



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF APAGE



It gives me great pleasure to write this message for the Asian Pacific Digestive News (APDNews). The new council, office bearers and members listed below have officially taken office from 20th September 2010 after the AGM of the APAGE held at the APDW2010 in Kuala Lumpur.

We have a large council, limited by the constitution to 22 members but we have also included representatives from all member countries who would be representatives to the council (but not have voting rights.) One of our greatest difficulties from the outset is effective communications with member societies. For example, on the matter of requesting for nominations of representative from member countries, the secretariat has had no replies despite many mails to several countries. I have emphasized to the secretariat that they must "go out of the way" if necessary to ensure that efficient and timely communications is made to all councilors and representatives to the council at all times. Efficient communications must be a pre-requisite to running a regional body which encompasses such a diverse region as the Asia-Pacific.

Amongst the activities that have been carried out so far is the first monothematic meeting (Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC)) on "Functional GI Disorders" which was held on November 26th and 27th 2010 in Shiba Park Hotel, Tokyo, Japan. This meeting was highly successful with the participation of 10 member countries and its success was to a large part due to the efforts and support of the Japan Society of Gastroenterology under the presidency of Professor Kentaro Sugano who underwrote the whole meeting and the superb organization by Professor Soichi Miura (see related article). Another monothematic meeting provisionally on "Nutrition in Gastroenterology" will be organized in 2011.

Monothematic meetings serve to provide an in-depth discussion on various aspects of a particular disease or groups of interrelated diseases. The APAGE monothematic meeting is the brainchild of our past president, Professor KM Fock, and we hope to continue and even expand on these meetings with time.

Several members of the new council attended a retreat held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 18th and 19th December 2010. Amongst matters deliberated upon, was the APAGE/JGHF clinical scientist awards. The council unanimously felt that this award is important and useful for your gastroenterologists in the Asian Pacific region and reaffirmed that the awards should carry on with the support of the Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology Foundation. Dr H J Tan, the new chairman of the Awards Committee, has been tasked with a smoother and more efficient implementation of the award from 2011 including

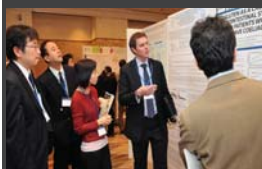
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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF APAGE

*(continued)*

better and wider publicity of this award. Our aim is to attract the best applicants who would benefit maximally from such an award.

The APAGE continue to support fully with our sister Asian Pacific societies the organization of the APDW. The secretariat and accounts of the APDW has now formally moved to the APDW Foundation secretariat in Singapore with the formation of the APDWF in the middle of 2010. The APAGE looks forward to the upcoming APDW in Singapore in 2011, Bangkok in 2012 and the APDW cum World Congress of Gastroenterology in Shanghai, China in 2013.

The APDNews will continue to be published quarterly with Professor K M Fock as chief editor. Professor Fock has soldiered on with this duty but I hope we will be able to find a younger enthusiastic replacement in the not too

distant future. APDNews remains an important organ for the APAGE to disseminate news and information to all our members. To this end, the permanent secretariat now based in Kuala Lumpur (the financial office remains in Hong Kong for accounting purposes as the APAGE is incorporated in Hong Kong) has also been tasked with upgrading and improving the APAGE website.

I have received e-mails from several member societies and also individuals from the region about issues regarding the APAGE. I am grateful for your interest and constructive suggestions and comments and will act on them. The APAGE belongs to you and with your continuing support, I hope, the present council in our two-year term of office will be able to fulfill most, if not all, of the objectives of the APAGE.

**Professor KL Goh**

*President, APAGE*



**Dear APAGE colleagues,**

Time flies! We are now at the first quarter of 2011 and on behalf of the Editorial Team, we wish you a Happy, Healthy and Fruitful Year ahead!

2010 has been an eventful year for many of us, including me. Many of you would have known that I underwent a major surgery for intestinal obstruction in August 2010 just before the APDW 2010 conference in Kuala Lumpur. Having been a doctor for so many years, I now truly understand the feeling of being a patient - one at the receiving end of treatment. One of these days, I can deliver a lecture on being a surgical patient from a gastroenterologist's viewpoint. :)

**APDW 2011 – SUNTEC CITY CONVENTION CENTER, SINGAPORE From 1-4 OCT 2011**

2011 will also be an exciting year as APDW 2011 will be hosted in Singapore at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. The Organising Committee has been

working very hard to come up with interesting, interactive and insightful programmes based on the theme "Integrating Science and Technology in Clinical Gastroenterology". This meeting will showcase illuminating presentations delivered by world-renowned medical experts from the field of digestive medicine. Some of the key highlights are a live endoscopy demonstration workshop and a hands-on simulated workshop involving animals. Do come and let us learn from one another. In addition, you will certainly see a completely different Singapore now since the last APDW Conference was held here in 2003. Do bring your family along to enjoy the new attractions of an integrated resort in the revamped Sentosa and opposite it, the Singapore Flyer at the Marina Bay as well as the new Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort. Singapore is also a well-known gourmet paradise!

### E-INTERVIEW AND FEEDBACK

Looking ahead, we hope to make this newsletter more interactive by conducting E-interviews with some of our speakers and will also experiment using it as a platform for feedback on improvements, new ideas or suggestions to make our future newsletters more engaging and lively. I encourage each of you to come forth to share your opinions, expertise or any interesting gastroenterological news from your countries when this is launched. So, I look forward to your continuous support and do keep in touch.

Last but not least, we also wish all our Chinese colleagues, a Happy and Prosperous Lunar Year of the Rabbit! Gong Xi Fa Cai!

**Professor Kwong-Ming Fock**

*Editor-in-Chief*



## APAGE Retreat 2010



The principal office bearers of APAGE congregated at the Westin Langkawi Resort, Malaysia for a retreat on 18th and 19th December 2010. The attendees were:

1. Prof. Goh Khean Lee, President
2. Prof. Kentaro Sugano, Vice-President
3. Prof. Fock Kwong Ming, Committee of Past Presidents
4. Assoc. Prof. Ooi Choon Jin, Treasurer
5. Dr Tan Huck Joo, Chairman, Awards Committee
6. Prof. Peter Gibson, Education & Research Committee

The other officers could not make it because of previous commitments. The main objective of this retreat was to strategise and to rethink the position and role of the Association.

### History and Mission

The meeting started off with a presentation by Professor Goh on the history, development of Asian Association of Gastroenterology and subsequently APAGE, the lofty missions and the previous and current organization.

### Finance

The group then discussed finance. The APAGE is a charitable institution or trust of a public character which has been granted tax exemption within the meaning of Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance of Hong Kong. With the set-up of the Asian Pacific Foundation (APDWF), the APAGE would only receive 6.25% from APDW surplus. The group expressed their concern that the amount received is minimal and that APAGE would be running on a deficit budget.

### APAGE/JGH Foundation Clinician-Scientist Training Fellowship

The meeting recognized the fact that the Fellowship would need to be managed better. The meeting agreed to place in place the following (in addition to previous criteria):

- The applicant would need to obtain a recommendation letter from the national society (where possible).
- Interim and final reports to be provided by the immediate supervisor as well.
- It would need to be ascertained whether the payment should be made to the Fellow or to the institution whether he is attached to.
- The Fellow would need to present an abstract (preferably oral) at the next APDW and to submit an article for publication in the JGH.

The following timelines were agreed on:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2 Jan 2011  | Call for applications                    |
| 1 June 2011 | Close of applications                    |
| 1 Sep 2011  | Announcement of the successful applicant |

An award ceremony would be held at the time of the APDW for the successful candidate to receive a certificate and 50% payment.

### Monothematic Meetings

APAGE in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology in collaboration successfully hosted the 1st monothematic meeting on Functional Gastrointestinal Diseases on 26th to 27th November 2010 in Tokyo, Japan. JSGE will organise another meeting in 2012 and the topic has yet to be decided on.

APAGE in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology and the Parenteral Nutrition Society of Malaysia will organise a meeting on Nutrition in Gastroenterology in December 2011.

The Gastroenterology Society of Australia will be planning to have a meeting on Inflammatory Bowel Disease in 2012 and it was suggested to explore whether this can be one of the monothematic meetings for APAGE.

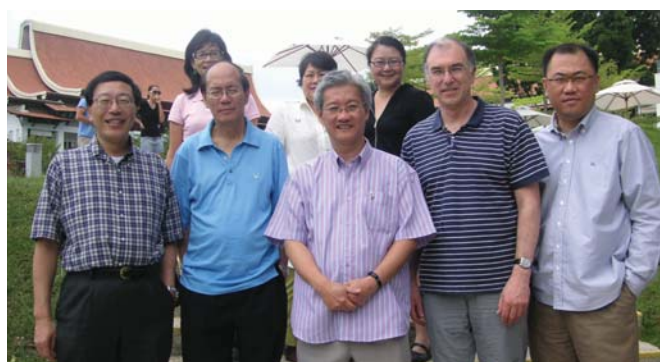
### Consensus Meetings

APAGE is working with the Asian Neurogastroenterology and Motility Association (ANMA) in producing a consensus on Functional Dyspepsia. The meeting decided to set up specialty groups within the APAGE. The groups and convenors are:

- Functional GI Disorders - *Prof. Nicholas Talley*
- Helicobacter pylori - *Prof. Kentaro Sugano*
- Inflammatory Bowel Diseases - *Assoc. Prof. Ooi Choon Jin*

### Byelaws

It was agreed that the Council would draw up Byelaws to the Memorandum & Articles for administration purposes.







## The First Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC2010) on Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders



The First Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC) was held at the Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo as a Joint meeting organized by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) and Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) on November 26-27, 2010. This is an important project for APAGE from the standpoint of research and education programs to promote the exchange of knowledge and skills in gastroenterology in the Asia-Pacific Region. The monothematic meeting will be organized by Japan and other Asian-Pacific Societies alternatively from now on, and in 2010, the Japanese Society hosted the memorable kickoff meeting.

We focused on 'FGIDs: functional gastrointestinal disorders', as emerging common disorders in the Asia-Pacific Region. FGIDs include functional dyspepsia (FD) and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) as two main disorders. Especially FD and IBS are considered to be important to public health because these two conditions are highly prevalent, and are associated with impaired health-related quality of life. Because FD and IBS have a variety of clinical features and probably have multiple underlying pathophysiologic mechanisms, the establishment of the useful clinical guidelines of these diseases specifically for the Asia-Pacific region is necessary.

More than 100 participants attended the 1st APTC meeting. It was started with the evening seminar on November 26th chaired by Dr. Kei Matsueda, and presented by Dr. Akio Inui and Dr. Koji Yakabi, focusing on neurohumoral regulation of FD. The evening seminar was followed by a faculty dinner, in which the presidents of both societies, Dr. Kentaro Sugano (JSGE) and Dr. Khean Lee Goh (APAGE) made a welcome speech. The former presidents of both societies,

Dr. Kwong Ming Fock (APAGE), Dr. Kenji Fujiwara, and Dr. Yutaka Atomi (JSGE) made a speech as invited guests. Dr. Peter Gibson, one of course directors of the first APTC, the Chairman of Education and Research Committee of APAGE and Dr. Toshifumi Hibi, International Committee Chairman of JSGE also made a speech at the faculty dinner.

The next morning, the conference started with an opening remarks and a report on the surveillance results of multiple questionnaires collected from experts in the AP countries by Dr. Soichiro Miura, one of the course directors of the first APTC, JSGE Asian Liaison Committee chairman. There were 15 plenary lectures by distinguished invited faculties representing the Asian-Pacific Societies. In the morning session Dr. Kwong Ming Fock (Singapore), Dr. Hiroto Miwa (Japan), Dr. Udom Kachintorn (Thailand), Dr. Khen Lee Goh (Malaysia), Dr. Xiao-Hua Hou (China), Dr. Hyo Jin Park (Korea), Dr. Michio Hongo (Japan), and Dr. John Wyeth (New Zealand) gave plenary lectures including their recent data and the current situation of their countries, respectively. The morning parts of the plenary session were chaired by Dr. Xiao-Hua Hou, Dr. Kentaro Sugano, Dr. Kwong Ming Fock, Dr. Yoshikazu Kinoshita, Dr. Khean Lee Goh and Dr. Hiroshi Kaneko.

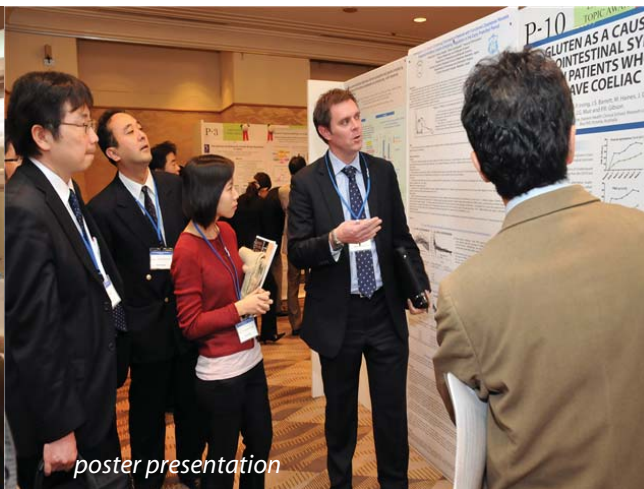
There was a luncheon seminar chaired by Dr. Choitsu Sakamoto, and presented by Dr. Motoyasu Kusano and Dr. Hidekazu Suzuki, focusing on the pathophysiology and management of FD. After lunch a group photograph was taken in memory of this meeting in which all the participants were invited, as displayed here in this article.

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## The First Asian Pacific Topic Conference (APTC2010) on Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders *(continued)*



plenary session



poster presentation

The afternoon session started with poster presentations by 28 active researchers who were recommended by the faculties. The poster session was chaired by five Japanese faculties, Dr. Toshimi Chiba, Dr. Koji Nakada, Dr. Kazunari Tominaga, Dr. Hiroshi Takeda and Dr. Tomiyasu Arisawa. The distinguished best poster awards which were selected based on the scores of the program committee members were given to two best posters presentations, Dr. Tsukasa Nozu (Japan) and Dr. Ching-Liang Lu (Taiwan). The best posters were also orally presented after the poster round, chaired by Dr. Keiko Shiratori and Dr. Udom Kachintorn.

In the afternoon session Dr. Justin CY Wu (Hong Kong), Dr. Toshikatsu Okumura (Japan), Dr. Noriaki Manabe (Japan), Dr. Shin Fukudo (Japan), Dr. Full Young Chang (Taiwan), Dr. Uday C Ghoshal (India), and Dr. Peter Gibson (Australia) gave plenary lectures as representative of the Societies. The afternoon parts of plenary session were chaired by Dr. John Wyeth, Dr. Mamoru Watanabe, Dr. Peter Gibson, Dr. Daisuke

Sasaki, Dr. Hyo Jin Park, and Dr. Soichiro Miura. Finally this meeting was ended by closing remarks by Dr. Peter Gibson. After the meeting all participants enjoyed a farewell party at famous Japanese Yakitori (barbeque chicken) restaurant, named Gonpachi, in Tokyo.

The conference was a great success. There was much fruitful discussions on the important and interesting theme during the 2-day meeting. We exchanged the most recent information about FGIDs and we thought that this conference was very much helpful for providing an opportunity to deepen friendship among researchers, and that also played a great role in establishing an Asian-Pacific consensus on these important issues. All participants enjoyed a friendly atmosphere and beautiful autumn day in Japan as well.

The paper presented in this conference will be published in the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology as a supplement issue.

## **JSGE Research Fellowship Program Award**

The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology held Japan Digestive Disease Week 2010 on 13th to 15th October 2010. In attendance were Research Fellowship Program Awardees from APAGE member countries. Below are scenes from the awarding ceremony and breakfast meeting with JSGE International Committee members.







## News from Vietnam



### Some main Activities of the VietNam Association of Gastroenterology (VNAGE)

VNAGE has been officially established since 1994 by a governmental decision and is the national association that involves all activities in the field of Gastro-Entero-Hepatology and Gastrointestinal endoscopy in a country with more than 86 millions people distributed in 61 provinces with more than 800 district and provincial hospitals. VNAGE has five local branches in Hanoi (in Northern), in Ho Chi Minh city (in Southern), in Hue City, in Da Nang City and in Nha Trang City (in the middle of the country). In Vietnam, digestive diseases are in the first rank in terms of prevalence, of which 2 diseases are very common: Peptic Ucer diseases, Gastric cancer due to Helicobacter pylori infection and Chronic Hepatitis B and C, with dangerous outcomes such as cirrhosis and Hepato-Cellular Carcinoma.

Besides, other diseases like Functional dyspepsia, GERD, Biliary diseases are very common in hospital and institution outpatients.

**Activities:** From 1996-2010 VNAGE has hosted 16 Annual National Scientific Meetings and every two years, it has jointed with 8 International Congresses on Gastroenterology of South East Asian Nations with 500-900 participants for every conference. This international congress has been organised from 1996 by the initiative of VNAGE, Lao, Cambodia and the French National Society of Gastroenterology, with official languages: first in French, then in two languages: French and English. Vietnam was designated to be as secretary general for organising the congress every 2 years, and when appropriated condition occurs, the congress can be moved to other countries. This form of congress has been recognized as a

mutually beneficial joint meeting for all western and eastern gastroenterologists sharing their specialised knowledge and updating participants on the latest researches and advances, particularly it enhances many effective cooperations in research, in developing scientific and techniques on Gastroenterology. Recently in October 2010, the 8th Congress on Gastroenterology of South East Asian Nations Jointed to the 16th national Scientific Meeting have been successfully organised in Hanoi for the Grand celebration of 1000 years Anniversary of the Capital Thăng Long- Hanoi.

Endoscopy was soon applying in VN only in some few major hospitals, but with government investment to the health service within some years, upper Gastrointestinal endoscopy is widely developed in hospital districts, and also in many private clinics. Laparoscopic surgery have been now performed in many big cities and provincial hospitals of VN for Cholecystectomy, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, liver cancer. ERCP, stenting were performed only in some big centers... Cooperated with the Asian Pacific Society for Digestive Endoscopy, from 2006 VNAGE has successfully organized 4 consecutive Hand-on Training Courses on ERCP in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City with 40 trainees every course. Recently in November 2010, a team of Ambassadors from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy has conducted successfully 2 workshops on therapeutic endoscopy, one in Hue City (collaborating with Hue Medical University), the other in Nha Trang City (collaborating with Khanh Hoa Hospital and Cho Ray hospital from HCMC).

Vietnamese Journal of Gastroenterology (issued from 2005) is the official Journal of VNAGE published in vietnamese every three months.



Hà Nội  
ngày 14-16/10/2010  
HỘI NGHỊ TIÊU HOÁ CÁC NƯỚC ĐÔNG NAM Á LẦN THỨ 8  
HỘI NGHỊ KHOA HỌC TIÊU HOÁ VIỆT NAM LẦN THỨ 16  
16th National Meeting on Gastroenterology  
PHOTO: MỸ DUNG  
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Hà Nội  
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16th National Meeting on Gastroenterology  
PHOTO: MỸ DUNG  
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## News from Sri Lanka



### Activities 2010

#### Annual Academic Session 3rd & 4th December 2010

- Laparoscopic Esophagectomy (live demo) - 3rd December @ Colombo South Hospital by Dr. Tai Omori & Dr. Hirufomi Kawakubo (Kawasaki Municipal Hospital, Tokyo Japan)
- Main sessions 4th December – Theme: Tumors of the Esophagus & Liver
- Nihal Marcus Oration – Endoscopic Management of Esophageal Cancer by Dr. Tai Omori (Japan) @ Waters Edge Hotel, Colombo (followed by Annual Dinner)

### Activities 2011

1. Laparoscopic Proctocolectomy for IBD – Workshop on 17th - 19th January 2011 by Dr. Nimaln Pathma-Nathan MBBS (Syd), MMed, FRACS Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, Westmead Hospital, Australia
2. Annual General Meeting 27th March 2011
3. EUS/ ERCP/ Endoscopy Live demonstration (Combined workshop with College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka in August 2011 (Date to be announced)



Laparoscopic workshop



## The Asian Pacific Digestive Week Returns to Singapore in 2011!



This year, Singapore will once again host the Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) 2011 from 1st–4th October 2011 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. This event which was last held here in 2003 was a tremendous success marked by its outstanding scientific programme and interactive meetings.

With its theme “Integrating Science and Technology in Clinical Gastroenterology”, the meeting will showcase illuminating presentations delivered by world-renowned medical experts from the field of digestive medicine, who will share their valuable experience and recent research work, thus providing the best ambience for discussions and learning. A live endoscopy demonstration workshop and a hands-on simulated workshop involving animals are some of the exciting highlights which the Organising Committee has planned to make this conference a worthwhile experience. With an anticipated attendance of over 2,500 delegates, the APDW 2011 is poised to be the premier platform for knowledge exchange in gastroenterology, hepatology and digestive surgery.

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## The Asian Pacific Digestive Week Returns to Singapore in 2011! *(continued)*



Apart from the Scientific and Conference programmes, delegates and guests can also expect to see a completely different Singapore now since the last APDW Conference in 2003. Many initiatives undertaken by its government in recent years have contributed towards a more vibrant and diverse tourism landscape, namely, the two integrated resorts, the Singapore Flyer and many others. Well-known to be a food-obsessed nation, Singapore definitely offers its visitors a unique and fascinating food culture to explore. Thanks to its multi-racial make-up, you can find a wealth of varied dining experiences from the four main ethnic groups— Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian. Above all else, it is also well-regarded all over the world as a shopping paradise. This island-city clinched the 3rd spot in Shopping on the Future Country Brand Index, right after the United States and UAE. Do bring along your family to have a 4-in-1 experience of learning, sightseeing, feasting and shopping!

The APDW 2011 is organised by the Gastroenterology Society of Singapore, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), Asian Pacific Society of Digestive Endoscopy (APSDE), Asian Pacific Association for the Study of Liver (APASL) and the International Society of Digestive Surgery (ISDS).

For enquiries on the meeting, please email [secretariat@apdw2011.org.sg](mailto:secretariat@apdw2011.org.sg).



### News from Malaysia



**Endoscopy 2011**

Live Endoscopy Workshop  
Date: 14-17 April 2011  
Venue: Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ EUS Guided Transgastric Cholangiography
- ◆ Direct Cholangioscopy
- ◆ Image Enhanced Endoscopy
- ◆ Confocal Probe Endomicroscopy
- ◆ Spiral Enteroscopy
- ◆ Identification of Early Colorectal Neoplasms

#### Programme

GIA Workshop & GIA Get Together  
MSGH and University of Malaya Distinguished Lecture  
Professor Hisao Tajiri (The Jikei University)  
Live Workshop & Workshop Dinner  
Special Workshop – “Endoscopic Detection of Early Colorectal Neoplasms”

#### INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

Hisao Tajiri (TOKYO, JAPAN)  
Paul Akerman (PROVIDENCE, USA)  
Han-Mo Chiu (TAIPEI, TAIWAN)  
Hiroo Imazu (TOKYO, JAPAN)  
Takao Itoi (TOKYO, JAPAN)  
Arthur Kaffes (SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA)  
Takahisa Matsuda (TOKYO, JAPAN)  
Jong-Ho Moon (SEOUL, KOREA)  
Dong-Ki Lee (SEOUL, KOREA)  
Khek-Yu Ho (SINGAPORE)

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE  
MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF  
GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

**GUT 2011**  
27<sup>TH</sup> TO 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011  
Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

[www.msgh.org.my](http://www.msgh.org.my)

#### MSGH Oration

Colm O'Morain  
Professor and Dean of Medicine, University of Dublin Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

#### Panir Chelvam Memorial Lecture

Jin-Yong Kang  
Consultant Gastroenterologist, St George's Hospital, London, UK

#### Scientific Highlights

Colorectal Cancer Screening  
Inflammatory Bowel Disease  
Helicobacter Pylori

Hepatocellular Cancer  
Case Discussion Sessions  
Young Investigator's Award