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology, I would like to bid you a warm welcome to the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, which is held from 6th to 9th December 2023.

We are very grateful to Professor Somchai Leelakusolvong and his colleagues for the thoughtful and strategic planning of the scientific programme. I would also congratulate the four GI Societies of Thailand for their joint effort and commitment to host this noteworthy event. This conference is the culmination of countless hours of effort, intellectual rigor and collaboration. It is a testament to the power of unity and shared vision. I am confident that the insights we gain and the relationships we build over the coming days will resonate far beyond the confines of this conference.

This year is especially significant because this is the first full face-to-face physical conference of APDW since the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of APDW 2023, “Optimizing Strategies For Maximizing Outcomes”, encapsulates the very essence of our mission. It serves as a reminder that our research, no matter how sophisticated or intricate, is ultimately intended to improve patient care and clinical outcomes.

Since the inception in 2022, the newly established Emerging Leaders Committee of APAGE has made remarkable progress in the development of a platform of academic development and networking for the young GI fellow community in the Asia Pacific region. We are going to witness the debut academic session in the upcoming APDW meeting. We are looking forward to your participation and support of APAGE.

Professor Justin Che-Yuen Wu
President, APAGE
We live in turbulent times. Even as we exited the COVID pandemic, daunting global challenges remain, such as the existential threat from climate change and new conflicts and wars. Despite all that, the APAGE member societies remained focused on improving standards in the Asian Pacific region and organised academic activities as part of their educational outreach, as well as to foster regional collaboration. Our annual signature event, Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2022, was successfully held in Xi’an, China, in a virtual format, from 17th to 20th November 2022. We look forward to the exciting educational programme of the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2023. We are now able to move back to an actual physical meeting and this takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6th to 9th December 2023.

We thank the APAGE President, Professor Justin Wu, and the APAGE Council for their support. We acknowledge the important contributions of Ms Molly Kong, the Executive Director of APAGE, and her team, for assisting in the publication of APDNews.

Professor Tiing-Leong Ang
Editor-in-Chief, APDNews

THE ASIAN PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY
COUNCIL 2021 – 2023

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Professor Tiing-Leong Ang
Editor-in-Chief, APDNews
The Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC), APAGE (abbreviated as Young APAGE “Y-APAGE”) was established in late 2022 to leverage the core competencies of APAGE to provide support, mentorship, networking opportunities and leadership development for emerging leaders in digestive health from the Asia-Pacific region. The Founding Co-Chairs are Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali (Malaysia) and Dr Rashid Lui (Hong Kong, China), and the Vice-Chair is Dr Tsevelnorov Khurelbaatar (Mongolia). The Committee members are drawn from 17 different regions or countries in the Asia-Pacific (Figure 1) and are officially appointed by the APAGE Council. In addition, the Committee has established 12 Focus Groups, comprising both ELC members and non-members to allow for more flexibility and dynamism when pursuing developments in the respective subspecialties, as well as identifying potential emerging leaders in the field (Figure 2).

Since its inception, the Committee has held four meetings and the first in-person meeting has been planned to be held at the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. We have a social media presence on platforms such as X (formally known as Twitter) and Facebook. An official Wechat (Weixin) account has been set up and could be the first of its kind amongst the major regional societies in the Gastroenterology field providing a unique platform to engage young scholars in China and worldwide. The Committee had co-organised a webinar with the Chinese Youth Club of Crohn’s and Colitis (CYCCC) in May 2023 and there are several other events in the pipeline.

The Committee also plans to work closely with APAGE’s official publication, the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, to enhance the members’ exposure to the editorial and publication process, and to promote the exchange of scientific ideas. Y-APAGE also hopes to foster ties with other young chapters of international and global organisations to strengthen international engagement. Utilising the ELC network as a platform, the group has endorsed surveys on the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of Helicobacter pylori in Asia, and another on paediatric gastroenterology training in the region. A dedicated website is being set up to introduce the members and their accomplishments and also to highlight the future directions for the ELC.

The ultimate aim is through this deliberate, structured and strategic development of a digestive health community, we can identify and nurture future leaders calling from the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Rashid Lui and Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali
Founding Co-Chairs
Emerging Leaders Committee, Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology
If the Asia Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) is now a very important international conference in Asia and in the world, its birthing pains were indeed the exact opposite to its gentle success today. The dissonance of the differing visions and strategies of growth for a number of academic gastroenterology, digestive endoscopy, hepatology and surgery organisations, was as loud and colorful as the bang of the coming of the new Millenium. The creation of the Asia Pacific Digestive Week Foundation (APDWF) amalgamated these organisations’ similar, yet sometimes, parallel philosophies. To establish a unified platform for the annual Asia Pacific academic meetings on the disorders of the gastrointestinal tract and the liver, was the overarching dream of the APDWF.

In 2010, Malaysia hosted a very successful Asia Pacific Digestive Week with Professor Khean-Lee Goh as the Congress President. In the same year, he assumed the Presidency of the APAGE and, thus, added more vigor and vision to the core of the APDWF. As the APAGE President, he fostered wider cooperation and synchronisation of the regional scientific meetings in gastroenterology. At the same time, he relentlessly pursued to teach and train young colleagues within Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries on advanced endoscopic techniques. Through his efforts, the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre Endoscopy Unit was recognised as a World Endoscopy Organization Center of Excellence in 2008, until now.

Professor Goh’s ascension to the Presidency of the APDWF was a natural fit to the earlier efforts of his predecessor, Professor Kwong-Ming Fock, in galvanising the alliance to ensure the progress and growth of the afore-mentioned disciplines in the Asia Pacific region. Professor Goh served two terms as the President of the APDWF, namely, in 2014 to 2016 and in 2016 to 2018. Overall, he efficiently oversaw the successful organisation of four APDW Congresses held in Taipei in 2015, Kobe in 2016, Hong Kong in 2017 and Seoul in 2018. These annual international academic meetings drew a total of 12,300 participants from many Asia Pacific countries, including delegates and faculty from Europe and North America.

During his two terms of two years each, the APDWF allocated considerable funding for more travel grants to clinicians and scientists in the early stages of their careers to attend the APDW Congresses, present their scientific research, establish and/or expand their international network with like-minded investigators, broaden their education and enrich their experiences in gastroenterology, endoscopy and hepatology. From 2012 to 2016, he also served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Foundation.
(JGHF). In partnership with the JGHF, he nurtured further the recognition of those young investigators who already were making groundbreaking research on many diseases common in the Asia Pacific region, i.e., the APDWF-JGHF Emerging Leader Award. Being the global leader that he himself had become, he was honoured to deliver the Distinguished Global Lecture of the World Gastroenterology Organization at the APDW 2015 in Taipei.

In 2017, Professor Goh was chosen as the JGHF-APDWF Marshall & Warren Lecturer in recognition of his investigational strides on the epidemiology of Helicobacter pylori in his multiracial country of Malaysia. During his career, he was a co-convenor and faculty of many Asia Pacific Clinical Practice Guidelines on many GI disorders common among us. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic and well into his illness, he was still in the forefront of tackling the many concerns of GI disorders in this part of the world. In 2021, he led the development of the consensus guidelines on the diagnosis and management of mild-to-moderate gastroesophageal reflux disease in the Southeast Asian region.

What an opportune happenstance that Professor Khean-Lee Goh’s nickname among colleagues and friends was “KL”... and he worked and published out of KL, the abbreviated monicker for Kuala Lumpur! As we were almost of the same age, I used to tease him about the stroke of serendipity of being “the KL from KL”! If it were easy to remember a person through his many affiliations, this one is a master stroke.

In addition to his academic work and publications, KL was a breath of fresh air in the gastroenterology leadership in the region. His mild and unthreatening demeanor made him the charismatic yet transformational figure that colleagues and students hold dear. Most importantly, the breadth of his influence has created multinational scientific collaboration, forward-looking alliances, and enduring international friendships. Thus, he became the perfect ambassador to establish bridges between and among the multiple interest groups in the Asia Pacific – an apt and savvy consensus-builder.
The 4th APAGE (Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology) Clinical Forum on IBD, the seventh CCFI (Colitis and Crohn’s Foundation India) - National IBD meet, and the first CDAI-IBD (Clinical Cases and Decision Algorithms in IBD) meeting was held at the Hotel Andaaz, Aerocity, New Delhi, India, from 2nd to 4th December 2022.

The Course Coordinators for this meeting were Dr Choon Jin Ooi, Dr Ida Hilmi and Dr Vineet Ahuja. The international experts from Europe and USA included Dr Bo Shen, Dr Willem Bemelman, Dr Simon Travis and Dr Subramaniam Kugathasan. The Asia Pacific Faculty included Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali, Dr Viet Hang Dao, Dr Masudur Rahman, Dr Pises Pisespongsa, Dr Julajak Limsrivilai, Dr Wai Keung Leung, Dr Alex Leow, Dr Nazri Mustaffa, Dr Wee Chian Lim and Dr Malcolm Tan.

This meeting was attended by IBD experts, researchers, fellows, nurses, counsellors, and dieticians from Asia and other parts of the globe. There were approximately 600 participants, including national, as well as international delegates, more than 20 faculties from the USA, Europe and Asia Pacific, and more than 100 faculties from across India.

There were excellent and thought-provoking discussions on difficult-to-manage clinical cases in IBD including those related to acute severe ulcerative colitis, extra-intestinal manifestations of IBD, complicated ileo caecal Crohn’s disease, fistulising CD, and experiences on challenging cases managed by the IBD experts from USA, Europe, Asia Pacific and India. In addition to these case discussions on tough to manage clinical problems in IBD, the meeting also included interesting sessions on emergencies in IBD, a synopsis of the recent guidelines, interventional endoscopy sessions, a relevance of monogenic IBD in adults, quiz on radiology in IBD, APAGE workshop on the use of biologicals and small molecules in IBD, issues on diet and microbiome in IBD, and a unique session on the experiences of IBD patients.

The meeting offered an excellent opportunity for the discussion on diagnostic and therapeutic challenges that are unique to Asia, and enabled the experts to deliberate on these issues and network amongst themselves through these interactive sessions.
The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology has been making continuous efforts to promote the advancement of gastroenterology. With a gradual return to normalcy after the pandemic, we were excited to resume organising face-to-face events this year which witnessed an active participation and interaction among healthcare professionals.

The Society’s Annual General Meeting cum Scientific Meeting was held on 16th March 2023 during which, the honorary fellowship was bestowed upon Professor Sum-Ping Lee, Professor Emeritus, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, USA, as well as the 39th Dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. The evening was highlighted by his captivating state-of-the-art lecture “A Random Walk in Gastroenterology”.

The 25th Joint Annual Scientific Meeting, co-organised by six local societies dedicated to the treatment of gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary diseases in Hong Kong, namely the Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology, the Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy, the Hong Kong Society for Coloproctology, the Hong Kong Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, the Hong Kong Society of Gastrointestinal Motility and the Hong Kong IBD Society, was successfully held on 3rd September 2023. Renowned local and overseas guest speakers were invited to deliver lectures in diagnosis of gastrointestinal motility disorder, endoscopic treatment of obesity, advances in treatment of GERD and IBD, management of peritoneal surface malignancy, and immune checkpoint inhibitor liver toxicities. This year’s meeting continued to provide a valuable platform for gastrointestinal professionals and experts to exchange knowledge and share experience.
The Indonesian Association for the Study of the Liver (INA ASL), the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG), and the Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy (ISDE) in collaboration with the INA ASL-ISG-ISGE Padang’s Branch and Division of Gastroenterohepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Andalas, M Djamil General Hospital, Padang, has, once again, successfully organised the “National Congress and Scientific Meeting” with the theme “Increasing Capabilities of Physicians in Gastroenterohepatology Diseases”. This event aimed to elevate professionalism and enhance the quality of services provided in the field of Gastroenterohepatology.

The Congress was held on 27th – 28th September 2023 in Truntum Hotel, Padang, Indonesia. As one of the congress result, Professor Ari Fahrial Syam has been elected as the new President of Indonesian Society of the Gastroenterology (ISG) for the term 2023 – 2026.

The Scientific programme was held on 28th – 30th September 2023. There were Hepatology Workshop – “Invasive USG Intervention & Hands-on”, 6 plenary lectures, 16 symposia, 4 live demonstration advanced endoscopy procedure, and a poster and oral presentation session that aimed to provide the latest information and knowledge in the field of gastroenterology, hepatology and digestive endoscopy. All sessions were delivered by remarkable international faculties, including Professor Manu Tandan (Hyderabad, India), Professor Mohan Ramchadani (Hyderabad, India) and Professor Veronica Ojetti (Italy), and also experts from Indonesia. Our scientific meeting was attended by over 500 participants.
Apart from that, the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) in collaboration with the Indonesian Society for Digestive Endoscopy (ISDE) and Division of Gastroenterology, Pancreatobiliary and Digestive Endoscopy, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Universitas Indonesia / Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital, Jakarta, has once again successfully organised the “Indonesian Digestive Disease Week (IDDW) 2023”.

The scientific agenda comprised “Hands-on Endoscopy Workshop” that was held on the first two days (16th – 17th May 2023) at the Auditorium of IMERI Building, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, followed by the IDDW 2023 Symposium. The Hands-on Endoscopy Workshop was divided into four sessions covering the topics of EUS, ERCP, Intragastric Balloon Placement, PEG, and Cold Snare Polypectomy.

All sessions were presented by facilitators/faculties who were competent in the field of Digestive Endoscopy, including Professor Roy M Soetikno (USA), Professor Thawee Ratanachu-ek (Thailand), Professor Mark Anthony de Lusong (Philippines) and Professor Kanokpoj Chanpiwat (Thailand), as well as national faculties, including Professor Dadang Makmun, Professor Marcellus Simadibrata, Professor Murdani Abdullah, Professor Ari Fahrial Syam, Dr Achmad Fauzi, Dr Kaka Renaldi, Dr Hasan Maulahela, Dr Amanda Pitarini Utari, Dr Saskia Aziza Nursiyirwan, who shared their experiences to improve knowledge and skills of all participants in the field of Digestive Endoscopy.

The IDDW 2023 Symposium was held on 18th – 20th May 2023 in Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta. There were 3 plenary lectures, 6 symposia, 18 satellite symposia, and a poster session that aimed to provide the latest information and knowledge in the field of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy.

All sessions were delivered by remarkable international faculties, including Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali (Malaysia), Professor Nonthalee Pausawasdi (Thailand), Professor Christopher Khor (Singapore), Professor Eiji Umegaki (Japan), Professor Jong H Moon (Korea), Professor Pradermchai Kongkam (Thailand), Professor Sutep Gonlachanvit (Thailand), Professor Sundeep Lakhtakia (India), Professor Mohan Ramchandani (India), and also experts from Indonesia. Throughout the event, we were pleased to welcome over 700 participants.
In recent years, the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) has undertaken significant revisions to various consensuses, including the revised consensus on Dyspepsia and *H. pylori* infection, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), Non-Variceal Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding (NVUGIB), Chronic Constipation, and has successfully developed a consensus on the role of probiotics in managing gastrointestinal disorders. Currently, the consensus on Dyspepsia and *H. pylori* infection has been published and can be accessed at the following link: https://gutpathogens.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13099-023-00551-2. We will soon process the publication of other consensuses. These updates and revisions are expected to enhance patient care and improve the management of digestive diseases in Indonesia and other countries.

Looking ahead, the Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) will be hosting the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2024 on 20th – 24th November 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. We eagerly anticipate another successful meeting and extend a warm invitation to participants from all Asian Pacific countries and worldwide.
On 7th April 2023, during the 109th General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) held in Nagasaki, Japan, the society organised the 4th Asian Session with the aim of contributing to the advancement of medical and gastroenterological knowledge in Asia and promoting international exchange. The theme of this session was “Advanced Therapies for Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Asia”, focusing on the management of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the Asian context. Professor Akira Andoh and I chaired this session.

In addition to two researchers from Japan, four researchers recommended by gastroenterological societies from various Asian countries presented their findings. Saurabh Kedia (India) highlighted the potential of microbiome manipulation therapies, such as diet and fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT), as cost-effective alternatives for treating IBD. Vishal Sharma (India) discussed the use of diagnostic trials of antitubercular therapy in tuberculosis-endemic regions and recommended early discrimination through colonoscopy or biomarkers like fecal calprotectin. Hyuk Yoon (South Korea) provided detailed real-world data on IBD treatment in South Korea. James Fultourth (New Zealand) presented the current status of advanced IBD treatment and strategies in New Zealand, a country with a high prevalence of IBD. Jun Miyoshi introduced the incorporation of intestinal ultrasound into routine IBD care and presented a new index developed in their facility. Kei Nishioka reported that IBD subjects with higher mucosal IL23A expression were more likely to achieve remission with ustekinumab, suggesting that mucosal cytokine expression could become a novel biomarker in IBD. A heated discussion ensued with the audience that participated in the session.

This session provided valuable insights into the treatment of IBD in Asia. The Asian Session continues to be a successful platform for collaboration among Asian countries, sharing knowledge and experiences in the field of gastroenterology. The next Asian Session holds the promise of further knowledge sharing, fostering the continued growth of the gastroenterology community in Asia. Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the cooperation of the APAGE, Professor Satoshi Mochida, the President of the JSGE, Professor Kazuhiko Koike, the former President of the JSBD, and Professor Kazuhiko Nakao, the President of the 109th General Meeting of the JSGE, for their generous support towards this session.

Katsuyoshi Matsuoka
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Toho University Sakura Medical Center
It has been a bustling 2023! The Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has successfully organised several events this year. Endoscopy 2023 kicked off in May with the theme of “Advancing Precision Endoscopy”. Invited faculties included Professor Krish Ragunath (Australia), Dr Amol Bapaye (India), Dr Majidah Bukhari (United Arab Emirates), Associate Professor Stephen Tsao (Singapore) and Associate Professor Takashi Toyonaga (Japan), alongside our local faculties who came together and demonstrated hands-on sessions on ESD and EUS; not forgetting Dr Mark Muthiah from the National University Hospital, Singapore, who inspired many at the Young GI Consultant Forum. The MSGH Special Lecture and Universiti Malaya Distinguished Endoscopy Lecture was delivered by Professor Krish Ragunath on “Applying Precision Endoscopy in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Early GI Neoplasia”.

Shortly after the Endoscopy Workshop, we were shocked and saddened with the passing of Professor Emeritus Dato’ Dr Goh Khean Lee, our mentor, esteemed colleague and friend, in June 2023. The devastating news shocked the fraternity, both locally and internationally, where he has surely touched lives of many with his generosity, kindness, passion and leadership. Professor Dato’ Dr K L Goh will be missed and remembered by many.

Our annual GUT conference, now in its 28th iteration, took place from 18th to 20th August 2023 at the Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year, GUT 2023 also incorporated the 12th Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) 2023 on Gut Microbiota. The 12th APTC is a single topic conference co-hosted with the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE). The overarching theme is “Translating Science into Real-World Practice”. The event was backed by world-renowned invited faculties including Professor Emad El-Omar (Sydney, Australia), Professor Justin Wu (Hong Kong), Professor Siew Ng (Hong Kong) and Professor Ben Devereaux (Australia), among others. The MSGH oration lecture was given by Professor Michael Kamm (Australia) addressing on “The GUT Microbiome - Cause and Cure of Gut Diseases”. Professor Jose Sollano (Philippines) graciously delivered the Panir Chelvam Lecture on “The Debate of NAFLD, MAFLD, MASLD and Fatty Liver”. Overall, the three-day phenomenal event went off successfully. This year, we also have two separate pre-congress workshops. The first one was a GI Motility Workshop, held as a two-day event at the UiTM Puncak Alam, Selangor, Malaysia. The second was an evening session on “New Insights on Chronic Liver Disease and Portal Hypertension: Update from Baveno VII”.

At the Presidential Dinner held on 18th August, the Society held a special session in the loving memory of Professor Dr K L Goh. It was a very memorable and nostalgic event with both international and local esteemed members of the gastroenterology community paying tribute and recounting their acquaintance and affiliation with Professor Goh. Overall, the GUT conference this year had attracted about 700 delegates with participation from 38 industry partners. This was our biggest achievements for this conference so far.

Our next highlight is the upcoming 7th International Endoscopy Workshop which will take place on 23rd to 25th November 2023. It will be held at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, carrying the theme “Endoscopy Potpourri”. With the invited and local faculties involved, we are indeed looking forward to another exciting event.
Delegates of Endoscopy Workshop 2023

The Young GI Consultant Forum, ENDOSCOPY 2023

Professor Lee Yeong Yeh (right) presenting Professor K L Goh’s portrait to his siblings
The President of MSGH, Professor Lee Yeong Yeh, with Professor Emad El-Omar (right) and Professor Dr Justin Wu (left)

Delegates of GUT 2023

Delegates with the late Professor Emeritus Dato’ Dr Goh Khean Lee

Professor Dr Emad giving a lecture

Dr Majidah Bukhari (United Arab Emirates), and Associate Professor Takashi Toyonaga (Japan), during the hands-on EUS and ESD sessions, Endoscopy Workshop 2023

Professor Dr Uday C Ghoshal delivering his talk
New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG) has been busy from late November 2022 to present. We held our premiere educational event, the NZSG – NZgNC Annual Scientific Meeting on 23rd to 25th November 2022, in Auckland, New Zealand.

The educational programme gave 522 delegates the opportunity to hear from international, trans-Tasman and local experts across a range of topics. The keynote speakers included:

- Professor Leon Adams
- Dr Stephanie Buckton (nurse speaker)
- Professor Benedict Devereaux
- Professor Eamonn Quigley
- Dr Jacqui Richmond (nurse speaker)
- Professor Yutaka Saito
- Associate Professor Payal Saxena
- Lisa Younge (nurse speaker)

The events' 80 plus sponsors filled the grand room presenting workshops, sharing new products and offering support to the gastroenterology community.

Delegates also heard from top abstract submitters, and final abstract winners for NZSG Young Investigator Awards:

- Crispin Ovenden – Young Investigator Award – Luminal Abstract: Efficacy, safety and therapeutic drug monitoring of thioguanine in patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in a New Zealand cohort.
- Akhilesh Swaminathan – Young Investigator Award – Hepatology Abstract: Accuracy of non-invasive liver fibrosis scores in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease stratified by ethnicity – A New Zealand perspective.
- Sarah Morgan – Young Investigator Award – Sustainability Abstract: It is easy being green: Implementing sustainable practice in endoscopy to reduce emissions in a rural hospital setting.

Social events included a fun run and the highlight of the social calendar, the ASM dinner, “A Night at the Museum” had fantastic costumes and maximum capacity of people for the venue.

The prestigious Janssen-NZSG Research Fellowship was awarded to Safina Gadeock, Otago University principal researcher for Development of an IFN signature panel to predict clinical non-response to anti-TNF treated inflammatory bowel disease patients and its role in modulation of the epithelial innate response to commensal metabolites.

The 2022 ASM’s success was made possible by the Convening Committee from Counties Manakau Hospital; Ashok Raj, Alasdair Patrick, Judy Huang, and Ravinder Ogra with the guidance and support of Emma Prattley, Conference Manager from Conference Innovators.
TRAINEES DAY

The annual gastroenterology trainees’ day was held over two days at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand, in April 2023. The Society is delighted to report on another highly successful event as 24 registrars from across Aotearoa came together for educational talks, networking and learning. The feedback received from delegates was overwhelmingly positive and paid service to the innovative rolling curriculum put together by past and current trainees.

This year, NZSG held an entirely in-person event with only one remote session from two recent graduates of the programme. We are so grateful to our speakers who travelled from afar including Christchurch, Palmerston North, Tauranga, Waikato, and all around Tāmaki Makaurau. This was made possible through generous sponsorship gifted by our principal sponsor, Pharmaco (NZ) Ltd, and also Norgine, who, we welcomed as a new partner this year.

Over the course of the event, trainees heard from experts who spoke on a broad range of high-yield topics. Within hepatology, trainees heard about the latest developments in management of portal hypertension, autoimmune hepatitis, fatty liver disease, and liver disease of pregnancy. Within the luminal domain, delegates explored biologic sequencing in IBD, and what to consider when managing pre- and post-operative care of these cases. There was also an intriguing talk from an eminent radiologist on imaging modalities in IBD. Talks on endoscopy covered basic techniques and troubleshooting, endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), and third space endoscopy. There were also sessions on functional and nutritional issues, which were particularly helpful. Trainees also discussed how we might address equity in Māori populations with reference to recent proposed changes in bowel screening access.

There was a real sense of community in the room with free-flowing coffee, kai and chatter. Gastroenterology Trainees and NZSG would like to give special thanks to Conference Innovators for their hard work, organisation, and cooperation in making this event possible. Planning is already underway for delivery of the next meeting in the first half of 2024.

Ngā mihi, Michael Chieng and Vicki McGarrigle
NZSG Executive Trainee Representatives
On behalf of the Gastroenterology Trainees in Aotearoa and NZSG

NZSG HEPATOLOGY NETWORK MEETING 2023

NZSG held a successful annual Hepatology Network meeting in June 2023, with 73 attendees joining us in person from around the country. There were excellent talks on a range of hepatology issues including surgical risks in cirrhotic patients, measuring portal pressures by EUS, and the success of the Hepatitis C look-back study. The day was rounded out with robust discussion generated by three interesting clinical cases. We look forward to our next meeting, provisionally in June 2024.

Dr John Perry, Convenor

IBD SYMPOSIUM 2023

It was a pleasure to host the 16th NZSG IBD Symposium in sunny Hamilton New Zealand on the weekend of 25th – 26th August. Ninety-two delegates enjoyed an excellent programme covering a wide range of topics.

Delegates were treated to outstanding contributions from our overseas speakers, Associate Professor Emily Wright, Associate Professor Peter de Cruz and Professor Charlie Lees, alongside our local talented speakers, and were able to discuss the multi-disciplinary nature of IBD management with local surgeons, Dr Jasen Ly and Dr Nick Smith, and dietician Dr Catherine Wall from Christchurch.

Friday nights social event proved to be a success in the delightful surrounds of the Wintec atrium, with excellent hospitality. The Novotel hotel proved to be an excellent venue, and we would like to, once again, thank our partners Pharmaco and Conference Innovators for helping to put together such a seamless meeting.

Dr James Fulforth and Dr Melissa Haines
IBD Symposium Convenors
SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS

NZSG also granted several small research grants in 2022 – 2023. The grants were to encourage research by members of NZSG by providing a small sum for initial or small projects up to NZD5,000. This can be used for equipment, operating expenses, tests or salary. Several grants will be awarded each year. In the past twelve months, NZSG has granted the following:

- **Judy Huang and Tom Boswell** – Ergonomic assessment and intervention for New Zealand endoscopists
- **Richard Gearry** – Evaluation of faecal myeloperoxidase in response to treatment for inflammatory bowel disease
- **Jessica Permain** – The bacterial landscape of precancerous colorectal lesions
- **Stephanie Brown** – Improving dietary intake of children with inflammatory bowel disease with a telehealth dietetic intervention
- **Jia Min Yap** – Inflammatory bowel disease lifestyle food and exercise (IBD-LiFE) intervention for cardiovascular health

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2023

Registration is open for the highly anticipated NZSG-NZgNC Gastro 2023 Conference, being held on 6th – 8th December 2023, at the Energy Events Centre in Rotorua.

The Convenors have a full programme over the three-day event which includes keynote speakers:

- **Stephanie Buckton** – IBD Nurse Practitioner
- **Associate Professor Nick Burgess** – Interventional endoscopist and gastroenterologist at Westmead Hospital and clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney in Australia
- **Professor Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao** – Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine and at the VA-Connecticut Healthcare System and Director of the Clinical Core of the NIH-funded Yale Liver Center
- **Dr Haidry** – Consultant Gastroenterologist and interventional endoscopist at Cleveland Clinic London (CCL) and University College Hospital, London (UCLH)
- **Associate Professor Viraj Kariyawasam** – Senior Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist and the Head of Inflammatory Bowel Disease Service at Blacktown Public Hospital and an Associate Professor at Western Sydney University
- **Helen Livett** – Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner
- **Sharon Powell** – Senior Lecturer at Birmingham City University, and practising LGI Endoscopist

Visit the conference website to find details regarding speakers, social programme, accommodation and registration details. International Scientific Conference.
Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre (JPMC), Karachi, Pakistan, is the largest tertiary care hospital of Karachi catering millions of patients. Our Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, under the leadership of our head of department, General Secretary of Pakistan Society for Gastroenterology, Associate Professor Nazish Butt, has been actively indulged in promoting GI disease related awareness and celebrate important events in the field of Gastroenterology.

Colorectal Cancer awareness month was observed during March 2023. We have made awareness video regarding colorectal cancer. We have spread this video on social media.

World Digestive Health Day was celebrated with great zest and zeal at our department on 29th May 2023. We raised awareness on the importance of healthy gut, with slogans referring to this year’s resolution: “A healthy gut from start”. An article in a local newsletter was published regarding role of pre and probiotics in Gut health to promote awareness in the general population. All the Gastroenterology consultants and trainees participated with unique slogans for the healthy gut.

Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology at JPMC in collaboration with Pak GI and Liver Disease Society, conducted a live Endoscopy Workshop on 2nd June 2023. The purpose of this workshop was to promote to the aspiring young gastroenterologists and trainees who have demonstrated competence in diagnostic endoscopy who wish to expand their skills in a platform to bloom, it was followed by Q/A sessions with leading Gastroenterologists of leading hospitals to enhance academic development and promote networking for the young GI trainees.

World Hepatitis Day, was celebrated on 28th July every year at our department with great enthusiasm, to raise awareness of increasing incidence of hepatitis in our population and to emphasise the dire need to encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Vaccination drive was carried out at JPMC Vaccination Centre specially to screen and vaccinate general population and outpatients of JPMC. A total of 1,057 patients were screened throughout the month of July 2023, about 13 tested positive for HbsAg and
1 for Anti HCV during routine screening and were then followed for proper management. About 1,003 were successfully screened negative and were given first dose of vaccination. At the end of the drive, a ceremony was held and certificates of participation were distributed to the dedicated doctors, by Professor Wasim Jafri. Health Director of Hepatitis Control Program Sindh was specially invited to help eliminate the burden of disease by providing funds and measures to prevent the rapid rise in the numbers.
2023 JOINT ANNUAL CONVENTION

OVERALL CHAIR: Dr Denis Ngo
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIR: Dr Stephen Wong

11 Symposia
3 State-of-the-Art Lectures
3 Special Lectures
1 ERC
1 CAT HSP

2023 PHILIPPINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH WEEK

PHILIPPINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH WEEK 2023

"MALUSOG NA TIYAN, MASIGLANG KATAWAN"
EMPOWERING FILIPINOS TO CARE FOR THEIR DIGESTIVE HEALTH

MARCH 5 - 1:30 PM - 5 PM
MICHEL LANDING
LUCKY CHINATOWN MALL

MARCH 5 - 11 AM - 12 NN
OPENING CEREMONY AND PRESS BRIEFING
MARLING MURDOCH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

MARCH 6 - 1 PM - 4 PM
PSGW HEALTH FORUM

MARCH 7 - 10 AM - 11 AM
PSGW HEALTH FORUM

PRIMARY CARE SERIES
3.00 PM - 4.30 PM
MARCH 7: SYMPHOSIS / P. PSGW
MARCH 8: GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING / COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING
MARCH 9: GALL BLADDER DISEASE / ACUTE PANCREATITIS
MARCH 10: VIRAL HEPATITIS / KERATOCELULAR SCLEROSIS
CLOSING CEREMONY

MARCH 11 - 5 PM - 10 AM
PSGW RADIO RESIDUES
1.M. INFORMED
OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF PHILIPPINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH WEEK
5th March 2023 • 1.30pm – 5.30pm | Lucky Chinatown Mall Atrium

OPENING CEREMONY AND PRESS BRIEFING
6th March 2023 • 10.00am – 12.00nn
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte
PDHW VIRTUAL HEALTH FORUM
6th March 2023 • 1.00pm – 4.00pm | via ZOOM

PDHW VIRTUAL PRIMARY CARE SERIES
7th – 10th March 2023 • 3.00pm – 4.00pm | via ZOOM

PDHW ZOOM WEBINAR
7th March 2023 • 10.00am
PCP HEALTH FORUM
PSG CENTRAL LUZON CHAPTER
4th Feb 2023 • Ace Hospital Bulacan – Central Luzon Postgraduate Course

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2024 Joint Annual Convention
  13th – 16th March 2024 • Edsa Shangri-La Manila

- 2024 Philippine Digestive Health Week
  10th – 16th March 2024
  Empowering Filipinos to Care for Digestive Health
  Malusog na Tiyan Masiglang Katawan
SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

INTERNATIONAL NASH DAY 2023

Join to Fight Against the Global Epidemic of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Kurunegala
18.08.2023

Kandy
02.02.2023

Galle 29.05.2023
ENDOSCOPY WORKSHOP FOR NURSES 2023

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Introduction to GI Physiological Testing
Our conference featured diverse and insightful sessions, from in-depth explorations of topics like Barrett’s esophagus and colonic ESD, innovative discussions on the management of HBV reactivation, and immunotherapy for HCC. Specialised panels delved into issues like NAFLD/MAFLD and the management of Grey Zone Chronic Hepatitis B. This event provided a platform for global experts to share valuable insights and push the boundaries of medical knowledge.

Taiwan Digestive Disease Week 2023 (TDDW 2023) | 22nd – 24th September 2023
» National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Kaohsiung, Taiwan
https://www.tddw.org/

With the collaboration of all participating societies, the programme for this year’s TDDW 2023 has been meticulously curated. It was excellent in terms of its overarching theme, offering an exciting platform for exchanging and sharing, not only cutting-edge knowledge in gastroenterological research, but also insights on how evidence-based gastroenterological services should be delivered in our daily practice. Alongside the traditional free paper presentations and scientific sessions, invitations were extended to globally renowned experts in various gastroenterology fields to deliver special lectures.
APASL Single Topic Conference on Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD)
28th – 30th June 2024
» Kaohsiung Exhibition Center (KEC), Kaohsiung, Taiwan
https://www.apaslstc2024kaohsiung.org/

We have curated an engaging programme that includes keynote lectures, scientific sessions, panel discussions, and poster presentations with the main theme “MAFLD, More than A Fatty Liver Disease: Interplay between obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, HBV, HCV and HCC” in the field of MAFLD. Experts around the globe will be sharing their valuable insights and offering comprehensive perspectives exploring the latest developments in screening, diagnosis, assessment, pathogenesis and therapeutic approaches by participating in panel-based discussions on controversial topics and future clinical management in case-based multi-disciplinary approaches. Together, we push beyond our limits of hepatological, as well as multi-disciplinary knowledges.
1. The 28th National Conference on Gastroenterology (11th – 12th November 2022) with 1,320 domestic and international delegates. Total number of reports: 92 in 9 topics.

2. The 6th Vietnamese Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Congress (VGEC 2023), was held in Ha Long City from 21st – 22nd April 2023. Total number of participants: 893 domestic and international delegates. Total number of reports: 72.

3. Close cooperation between Vietnam Federation for Digestive Endoscopy (VFDE) and APSDE to organise training workshops for young and specialised doctors. Total number of workshops: 10.

4. Organised seminars on gastroenterology and hepatobiliary in face-to-face and online formats. Total number of workshops: 11.
Professor Imai (Japan) is instructing young doctors

Professor Andrew Q Giap (USA) discussed at the VGEC 2023

Professor Thawee (Thailand) is instructing young doctors

Live Demonstration at the VGEC 2023 by Professor Imai (Japan)

The 6th Vietnamese Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Congress (VGEC 2023)

Live Demonstration at the VGEC 2023 by Professor Kinoshita (Japan)

International Faculty (Japan, Thailand and Korea) at the VGEC 2023

Photo session at the Conference
Local and International Faculty took photos together at IMAC 2023

Delegates attending the Conference

Local and International Faculty took photos together at IMAC 2023
CONFERENCE THEME

“INNOVATIONS IN LIVER CANCER PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT”

ORGANISERS

Vietnam Association of Gastroenterology (VNAGE)
108 Hospital, and Johns Hopkins Medicine

15th JUNE 2023 [THURSDAY] | 108 Central Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam

Professor James P Hamilton (USA) presented the Lecture

Delegates attending the Conference

Live Demonstration on Therapeutic Endoscopy

Delegates attending the Conference
SIGNING CEREMONY OF
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN
VNAGE (Vietnam Association of Gastroenterology)
KASID (Korea Association for Study of Intestinal Disease)
MSGH (Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology)
ISG (Indonesia Society of Gastroenterology)
HANOI CITY, VIETNAM
14th JANUARY 2023