



# APSS NEWS

News From Your Regional Spine Society

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www.apssonline.org

## Welcome to Our Inaugural Newsletter!

As the Chairman of the APSS, I am pleased to introduce our inaugural newsletter, APSS News. With each newsletter, we will share with you the highlights of the recent educational activities that were successfully completed. We will also update you on any upcoming, exciting activities that APSS plans to organize for its members in the region. We would like to make good use of this newsletter to discuss on interesting spine cases; hence, we welcome any feedback and suggestions for future topics. Contact information is provided on the last page.



In this premier issue, we feature several activities held this year to mark the end of a fruitful year of 2015 as we sail through before we welcome a brand new, more exciting year. In 2015, APSS has magnificently organised its 10<sup>th</sup> Combined Congress of APSS-APPOS in Hong Kong, two operative courses in Yangon and Manila, two clinical fellowships and one travelling fellowship. We also collaborated with SRS to be part of the International Meeting on Advanced Spine Techniques.

Additionally, we like to share with you the upcoming 2016 activities that are being planned. To mention a few, there will be two operative courses in Phnom Penh and Surabaya, a sectional meeting in APOA Congress, SpineWeek 2016, cadaveric courses and fellowships. We hope to see you at our activities. We plan to publish APSS News biannually to bring you regular updates, so look out for our next issue in June/July 2016.

This year, we also lost a very dear friend, *Ian Philip Torode*, who sadly passed away due to major medical complications related to a pre-existing cardiac condition after he had undergone total hip arthroplasty. We would like to pay tribute to Ian who has helped and contributed extensively to teach, train and inspire many young spine and orthopaedic surgeons especially those from the developing countries.

Sincerely,

**KUNIYOSHI ABUMI, M.D, Dr. Med. Sci.**

**Chairman**

**Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS)**



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Yangon & Manila Operative Spine Courses*
- *Highlights of 10th Combined Congress of APSS and APPOS*
- *Cambodia Spine Course ~ Feb 2016*
- *Singapore Spine Week ~ May 2016*



*Prof Ki-Tack Kim conducted the sawbones session.*



*The APSS faculties with the local organising team.*

## APSS Yangon Operative Spine Course Myanmar, 5 - 8 February 2015

In collaboration with the Myanmar Orthopaedic Association, APSS held an operative spine course in the Yangon Orthopaedic Hospital last February. Myanmar was chosen by the APSS to assist the local spine and orthopaedic surgeons in order to develop its spine service. Approximately 70 local and international participants attended the course.

A team of 12 invited faculty members from the Asia Pacific led by Dr. Jayaswal conducted a well-integrated course consisting of short clinical lectures, observations and discussion of live surgery cases. Participants highly appreciated the saw bones

workshops that were held after the live surgeries. The sawbones workshops reinforced the surgical techniques and procedures learnt. There was also very active participation between the participants and faculty members during the entire course.

In total, nine patients were operated on in the course. The surgical results were excellent and the patients were satisfied with the operations. The local organising chairman, Prof Myint Thauang commented that the three-day event, which was first of its kind in any spine field in Myanmar, was a great learning experience for the local committee and participants.

*“The sawbones workshops reinforced the surgical techniques and procedures learnt.”*

### Manila Historical Tour for the Faculty Members

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> APSS Manila Operative Course, the local organizer, Philippine Spine Society (PSS) conducted a city tour for the faculties. The tour guide team led by Dr Pipo and Dr Jose from the PSS brought the faculty members to explore the historical and cultural sites in Manila. They visited the Manila Cathedral, San Augustin Church and Fort Santiago.



*Dato' Siva & spouse were given history explanation at Intramuros by Dr Rafael Bondoc.*



*A/Prof Chris Chan, Prof Keith Luk, Prof Jae Yoon, Dato' Siva, Prof Kwan, Prof Tariq & his spouse in the Manila city tour.*

## 2nd APSS Manila Operative Spine Course Philippines, 5 - 7 August 2015

Last August, APSS and the Philippine Spine Society (PSS) jointly organised the 2nd APSS Manila operative spine course at St Luke's Medical Centre Global City. Following the first APSS Manila operative spine course held in 2009, this 2nd course attracted more than 100 participants and 12 faculty members. The course successfully created awareness among the local young surgeons that spinal disorders can be managed effectively due to the improvement in surgical technologies.

Due to the large number of attendance, the sawbones workshops' stations were increased from six to eight. Besides the sawbones workshops, a total of 11 operations also took place during the course. The local organising chairman, Prof Jose M. Ignacio added that the local and international delegates complimented the faculties who were of top-notch quality. He added that the course was both full of learnings and fond memories.



*Prof Abumi conducted the sawbones session.*



*From left (standing): Dr Kwan, Dr Jose Martin Paise, Dr Chris, (sitting) Dr Jose M Lumawig, Dr Jose M Ignacio, and Dr Frederick Nicomedez.*

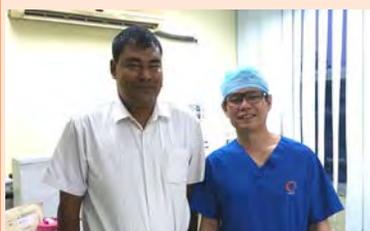
## APSS Medtronic Fellowship

APSS has introduced a long-term 3 months fellowship with the support of Medtronic Spinal and Biologics. Fellows are given unique opportunities to interact with and learn from renowned spine surgeons from the Asia Pacific region. They can expect to learn the skills and knowledge of i.e. history taking and clinical examination, surgical decision making by attending outpatient clinics, ward rounds, clinical case conferences and journal clubs as well as surgical skills by attending and assist in surgeries.

In total, four fellows were selected for this fellowship. They are Dr. Rajesh Bahadur Lakhey (NEPAL), Dr. Kumar Shantanu Anand (INDIA), Dr. Sanjay Yadav (INDIA), and Dr. Lau Yan On Yvonne (HONG KONG). Each of them is attached at different centres of excellence for spine surgery in Malaysia, Hong Kong and South Korea.



Dr Sanjay attended the Asia Pacific Spine Summit 2015 in Hong Kong during his fellowship at The University of Hong Kong.



Dr Rajesh with his host, Dr Wong Chung Chek at the Sarawak General Hospital.



Dr Rajesh with his host, Prof Kwan at the Spine Research Unit of UMMC in KL.

## APSS DePuy Synthes Travelling and Clinical Fellowship

These fellowships are organised on a yearly basis with the support from DePuy Synthes. Both fellowship programmes were held successfully between 18th May and 7th June 2015. One of the pre-requisites for the application is that the applicant must be a member of APOA and APSS and practising in spine surgery. Economy air travel, hotel accommodation and allowance were provided to these successful candidates.

Eleven successful applicants were selected for these two programmes. Each clinical fellow was attached to his or her 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 centres of excellence for spine surgery in three countries in the Asia Pacific region. Each group of travelling fellows spent one week in each centre.

The fellows benefited tremendously from these programmes and the scientific meeting. APSS received many positive feedbacks from the fellows including "APSS provided the best learning experience about spine" and "Effective clinical experience with extraordinary mentorship".

APSS is thankful for the hosts who offered their centres of excellence for spine surgery for the 2015 clinical and travelling fellowships! For more information, visit [www.apssonline.org/apss-fellowship-report.html](http://www.apssonline.org/apss-fellowship-report.html).

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP	
Host	Fellow
PROF LUO ZHUO JING Fourth Military Medical University (FMMU) Xi-Jing Hospital, Xi'an, CHINA	Dr Kim Young Tae (KOREA)
PROF KENNETH CHEUNG MC The University of Hong Kong Queen Mary Hospital HONG KONG	Dr Wu Meng Huang (TAIWAN)
PROF KIM KI-TACK Kyung-Hee University Hospital Gang Dong, KOREA	Dr Najmus Sakeb (BANGLADESH)

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP			
18-24 May 2015	25-31 May 2015	1-3 June 2015	Fellow
Host 1	Host 2	Host 3	
PROF GUIXING QIU Peking Union Medical College Hospital Beijing, CHINA	PROF WEN-JER CHEN Chang Gung University, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital Linkou, TAIWAN	PROF KENNETH MC CHEUNG The University of Hong Kong, Queen Mary Hospital HONG KONG	Kyaw Min (Myanmar) Ankur Patel (India) Jun Ik Choi (Korea) Waqar Alam (Pakistan)
PROF KEE YONG HA The Catholic University of Korea St. Mary's Hospital Seoul, SOUTH KOREA	PROF SHOICHI KOKUBUN Sendai Nishitaga Hospital JAPAN	PROF WANG YAN Chinese PLA General Hospital Beijing, CHINA	Zaw Min Han (Myanmar) G. Vijayaraghavan (India) Vincent Hau (Hong Kong) Md. Shahidul Islam Akon (Bangladesh)



Group 2 Travelling Fellows: Dr. Md. Shahidul, Dr. Vincent Hau, Dr. Zaw Min Han & Dr. G. Vijayaraghavan



Some of Group 1 Travelling Fellows with the Clinical Fellows: Dr. Wu, Dr. Kim, Dr. Choi, Dr. Ankur & Dr. G. Min



*The Opening Ceremony of the Congress*

## 10th Combined Congress of APSS-APPOS in Hong Kong

The APSS, in association with the APPOS held its combined congress on 5th - 7th June 2015 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). In conjunction with the theme “Regionally Relevant Solutions for Regionally Prevalent Issues”, the meeting brought together some of the most highly respected experts in the areas of spinal surgery, paediatric limb deformity correction and joint replacement surgery across Asia. It was considered a truly successful and remarkably well organised congress because of the excellent programme designed and the large turnout at the meeting. Approximately 350 spine surgeons out of a total of 590 delegates attended this meeting.

Through this shared platform, the delegates shared, discussed and learnt from each other regional relevant orthopaedic conditions and drew relevance towards their respective solutions – for instance, “neglected deformities” of the spine are more prevalent in developing countries with younger population. APSS had multiple slots during the congress, which comprised a Presidential Speech by the APSS Chairman, multiple free paper presentation slots, a lumbar degenerative symposium, spinal tumour discussion, APSS case discussion with global panel, operative video session, and the fellowship experience sharing of 2014 and 2015 APSS fellows.

On behalf of the society, we wish to congratulate and express our deepest appreciation to the Congress Chairman, Prof Kenneth Cheung and his organising team for making the 2015 Hong Kong APSS-APPOS Combined Congress a grand success!



*Delegates listening attentively to the presenters at the Combined Congress.*



*Prof Arvind Jayaswal delivered his Presidential Speech.*



*Prof Kenneth Cheung, the Congress Chairman delivered the opening speech.*



*The late Dr. Ian Torode was commenting during the Q&A discussion.*



*Prof Stuart Weinstein delivering a lecture on Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis.*



*Prof Jae-Yoon & other delegates attending one of the lectures.*



*Dotting ceremony of the lion's eyes of the Congress Banquet by Prof Arvind Jayaswal, Prof Kenneth Cheung & Prof Mark CJ Lin.*



*Prof Kenneth Cheung with representatives from J&J DePuy Synthes.*



*The current and former chairmen of APSS: Prof Kuniyoshi Abumi (left), Prof Arvind Jayaswal, Prof Jae Yoon Chung, Prof Hee Kit Wong, Prof Shoichi Kokubun & Prof Po-Quang Chen (right).*



*Prof Kenneth Cheung presented appreciation token to the representative from Medtronic.*



*Group photos of some APSS council members with the current and former APSS Chairmen.*

## History of APSS Leadership

### Senior Leadership – Former Chairmen



*Arthur C.M.C. Yau*  
HONG KONG  
(1987-1990)



*Myung-Sang Moon*  
SOUTH KOREA  
(1990-1993)



*Kong-Shiong Yu*  
TAIWAN  
(1993-1996)



*Hiroshi Yamamoto*  
JAPAN  
(1996-1999)



*Charoen Chotigavanich*  
THAILAND  
(1999-2002)



*Po-Quang Chen*  
TAIWAN  
(2002-2005)



*Shoichi Kokubun*  
JAPAN  
(2005-2008)



*Hee Kit Wong*  
SINGAPORE  
(2008-2011)



*Jae-Yoon Chung*  
SOUTH KOREA  
(2011-2013)



*Arvind Jayaswal*  
INDIA  
(2013-2015)

## Highlights of the Congress Banquet

The Congress Banquet was held at the Run Run Shaw Hall of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine on the 6th June. It started off with a cocktail session where guests were seen being fascinated by the cultural booths showcasing Rainbow Calligraphy and Chinese knotting. Dinner commenced with a lively lion dance followed by a dotting ceremony of the lion's eyes by Prof Kenneth Chung, Prof Arvind Jayaswal and Prof Mark CJ Lin. During dinner, the guests were entertained by talented medical students with their captivating piano recital and jazz drum performance.

A Chairman Change of Responsibility Ceremony was also held by both the APSS and APPOS. The outgoing APSS Chairman, Prof Arvind Jayaswal passed on the chairmanship to Prof Kuniyoshi Abumi.

Prof Kuniyoshi Abumi, the incumbent Chairman, presented service medallions to some of the APSS former chairmen who were present at the banquet including Prof Arvind Jayaswal, Prof Chung Jae-Yoon, Prof Wong Hee Kit, Prof Shoichi Kokubun and Prof Po-Quang Chen as a gesture for recognising their contributions and support. Prof Arvind Jayaswal had earlier highlighted the history of APSS leadership in his Presidential Speech during the Congress.

Tokens of appreciations were given to Johnson & Johnson DePuy Synthes and Medtronic for their support to APSS educational activities, and also to the local organising team of the APSS Yangon Operative Course, which were represented by Prof Myint Thaug and Dr Thant Zin Naing. Finally, fellowship certificates were presented to the fellows for completing their APSS DePuy Synthes Spine Clinical and Travelling Fellowships in 2014 and 2015.



## 2016 Diary of Events

Activity	Date	Venue
APSS Cambodia Spine Course	17 Feb – 19 Feb	National Pediatric Hospital & Children's Surgical Center, Phnom Penh
APSS Medtronic Fellowship 2015/16	1 Mar – 31 Aug	Centres of Excellence for Spine Surgery, Asia Pacific
APSS DePuy Synthes Clinical Fellowship	13 Mar – 29 Mar	Centres of Excellence for Spine Surgery, Asia Pacific
APSS DePuy Synthes Travelling Fellowship	13 Mar – 29 Mar	Centres of Excellence for Spine Surgery, Asia Pacific
APSS Sectional Meeting during APOA Melbourne Congress	29 Mar – 01 Apr	Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia
SICOT-APOA Spine Fellowship in Europe	May – Oct	Aarhus, Denmark
SpineWeek 2016	16 May – 20 May	Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore
SRS-APSS Asia Pacific Cadaver Course	28 Oct – 30 Oct	Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong
APSS Surabaya Operative Spine Course	15 Dec – 18 Dec	Dr. Soetomo's Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia



# Be a member of APSS today!

- ❖ Member's Rate for APOA & APSS events i.e. courses, seminars, meetings & forums
- ❖ Opportunity to be part of clinical and travelling fellowships ❖ Chances to observe live surgeries
- ❖ Bi-annual APSS Newsletter ❖ Email Updates from Asian Spine Journal & Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery

## APSS CAMBODIA SPINE COURSE

**17<sup>th</sup> TO 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

National Pediatric Hospital & Children's Surgical Center  
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA



May 16-20

2016

Singapore

**SpineWeek**

[www.spineweek.org](http://www.spineweek.org)

Marina Bay Sands Congress Centre



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## 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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## 2015 APSS Travelling Fellow's Testimonial

**Dr. Kyaw Min** is an experienced Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon from West Yangon General Hospital, Myanmar. He was one of the successful candidates who completed the APSS DePuy Synthes Travelling Fellowship 2015. Here is the excerpt from our interview with him on his stint with his three group members in Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing; Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taipei; and Queen Mary's Hospital, Hong Kong from 18 May to 7 June 2015.

**Q: How did you get to know about APSS fellowship? What was the reason you applied for it?**

*A: While attending the APSS Myanmar Operative Course, Prof Myint Thuang introduced me to APSS and its programmes. I was keen to visit reputable spine centres to observe and acquire new skills, so with Prof Myint Thuang's encouragement and recommendation, I applied and was selected for the fellowship. I still remember that I was so happy on the day I received the offer letter from APSS.*

**Q: What do you like best about the APSS fellowship that you've completed?**

*A: This travelling fellowship provided me a unique lifetime experience. During the fellowship, I learnt procedures that are related to my current practice and potentially useful in the future. There were chances to observe live surgeries including spinal deformity correction, hemi-resection, osteotomy, and many others in Beijing centre. In Taipei centre, I was impressed by the contents of the weekly meetings held whereby there were discussions on the surgical research, cases, latest surgical development. When I was in Hong Kong centre, I had a chance to observe live surgery using MAGEC rod done by Prof Kenneth Cheung. It was a privilege to be able to rub shoulders with international experts from their reputable centres. I also attended many scientific programmes and exchanged knowledge and ideas with other surgeons during the fellowship. During the APSS Combined Congress, I was honoured to present on behalf of my group the wonderful experience of the fellowship. Additionally, I enjoyed the most the narrated surgical demonstrations delivered by international spine experts during the operative video sessions on the last day of the congress. All in all, the friendship that I built with my fellow members in the group and the hosts will be a relationship for a lifetime. It was indeed a rewarding and valuable experience to me. I'd certainly recommend my peers to apply for this fellowship in the coming year.*

