



# APSS NEWS

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News From Your Regional Spine Society

## President's Message



Dear Colleagues,

The Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS), also known as the Spine Section of APOA bids farewell to 2018 on a celebratory note. As we concluded the first half of the year rejoicing in the successful implementation of our inaugural APSS 2018 Annual Meeting in Taiwan, this issue will continue to ruminate about the meeting as we feature our 2018 APSS Orator, Dr Po-Quang Chen. Dr Chen concluded in his oration that "We are a family; our missions are to continuously upgrade our ability and take good care of patients with spinal problems" as the take-home message during the Congress. The message does not only speak volume

of his dedication for spine, it also verifies APSS' missions throughout the years to advance the science, art and practice of spine surgery and promulgate the maintenance of professional standards in order to provide the best professional care to patients with spinal problems in the Asia Pacific. Look out for summary of his inspirational speech in this issue.

Over the years, we received encouraging feedbacks from fellows and hosts of our fellowship programmes. The APSS will strive to make more of such opportunities available to spine surgeons in Asia Pacific. Our sought-after fellowship programmes had opened for application on October 2018 and will be ending January 1, 2019. The results will be announced by end of January 1, 2019. This issue, we will be featuring highlights from our award recipients of the APSS DePuy Synthes and APSS Medtronic Fellowship Programmes.

Following the success of APSS first outreach programme in July 2017 at Phnom Penh, the APSS collaborated with the University Medical Centre (UMC) in Kazakhstan to host the APSS Astana Master Class and Spine Operative Course from August 30 to September 1, 2018. I am also pleased to report that the recent APSS-PSS Davao Operative Course held from December 6 to 8, 2018 was overall a great success. You may read more about these courses in this issue.

On a separate note, I am elated to see the continued growth in the membership as APSS now records over 500 members in total. I would like to continue to welcome all of you, young and experienced spine surgeons, to join us in working together for the development of spine surgery in the Asia Pacific region.

While we are already busy preparing for the APSS-APPOS 2019: 12th Combined Meeting of APSS and APPOS (Paediatric Section of APOA) from April 4 to 6, 2019 in Incheon, Korea, we are also formulating the programmes of the upcoming APSS Nha Trang Operative Spine Course in March and APSS Xi'an Operative Spine Course and Symposium in September next year. You may have a glimpse of our upcoming activities in the Diary of Events on the back cover.

Lastly, warmest greetings of this festive season and best wishes for happiness this New Year!

Yours sincerely,  
**DATO' DR K S SIVANTHAN**

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### MEMBERS-EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES!

- ✓ Reduced registration rates for APSS Meetings, Conferences and Operative Courses
- ✓ Free subscription of Asian Spine Journal and Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery, APSS e-news and APSS newsletter
- ✓ Opportunity to apply for Fellowship Awards to further your education and career at international level
- ✓ Connect with a growing global network of specialists in spine surgery
- ✓ Access the members-only services provided on our website
- ✓ Contribute actively to orthopaedics and spine subspecialty in your region

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*Line up of the distinguished Faculty at the first annual meeting of the Society.*

## APSS 2018 Annual Meeting in Taiwan: Our First Annual Meeting

The APSS first Annual Meeting in Taiwan that was remarkably well organised from June 7 to 9 this year registered an attendance of 297 delegates from 24 countries. This congress organised by the APSS under the aegis of Taiwan Spine Society and Taiwan Orthopaedic Association marked the inauguration of the APSS annual meeting and our aspiration in becoming a leading scientific international society in the treatment of spinal disorders.

The meeting kicked off with a pre-congress cadaveric workshop at the Medical Simulation Centre, Tzu Chi University, Hualien on June 7, 2018 to share and impart updated knowledge on spinal surgery and hands-on surgical techniques, and it was followed by 2 days' scientific sessions held at the NTUH International Convention Centre, Taipei on June 8 and 9, 2018.

This conference brought together some of the distinguished experts in the spine surgery across Asia as well as young and promising clinicians, researchers, and surgeons to exchange ideas on the latest updates and advancement of the global spine care education, research and innovation.

The excellent scientific programme design featured keynote speech, eight symposia consisting of 70 high quality lectures given by spine experts in the region, 14 free paper sessions consisting of 253 podium presentations, two best paper sessions, a fellowship sharing session for the APSS DePuy Synthes and Medtronic fellows and luncheon seminars. The opening ceremony presented an oration by Dr Po-Quang Chen, who was honoured as the APSS 2018 Orator, and lectures by current leaders of APSS, Dr K S Sivananthan and Dr Keith Luk, as well as by the Congress Chairman.

Through this shared platform, the delegates reaped the fruits of knowledge sharing and networking to enable them to provide the best patient care and management for many challenging spinal problems of all ages and across the diversified regions, cultures and economies in Asia.

On behalf of the Society, we wish to congratulate and express our deepest appreciation to the Honourary Chairman, Dr Po-Quang Chen, the Congress Chairman, Dr Ing-Ho Chen and their organising team for making the APSS 2018 Annual Meeting a grand success!



*President of APSS, Dr K S Sivananthan delivering his speech on The Development of APSS since its Inception.*



*Congress Chairman, Dr Ing-Ho Chen delivering a notable lecture on Surgical Treatment for Ankylosing Spondylitis.*



*President Elect of APSS, Dr Keith Dip Kei Luk delivering a lecture on APSS: Ortho and Neuro Spine - Competition or Cooperation.*



Snapshots taken during the Welcome Party and Congress Dinner witnessed the faculty and delegates enjoying the camaraderie and friendship among surgeons from different countries in Asia.



Fellowship certificates were presented to the APSS fellows by Dr Kuniyoshi Abumi and Dr K S Sivanathan for completing their APSS DePuy Synthes Spine Clinical and Travelling Fellowships.

Keynote lecture on Future Direction of Spinal Care: Genetics, Disc Regeneration and Artificial Intelligence delivered by Dr Kenneth Man Chee Cheung.



Token of appreciation was given to Johnson & Johnson DePuy Synthes, Mr Dennis Grabau for their support towards APSS educational activities.

## Congratulations!

AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR BEST CONGRESS PAPERS	
Clinical Research	Hiroyuki Inose (Japan) Yu Yamato (Japan)
Basic Science	Ming-Hsiao Hu (Taiwan)
AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR APSS-ASJ BEST PAPERS	
Clinical Research	Siti Mariam Abd Gani (Malaysia) Chris Yin Wei Chan (Malaysia)
Basic Science	Ming-Hsiao Hu (Taiwan)



Token of appreciation was given to Medtronic, Mr Simon Yam for their support towards APSS educational activities.



*Take-home message given by Dr Chen for all of us: "We are a family; our missions are to continuously upgrade our ability and take good care of patients with spinal problems".*



*Dr K S Sivananthan and Dr Ing-Ho Chen congratulated Dr Po-Quang Chen for the magnificent panegyric on APSS and its mission; they also expressed their appreciation for Dr Po-Quang Chen's leadership and guidance.*



*Dr Chen as the Honorary Chairman of the Congress gave a warm toast to all faculty, delegates, old friends who attended the conference.*

## We are a family – Mission of the spine surgeons

The APSS First Annual Meeting in Taipei held from June 7 to 9 this year had the honour to invite Dr Po-Quang Chen, a founding and senior member of APSS, and Past President of APOA and APSS, to deliver his oration with the title of "We are a family – Mission of the spine surgeons" during the opening ceremony of the meeting. The following is the summary of the excerpts from his speech:

### APSS as a family

Dr Chen concluded in his oration that "We are a family; our missions are to continuously upgrade our ability and take good care of patients with spinal problems" as the take-home messages for the members of the spine fraternity in Asia Pacific.

The APSS being part of a big family of the orthopaedic surgeons, which was known as Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association (WPOA), was established in 1979 by key leading spine surgeons in the region consisting of Dr Arthur Yau, Dr Tony Acosta, Jr, Dr Shunichi Inoue, Dr Y Takemitsu, Dr Hanting Chen, Dr Han Mon-Shik, Dr Pesi Chacha and Dr Silva. The APSS, formerly known as the Spine Section of WPOA, has since become the strongest organisation within the WPOA frame.

Following the new era of rebranding as APSS, the Society has progressed tremendously through various forms of academic exchanges as the fruits of the hard work and great contributions of the senior surgeons. Members and non-members with sheer interest in the patients' spinal problems have access to a robust platform to meet and share knowledge and experience.

The APSS congress was used to be held tri-annually in the early years was moved to be held bi-annually, and in the meeting in Taiwan this year, it marked the first annual meeting that APSS will be holding for many years to come. Dr Chen is confident that these transformations of allowing the spine clinicians, surgeons and researchers to meet more frequently will enhance rapid exchange of experience and knowledge and upgrade the medical standard of the region.

Another platform offered by the APSS to promote academic exchanges is through the unique hands-on operative course that was organised by a core team of zealous members. This course, which is with the aim of teaching the young surgeons, features lectures and demonstration of spine surgical techniques via live operative surgeries, and later saw bone workshop was added as a more hands-on component of the course. This course was first held in Kuala Lumpur in 1982, and has since rotated in many other cities including Bangkok, Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Colombo, Kathmandu, Manila, Hanoi, Ho Chi-Minh City, Beijing, Xi'an, Coimbatore, Dhaka, Taipei, Phnom Penh, Kuching, Yangon, Davao, Astana, etc.

Dr Chen reiterated his follow up of a patient for more than 15 years with good result following the operation done on the patient during the operative course held in Taipei in 1994. The surgery was performed by the late Dr Yau, who demonstrated the insertion of a titanium fibre cage into the disc space. In this very course, Dr Chen was actively involved in the course, and selected the 11 patients with various spinal diseases for operative demonstration during the course.

In the past 30 years, spinal surgery has experienced rapid and tremendous progress. The advances in knowledge, medical devices, computer-assisted surgery and biological products have greatly provided useful armamentaria to treat all kinds of spinal problems. He strongly believes that these advances will certainly change and modify the spine clinicians' and surgeons' ways of practice. He also expressed that he was fortunate to be witnessing the technological advancement and learn about the friendly medical devices and equipment in the past three decades, which has accordingly facilitated his operative procedures.

The spine fraternity, regardless of the senior or young generation, has entered into an era of lifelong study. APSS also provides academic publications with open access to the medical practitioners and researchers; these include Asian Spine Journal and Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery. Thanks to the effort of the editorial board members, these two journals are of high standard with global exposure. Through them, the experiences and research information in spine surgery could be conveyed more rapidly and effectively than before.

As a society with an interest to develop the potential of the young surgeons, the APSS also provides fellowship programmes. With the support of industry and enthusiastic host centres, many young surgeons below 40 years old are selected to visit medical centres in the region and even in Europe for further training each year. As a former President of the society, Dr Chen sees this as an effort in fostering them to become the future leaders of spinal surgery. The reasons are obvious: Asia Pacific region encompasses a vast area of the globe. This includes Pacific and Indian Oceans. It covers the east from Japan and Taiwan, west to Turkey; south from Australia and New Zealand and north to China and Korea. More than three billion people are living in this region. Among them, there are different climate zones, religions, languages, different ideas and lifestyles as well as political systems. The intimate academic activities, such as medical congresses, operative courses, fellowship programmes and medical publications shall serve to upgrade the medical knowledge and encourage mutual understanding between us. Ultimately, these shall benefit the world population through better health and welfare.



*Dr Po-Quang Chen (middle), who was honoured as the APSS Orator 2018, receiving a memento from APSS President, Dr K S Sivananthan (left), and he was accompanied by the Congress Chairman, Dr Ing-Ho Chen (right).*



*Dr Yoshiharu Takemitsu from Japan, an old friend of Dr Chen and a founding member of APSS, was introduced during the Congress dinner.*



*Dr Chen highlighted that the APSS 2018 Annual Meeting is the first annual meeting of the Society which previously only held biennial meetings.*

Before concluding his oration, Dr Chen highlighted four spine diseases which are still prevalent in the region as a food of thought for the family of spine clinicians and surgeons.

**1. The degenerative diseases in the lumbar and cervical regions and osteoporosis.**

Dr Yamamoto mentioned in the APOA Congress Melbourne in 2016 that “Asian countries are aging rapidly. We need more education on preventing operative complications in our region...We must study how to prevent and care for post-operative spine-related pain with the pain managements, including advanced neuropathic pain drugs, physical reconditioning and psychological care program. This is one of our tasks ahead”.

Indeed, the study on the conservative management is as important as operation.

**2. Infections, especially TB spine.**

In the past 20 years, he has visited many countries and continued to notice that musculoskeletal tuberculosis is still very much prevalent. TB spine may induce crippling to the patients. Surgery is only the last resort. The spine fraternity must engage in the prevention programme in these societies.

**3. Spine trauma cases.**

Busy traffic on the streets and poor working conditions in many developing and developed nations are the causes. Many young people become the victims of the development of socio-economy. Conservative and operative management both are mandatory.

**4. The paediatric deformity of the spine.**

Thanks to the improvement of economic and medical conditions, there are increasing number of young patients who are now able to seek correction. Spine surgeons ought to be trained to acquire high skills for treating these patients without complications.

[www.apss-appos2019.org](http://www.apss-appos2019.org)

# APSS APPOS 2019

12<sup>th</sup> Combined Meeting of Asia Pacific Spine Society  
& Asia Pacific Paediatric Orthopaedic Society

Combined with the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Korean Paediatric Orthopaedic Society

**April 4-6, 2019**

**Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea**

## Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline	December 31 (Mon), 2018
Abstract Acceptance Notice	January 31 (Thu), 2019
Presenter Registration Deadline	February 15 (Fri), 2019
Early Bird Registration Deadline	February 15 (Fri), 2019
Standard Registration Deadline	March 16 (Sat), 2019



## 11th Spine Deformity Solutions: A Hands-On Course at The University of Hong Kong



*The group photo comprising of international faculty from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand together with the local organising committee.*



*Left: Dr Yat-Wa Wong explaining the surgical procedure conducted to the delegates. Right: Dr K S Sivananthan presenting his surgery case for discussion during the course.*



The 11th Spine Deformity Solutions: A Hands-On Course organised by the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) & the Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS) was held from September 7 to 9, 2018 in Hong Kong, The People's Republic of China. The course provided an opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge and improve their skills through training and discussions with leading spinal deformity surgeons from around the world.

Lectures and lab sessions covered all areas of the spine and a variety of conditions and techniques. Registration was limited to 30 delegates to ensure access to faculty, small-group interaction and opportunities for hands-on work. The course had attendees from the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

## APSS Astana Master Class and Spine Operative Course in Kazakhstan

Following the success of APSS first outreach programme in July 2017 at Phnom Penh, the APSS collaborated with the Kazakhstan Association of Orthopaedic-Traumatologists and the University Medical Centre (UMC) to host the APSS Astana Master Class and Spine Operative Course in Kazakhstan. This course, held from August 30 to September 1, 2018 has gathered about 100 registered local delegates. The national hosts welcomed the group of six international faculty comprising spine experts from Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore.

The course aimed to consolidate the understanding on the indications, surgical techniques and pitfalls of spine surgery. The saw bone workshops and video presentations were led by Dr K S Sivananthan and Dr Kuniyoshi Abumi. Delegates were stimulated with up-close and hands-on learning experience under the guidance of international spine instructors. The course concluded successfully, and the APSS extended its appreciation to Johnson & Johnson DePuy Synthes which has generously supported the saw bone workshop and sponsored the travel expenses of all the international faculty to attend the course.



*Left to right: Dr Gabriel Liu, Dr Keith Luk, Dr Hee Kit Wong, Dr Bolat Nagymanov (National Organising Chairman), Dr Saumyajit Basu, Dr Kuniyoshi Abumi, and Dr K S Sivananthan.*



*President of APSS, Dr K S Sivananthan and President Elect of APSS, Dr Keith Dip Kei Luk provided their remarks during the faculty dinner.*

# APSS-PSS Davao Operative Course



Group photo comprising international and local faculty, organising committee and the course delegates.



Dr Antonio Sison, President of PSS, giving his welcome remark during the opening ceremony.

The APSS, Philippines Spine Society (PSS) and Davao Doctors Hospital collaboratively hosted the APSS Davao Operative Course at the Davao Doctors Hospital from December 6 to 8, 2018. This course gathered about 50 registered local delegates. The course international faculty consisted of nine international faculty comprised of spine experts from Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Faculty members and course delegates enthusiastically debated and evaluated risks and procedures required for a total of four cases presented by the national organising team. Patients of selected cases were also present for interaction and physical examination during the pre-operative case discussion session.



Dr Keith Dip Kei Luk moderating the pre-operative case discussions on Day 1.



Dr Hee-Kit Wong responding to the enquiry from delegates during his lecture.

The saw bones workshops were sponsored Medtronic, DePuy Synthes and ASpine. The demonstrations were conducted by Dr K S Sivananthan, Dr Chung-Chek Wong, Dr Hee-Kit Wong and Dr Yukihiro Matsuyama. Delegates were stimulated with up-close and hands-on learning experience under the guidance of international spine instructors. Spinal topic lectures were delivered, and live surgeries demonstration was broadcasted in the seminar hall during the subsequent two days. During the transmission, international faculty stimulated questions and discussions among the delegates in the auditorium with respective surgeons performing the surgeries. The procedures demonstrated during the live surgeries included Open PLIF L5/S1, PSO TB Kyphosis, Scoliosis and Single stage posterior transpedicular anterior column lengthening, posterior column shortening for TB kyphosis. All the patients fared well post operations and were discharged.



Dr Chung-Chek Wong demonstrating the surgical procedure on anterior cervical discectomy fusion during the saw bone workshop.



Dr Jose Manuel F. Ignacio presented his lecture topic, "Lumbar Instability in Degenerative Disc Disease: How to Recognize Them?".

The delegates hands-on saw bone workshops and interaction with the experienced surgeons were reported to be the most preferred with suggestion to lengthen the duration of the workshops. Dr Antonio Sison, President of the Philippines Spine Society (PSS) and Dr Ronald Tangente, the National Organising Chairman expressed hope that the success of this course will inspire more collaborations with APSS in the near future.

## 2016 & 2017 APSS Medtronic Fellows' Testimonials

**Dr Siddharth Aiyer** is currently an Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon from Ganga Hospital, India. He is in a predominant spine surgery practice for 2 years at the time of application. He is keen on being actively involved in the comprehensive management of spine patients. Dr Aiyer completed the APSS Medtronic Fellowship between October 26 and December 29, 2017, and he is pleased to share his experience at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, National University Hospital, Singapore.

“ It was an excellent training opportunity as I observed and assisted in management of a diverse and wide variety of spinal disorders, including paediatric spinal deformity, spinal tumours and minimally invasive surgery for degenerative spinal disorders. National University Hospital offered an excellent exposure to management of idiopathic scoliosis. During the fellowship, I was able to observe video thoracoscopic scoliosis correction procedure and robotic guidance-based scoliosis surgery which was a unique experience. The unit does many operations for degenerative spinal disorders using minimally invasive surgical techniques including -MIS-TILF, XLIF and OLIF. The fellowship offered substantial exposure in the evaluation and management of metastatic spinal tumours which was another highlight of the experience. There were ample opportunities to assist in surgical procedures and observe patient assessment at the outpatient clinic. The spine unit also conducted weekly academic clinical meetings to discuss preoperative and postoperative patient management which were a great learning experience.

For a young surgeon in training, the three-month fellowship offered the possibility to visit a spine unit and to participate actively in the daily activities of the unit. The term of the fellowship was long enough to observe, assist and contribute in the management decision of the entire spectrum of clinical spine conditions seen at the host centre. I would recommend the APSS Medtronic fellowship for young spine surgeons in training. ”



*Dr Siddharth Aiyer with his hosts, Dr Hee Kit Wong and Dr Gabriel Liu, and fellow colleagues at farewell dinner.*

**Dr Naing Lin Oo** is currently the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon from Yangon Orthopaedic Hospital. Currently pursuing a Spine Doctorate Degree in University of Medicine-1, Yangon, Dr Naing Lin has four (4) years of experience in spine surgery and aspires to become a surgeon in spine deformity correction and MIS spine. He had completed the APSS Medtronic Fellowship between May 3 and August 2, 2018, and he is pleased to share his experience at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, National University Hospital, Singapore.

“ It was a valuable experience as I was involved in the morning orthopaedic resident teaching, spine rounds, clinics and assisted in operations. The spine round and teaching were very useful as the discussions focused on diagnosis, treatments, plan for surgery, surgery technique, and post-operative care, etc. The hours in clinic allowed me to learn about decision making for spine surgery from the perspective of a spine consultant. There were also many discussions about procedures and techniques applied during my time assisting in the operation theatre. Some topics I learned during the fellowship included spine deformity correction and degenerative spine disease especially thoracoscopic assisted anterior surgical correction and fusion, selective fusion for scoliosis, MIS deformity correction in adult degenerative scoliosis, one staged anterior and posterior combined surgery for adult degenerative scoliosis, XLIF, ALIF, OLIF surgical technique and robotic-assisted MIS TLIF for degenerative spine disease.

Throughout the fellowship, I have gained valuable knowledge in the field of spine deformity correction as well as building an established relationship with other spine surgeons in the region. Therefore, I would strongly recommend my colleagues to apply for the APSS Fellowship. ”



*Pictured herewith, Dr Naing Lin Oo assisted Dr Dennis Hey in one of the surgeries during the fellowship programme.*

# APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical & Travelling Fellowship 2018

The APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical and Travelling Fellowship opens call for application every year and it is highly sought after by young surgeons from the Asia Pacific region while established and renowned senior surgeons share their knowledge, experience and resources to assist the young surgeons.

Nine successful applicants and two SICOT fellows were selected for the fellowship. Each clinical fellow was attached to respective host and institution for a duration of three weeks. Meanwhile, the travelling fellows were divided into two groups of four each and they visited three spine centres of excellence in the Asia Pacific region. The fellowship ended at the APSS 2018 Annual Meeting in Taiwan where the fellows shared their experiences in a dedicated slot during the scientific meeting. Two APSS members which were selected as the exchange fellows of APSS-SICOT, Dr Tetsuo Hayashi from Japan and Dr Zhao Ming Zhong from China, will share their fellowship experiences at their respective spine centres of SICOT in Aarhus, Denmark and Berlin, Germany in the next issue.

The fellows benefited tremendously from these programmes and the scientific meeting. APSS records thanks to the hosts who offered their centres of excellence for spine surgery for the 2018 clinical and travelling fellowships, and extends gratitude for the contributions made by DePuy Synthes and APSS Education Committee.

## APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical Fellowship 2018

Three fellows from India, Sri Lanka and Taiwan were awarded the fellowship to be attached to a spine centre of excellence for three weeks before they flew and met in Taipei, Taiwan.



**Dr Shardul Soman (India—right in the photo) hosted by Dr Gabriel Liu at National University of Singapore, Singapore**

Dr Soman was able to observe the use of the new K2M system as well as the use of radiofrequency ablation using disc fix for L5-S1 disc herniation, and was encouraged to use it in his practice. He was also able to assist in surgery using the latest technique - four level OLIF which he could only observe in conference workshop. Dr Soman was also able to participate in the APSS Basic Course held in NUH and had the chance to practice cervical laminoplasty which is not common in India.



**Dr Nirmal C Marasinghe (Sri Lanka) hosted by Dr Orso Osti at Dr Orso L Osti's Practice in Adelaide, Australia**

Dr Marasinghe noted that the concept and the model of multidisciplinary team approach to management observed at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is the future for developing nations like Sri Lanka and would certainly benefit patients in the country. During his fellowship, he learned not only surgery skills from Dr Orso Osti but also communications with his patients. Dr Marasinghe was able to observe surgery cases including micro-discectomy, decompressions, TLIF, spinal cord stimulator insertions and rhizolysis.



**Dr Chih-Wei Chen (Taiwan) hosted by Dr Yukihiro Matsuyama at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Japan**

Being a young surgeon with two years experience, Dr Chen is very grateful to have the opportunity to assist in six operations and observe nine operations during his fellowship. He also managed to observe some LIF tricks. He recorded his gratitude for being able to participate in the 91st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Orthopaedic Association. Dr Chen commended that Hamamatsu University Hospital is a great spine centre for young doctors who are interested in adult spine deformity treatment.

Visit [www.apssonline.org](http://www.apssonline.org) to read the complete fellowship reports of the APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical Fellows 2018.

# APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical & Travelling Fellowship 2018

## APSS DePuy Synthes Travelling Fellowship 2018

The Group 1 and Group 2 of the Travelling Fellows visited the following spine centres of excellence where they spent one week with each host and his respective team.

**Group 1: Dr Amir Fariz Zakaria (Malaysia), Dr Jacob Oh (Singapore), Dr Ma. Ramona Reyes (Philippines), and Dr Miao Wang (Denmark).**



### Centre 1: Dr Warat Tassanawipas, Phramongkutklao Army Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

APSS fellows were invited to participate in the Asia Pacific Cervical Arthroplasty Course which provided them hands-on experience on cervical disc replacement. They observed surgical cases such as spine metastasis, lumbar stenosis, selective nerve root block for lumbar stenosis, O-arm navigated MIS TLIF and O-arm navigated OLIF, as well as posterior instrumentation. They also assisted in the surgery case of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis Lenke 2AN.



### Centre 2: Dr Ki-Tack Kim, Kyung Hee University Hospital, Korea

During the fellowship, the fellows had the opportunity to assist Dr Ki-Tack Kim, who has popularised his techniques of vertebral osteotomy especially in cases of ankylosing spondylitis, in three cases; Brochie osteotomy of L2 for ankylosing spondylitis, OLIF L4/L5 for isthmic spondylosis and 2nd stage surgery (OLIF L2-L5 and PSF L2-iliac) for degenerative lumbar deformity. They also attended to a lecture by Dr YC Kim regarding proximal junctional failure in osteoporotic spine.



### Centre 3: Dr Morio Matsumoto, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

During this visit, the fellows were intrigued with an interesting case of a drop head syndrome secondary to basilar invagination and C0-C1 instability and observed Dr Kota Watanabe performed an occipital-cervical fusion. They also assisted in eight surgery cases including PSF T2-T11 for neuromuscular scoliosis, PLIF for lumbar stenosis, excision of intramural hemangioma, and microendoscopic discectomy for lumbar PID.

**Group 2: Dr Ching Lik Hui (Hong Kong), Dr Kostyantyn Lytvynenko (Ukraine), Dr Kyaw Linn Linn (Myanmar), and Dr Md Asraf UI Matin (Bangladesh).**



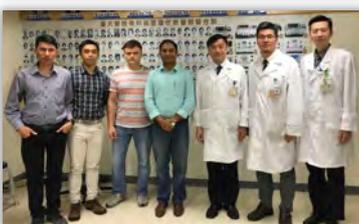
### Centre 1: Dr Michael B Johnson, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

The host, Dr Johnson showed many cases to the fellows including congenital scoliosis treated by bipolar rods systems and severe spondylolisthesis. He also provided guidance in pre-operative assessment and some tricks during the surgery. The fellows were also able to observe a surgery on thoracic kyphosis with anterior release followed by posterior fusion from T3 down to L2 at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.



### Centre 2: Dr Chung-Chek Wong, Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching, Malaysia

The fellows were invited to join the Kuching Operative Spine Course and during the course, they were fortunate to observe Dr Wong's technique in inserting the pedicle screws in subaxial spine and T spine, for T1 bone metastasis from thyroid cancer. The fellows were also inspired by Dr Wong's presentation about techniques in treating osteoporotic bone and importance of sagittal balance. During this visit, the fellows were invited to join ward rounds and spine clinics.



### Centre 3: Dr Shu-Hua Yang, National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

The fellows were inspired by the sharing from the host, Dr Yang regarding his minimally invasive approach of TLIF using a midline incision as this combines the advantages of MIS surgery and the use of midline wound. The fellows also benefited from his generous teaching on tips and tricks during the operation. This group of fellows also participated in the Cadaver Workshop in Hualien which is a pre-congress workshop for APSS 2018 Annual Meeting in Taiwan.

Visit [www.apssonline.org](http://www.apssonline.org) to read the complete fellowship reports of the APSS DePuy Synthes Travelling Fellows 2018.

## 2018—2019 Diary of Events



Activity	Date	Venue
APSS Medtronic Fellowship 2018/2019	Nov 2018 - Jul 2019	The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong  Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, South Korea  Sapporo Orthopaedic Hospital - Center for Spinal Disorders, Japan  Primus Super Speciality Hospital, India
APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical & Travelling Fellowship 2019	13 Mar - 2 Apr 2019	Spine Centres of Excellence in Asia Pacific
APSS Nha Trang Operative Course 2019	25 Mar - 27 Mar 2019	Khanh Hoa General Hospital, Viet Nam
12th Combined Meeting of APSS and APPOS 2019	4 Apr - 6 Apr 2019	Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea
APSS Xi'an Operative Course	5 Sep - 7 Sep 2019	Xi'Jing Hospital, FMMU, Xi'an, China
APSS-SICOT Spine Fellowship 2019	Sep - Oct 2019	SICOT Spine Centres of Excellence in Europe
APSS 2020 Annual Meeting in China	5 Jun - 7 Jun 2020	Shanghai International Convention Centre, Shanghai, China

**APSS Xi'an Operative Spine Course and Symposium**

DATE **5 to 7 SEPTEMBER 2019**

VENUE **Xijing Orthopaedic Hospital, Xi'an, China**



### Asia Pacific Spine Society

The APSS started with the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association - Spine Section in 1979 as an educational and scientific forum for the advancement of knowledge in the field of spine surgery.

Our mission is to advance knowledge in the field of spine surgery and promulgate the maintenance of professional standards in order to provide the best professional care to patients with spinal problems.

### APSS News

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