



APSS UMMC Spine Fellowship Report 2025

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Prof. Chee Kidd Chiu



Prof. Dato' Kwan Mun-Keong



Prof. Chris Chan

MENTORS

Fellowship Center:
University of Malaya Medical Centre, KL, Malaysia

Fellowship Duration: 02/12/2025 to 6/12/2025



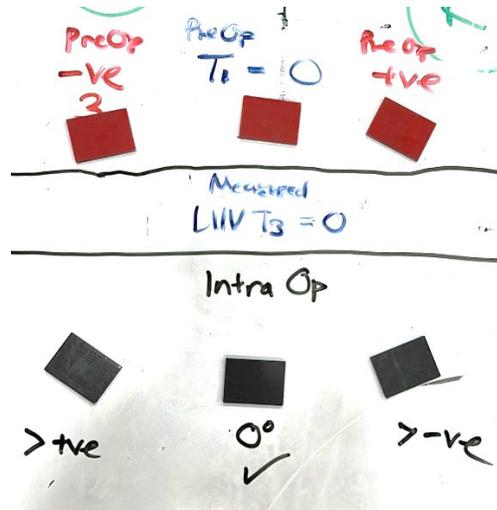
Introduction:

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank the Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS) for the opportunity to participate in this top-tier fellowship program. To make this significant opportunity possible, I therefore wish to do the same for Professor Dato' Kwan Mun-Keong at the University of Malaya Medical Centre, KL, Malaysia. In addition to helping me develop my abilities, this APSS UMMC Fellowship training gave me a rare opportunity to learn about the cutting-edge of global spinal surgery breakthroughs, which significantly expanded my scholarly and professional horizons.

[University Malaya Medical Centre \(UMMC\)](#) is widely recognized as Malaysia's premier teaching hospital and a leading medical institution globally. As the clinical training ground for the Universiti Malaya (UM), which is ranked **#=58 in the world** for 2026 by [QS World University Rankings](#), UMMC's reputation is built on high-impact research, specialized care, and international collaborations. Over 100 researchers from the university are currently recognized among the [Top 2% Scientists in the World](#) by Stanford University

In addition to being a top clinical facility, the University of Malaya Medical Centre is a fantastic location for clinical research, where, under the direction of Professor Dato' Kwan Mun-Keong, the team's significant research papers and high surgical volume further underscore its worldwide importance. I gained a profound understanding of the relationship between clinical practice and academic research through my training with this esteemed team.

The orthopedic surgery department at the hospital focuses on evidence-based decision-making through team consultations before and after operations to address challenges and prevent complications. These meetings enhanced my surgical skills and prepared me well for future clinical work.



Pic: Clinical Discussion between Surgery

Training Schedule:

 UNIVERSITI MALAYA APSS-UMMC CLINICAL ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME 2025 (2nd - 6th DECEMBER 2025) 									
	Monday (01/12)	Tuesday (02/12)	Wednesday (03/12)	Thursday (04/12)	Friday (05/12)	Saturday (06/12)	Sunday (07/12)		
0700-0800	A R R I V A L	Spine Clinical Teaching					D E P A R T U R E		
0800-0900			Preop Planning + Discussions	Spine Clinical Teaching	Long Case Teaching				
0900-1000		OT		OT	OT	*APSS-UMMC Clinical Fellow Lecture Presentation*		OT	
1000-1130						Scoliosis Clinic			
1130-1230						BioApps Brace Visit			
1230-1300						Visitation to UM UMMC/ NOCERAL			
1300-1400		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	
1400-1500		Social Programme at Kuala Selangor	OT	OT	OT	Preop Planning + Discussions		OT	
1500-1600						Fellowship Dinner			Free & Easy
1600-1700									
1700-1800									
1800-1900									
1900-2000									
2000-2100									
2100-2200									

APSS-UMMC Clinical Fellow Lecture Presentation

Dr Ana Rosario	0900-0915
Dr Abdullah Al-Mamun	0915-0930
Dr Guna Pratheep	0930-0945
Dr Chen Chih-Wei	0945-1000

Tuesday: The morning began with a surgery planning conference, followed by two scoliosis surgeries and lunch at a traditional restaurant. Later, we attended a social program in Kuala Selangor, a historic coastal town about 70 km northwest of Kuala Lumpur, known for its natural beauty and heritage.



Fig: Double major Curve (Lenke type 3) Pre 7 post op X Ray with Clinical picture

Wednesday: A conference is scheduled from 8:00 to 9:00 AM to discuss surgical techniques. Following the conference, four scoliosis surgeries are performed throughout the day. Between cases, the team convenes to review and evaluate each procedure.

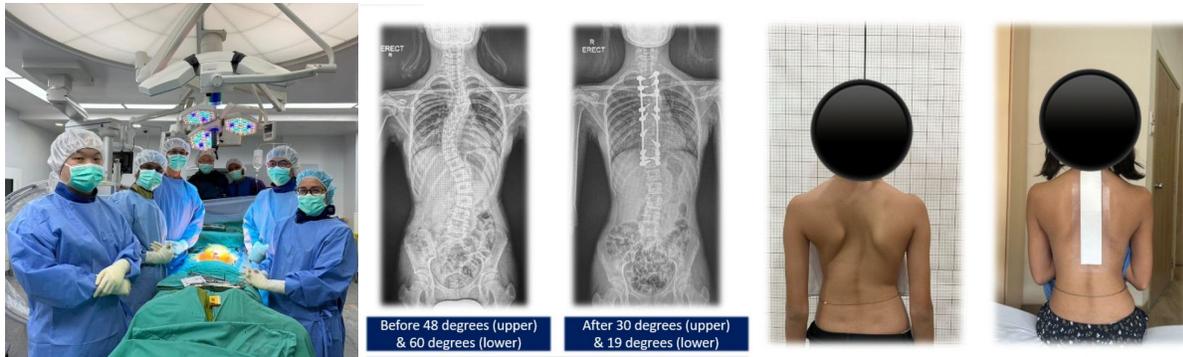


Fig: Congenital Scoliosis (double thoracic Curve pattern): Pre/post x ray & clinical picture

Thursday: The day commenced with a case discussion and a lecture covering topics such as the selection of UIV and LIV for various spinal curves, pelvic obliquity, pedicle screw insertion techniques, among others. We participated in two scoliosis surgeries and concluded the evening with a fellowship dinner.

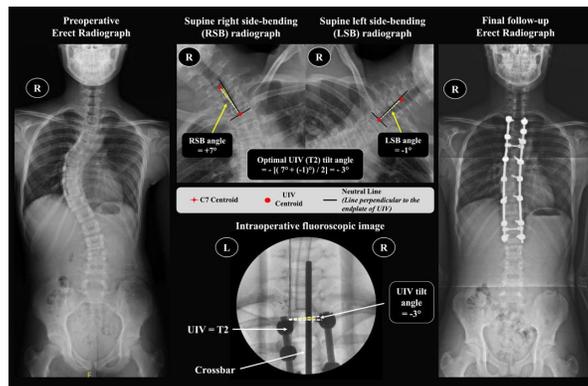


Fig: Measuring UIV tilt and its application during Surgery (Discussion)

Friday commenced with an APSS-UMMC fellow lecture presentation attended by trainee doctors and interns. Each participant delivered a presentation on a designated paper covering various topics. The remainder of the day was unstructured, with no surgical procedures scheduled.

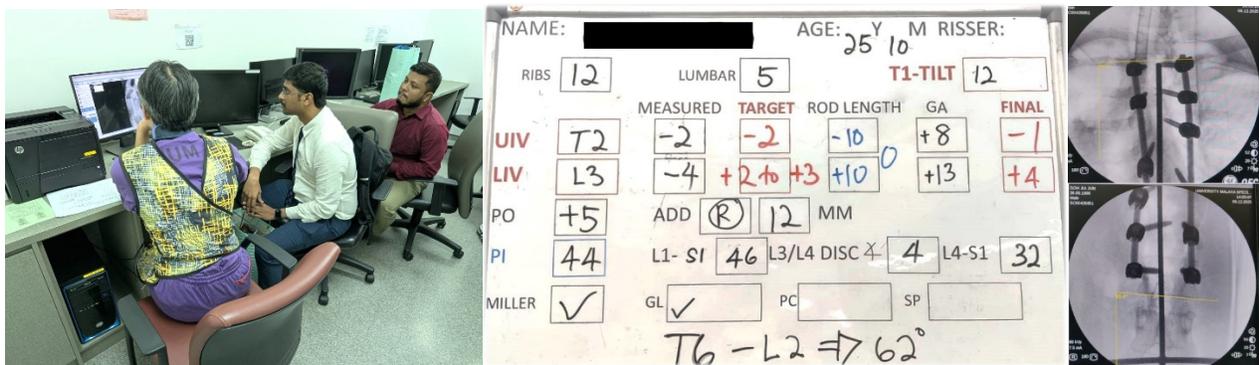


Image: Pre Op measurement (Prof Chee Kidd Chiu), Measurement under GA & Final Execution (The Famous Intra-Operative Crossbar Method)

Saturday was our final working day, during which we attended two additional scoliosis surgeries and discussed various methods and techniques between cases.

Fellowship Experience

My time at UMMC has been rewarding. What I initially saw as a limitation—five days—became an intense crucible of learning. It was a period that compressed years of specialized experience into a focused beam of insight. For this lifetime of lessons packed into a single week, for the unparalleled kindness, and for the new standard of excellence I now carry, I am eternally grateful.

My extreme gratitude goes to my mentors—**Professor Dato' kwan Mun-keong, Professor Chris Chan, Professor Chee Kidd Chiu, and Dr. Satur**—and to the incredible support team of Siti Mariam, Josephine, and Mr. Burger. You have given me one of the best memories of my surgical career, a cherished spirit I will carry as long as I operate.



Image: Unlimited WhatsApp Support by Dato'

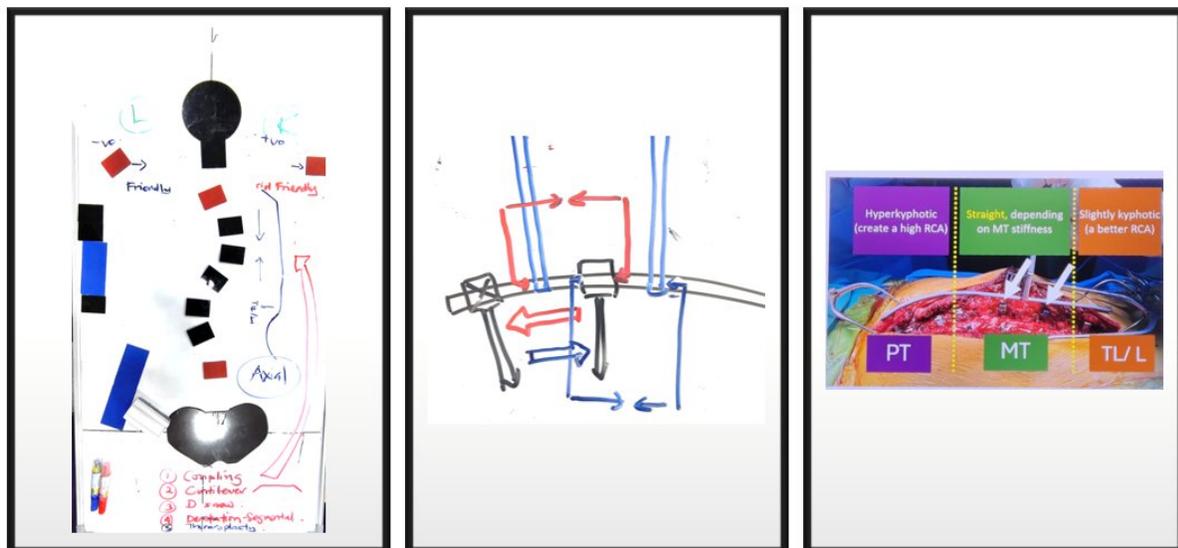


Image: Brain storming During clinical sessions



Image: Per-operative glimpse



**Pic: With my Fellow Colleagues &
THE CROSSBAR**



Pic: With Professor and faculties

Acknowledgment:

I thank the Asia Pacific Spine Society for this great opportunity. I am very grateful to **Professor Dato' Kwan Mun-Keong** and His highly skilled and very generous spine team as the official hosts for this fellowship. Thank you for your kind hospitality and valuable learning experience in spine surgery. Thank you to all the members of the spine division at UMMC. Thank you, everyone, for making my fellowship more enjoyable.



Pic: Certificate of Completion Of my Fellowship

Summary:

In essence, my most unforgettable highlight was a fusion: the shock of witnessing a two-hour scoliosis surgery, performed by harmoniously synchronized experts in a world-class yet deeply welcoming environment. This is a great memory I will cherish and a new benchmark I will carry throughout my career. The specific contrast—between what I expected based on my previous experience and what I witnessed—makes this fellowship uniquely unforgettable for me.



Image: UMMC Premises & Scoliosis clinic

Operative LOGBOOK:

No	Date of operation	Age	Diagnosis	Operation	Status
Case 1	2.12.2025	13	AIS Lenke 1A	PSF T4-L2	Observe
Case 2	2.12.2025	62	CSM C3-5	LMF C3-5	Observe
Case 3	3.12.2025	23	AIS Lenke 3CN	PSF T3-L3	Observe
Case 4	3.12.2025	13	Congenital Scoliosis (T4 Hemi)	PSF T2-T12	Observe
Case 5	3.12.2025	15	AIS Lenke 1AN Flexible	PSF T7-L2	Observe
Case 6	3.12.2025	13	AIS Lenke 1CN Flexible	PSF T3-T12	Observe
Case 7	4.12.2025	25	AdIS Lenke 5C	PSF T5-L4	Observe
Case 8	4.12.2025	12	AIS Lenke 1CN	PSF T3-L3	Observe
Case 9	6.12.2025	15	AIS Lenke 2AN	PSF T2-L2	Observe
Case 10	6.12.2025	25	AIS Lenke 2ARN	PSF T2-L3	Observe
Case 11	6.12.2025	22	AIS Lenke 1C- Stiff	PSF T2-T12	Observe

				Matsuyama	
15	10/06/15	Spinal Tumor	Resection	Dr. Hasegawa	O
16	10/06/25	Degen Scoliosis	LLIF(1 st stage)	Dr. Yoshida	O
17	10/06/25	Degen Scoliosis	Correction and PSF(2 nd stage)	Dr. Yoshida	O
18	12/06/25	Degen Scoliosis	Correction and PSF(2 nd stage)	Dr. Yamato	O
19	12/06/25	LCS	LLIF	Prof. Dr. Matsuyama	
20	12/06/25	Spinal tumor	Resection	Dr. Hasegawa	O
21	12/06/25	LCS	LLIF	Dr. Yoshida	O
22	12/06/25	PIVD	Herniated disc removal	Dr. Shin Oe	O
23	17/06/25	ASD	Decompression and fusion	Dr. Yamato	O
24	17/06/25	Degen Scoliosis	2 nd stage: Correction and PSF	Dr. Yoshida	O
25	17/06/25	IDEM sol	Excision	Dr. Hasegawa	O
26	17/06/25	Osteoporotic Fracture	BKP	Dr. Arima	O