

**In Memory of Prof. Arthur Siew Ming Lim  
(1934 – 2014)**



It is with immense sadness that we share with you that one of the visionary leaders and greatest teachers in ophthalmology, Professor Arthur Siew Ming Lim, passed away peacefully with his loving family at the age of 80 in Singapore on August 30, 2014.

Prof. Lim was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) in 1981. He was the APAO President from 1987 – 1989, and Secretary-General from 1990 – 2005. Under his capable leadership, the APAO had seen substantial development. Prof. Lim was honored with the APAO Jose Rizal Medal in 1983 and selected to present the Holmes Lecture in 1987 and the Susruta Lecture in 1993. In recognition of Prof. Lim's significant contributions to ophthalmology, the Academy established the 'Arthur Lim Award' in 2008 to recognize ophthalmologists who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of ophthalmology and subsequently made substantial improvements in ophthalmic teaching and training in our region.

Prof. Lim was an exemplary leader in ophthalmology with great vision. He was the Founding President of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS). He was also the second Vice President of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI) and a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) and the International Ophthalmic Advisory Board. He served as Congress President of the XXVI International Congress of Ophthalmology in Singapore in 1990, which was attended by more than 8,000 international delegates.

Locally, Prof. Lim was Founding Medical Director of the Singapore National Eye Centre and the Singapore Eye Research Institute, as well as the inaugural Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at the National University Hospital and National University of Singapore. He introduced microsurgical techniques and intraocular lens implantation to Singapore and to the Asia-Pacific region half a century ago. Prof. Lim devoted his career to developing quality eye care, education and research. He was a mentor to many and an icon to eye surgeons all over the world. As a prolific author and researcher, Prof. Lim published over 30 books and more than 300 scientific papers. He was one of the best-known authors in ophthalmology in Asia and his autobiography 'From a Doctor's Diary' was adapted for three one-act plays, collectively known as 'From Freedom to Love'.

Prof. Lim was also well-known for his philanthropic work. His heart went to China in the 1980's in which he led a major movement to control mass cataract blindness. He advocated the use of cataract extraction with intraocular lens implantation to restore patients' sight and founded the International Intraocular Implant Training Centre Tianjin (which subsequently became the Tianjin Medical University Eye Centre), as well as the Xiamen Eye Centre, in 1986 and 1997, respectively. He received the Friendship Award from the Chinese Government in 1996.

Throughout his career, Prof. Lim was bestowed many important honors internationally, including the International President's Medal of Distinction by the Lions Club International, the World Glaucoma Award by World Glaucoma Association (WGA), the Special Recognition Award by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the Golden Apple Award for the Best Clinical Teacher in Asia and the G.O.H. Naumann Award for Leadership in Global Eye Care by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO). As an internationally recognized and respected expert, Prof. Lim's legacy will continue to influence and inspire many younger generations of ophthalmologists to come.

Prof. Lim is survived by his wife Poh Geok, children Richard, Lynette, Michele, and their immediate family members. Our hearts reach out to Prof. Lim's wife and his family at this moment of grief.

Clement CY Tham  
Secretary-General & CEO  
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