



ASIA PACIFIC OPHTHALMIC TRAUMA SOCIETY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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World renowned OPHTHALMOLOGISTS GATHER IN KUALA LUMPUR
TO PROMOTE Prevention and BETTER MANAGEMENT OF EYE
INJURIES:

11th COSC UM- APOTS Ophthalmic Trauma Meeting 2022.

Renowned OPHTHALMOLOGISTS from around the world recently gathered in Kuala Lumpur on the 17th & 18th September 2022 to discuss prevention, education and management of eye and periorbital injuries. The conference was attended by 622 ophthalmologists and allied health care workers over the 2-day conference held at the Connexion Conference & Event Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

The conference saw a large turnout consisting of 544 local and 78 international participants with special interest in the field of ophthalmic trauma. Ophthalmic Trauma comprises of injuries of the eyeball and the adjacent structures such as the eyelids, tear ducts and the eye socket (orbit) and the face. These injuries are not only blinding but disfiguring and cause immense morbidity to the affected individual affecting their productivity & livelihood in addition to immense costs involved in the management, rehabilitation and in most cases significant financial compensation as well.

This meeting, chaired by Professor Dr Hajjah Norlina Ramli (Head of Ophthalmology Department, Universiti Malaya) and Professor Dr Natarajan S. (President of the Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society, APOTS), brought together prominent leaders in ophthalmic trauma from around the globe which included Associate Professor Dr Fasika Woreta (President of the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma, ASOT), Professor Dr Ma ZhiZhong (Chinese representative of the International Society of Ocular Trauma, ISOT), Professor Dr Ashok Grover (President of the Ocular Trauma Society of India, OTSI) and Datuk Dr Hajjah Nor Fariza Ngah (Head of Ophthalmology Services, Ministry of Health of Malaysia). International ophthalmologists attending the conference came from 15 countries, namely India, Singapore, Indonesia, Nepal, United States of America, Australia, Brunei, China, Chile, Turkey, Congo, Bangladesh, Philippines, Iran and South Korea. Trainee and practicing ophthalmologists from both academic institutions and public hospitals across Malaysia participated in the conference as part of their on-going professional development, learning from international leaders in the field.

Jointly organized by the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Malaya and the Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma society (APOTS), the scientific program was put together by Associate Professor Dr Tengku Ain Kamalden and Professor Dr Nurliza Khaliddin from Universiti Malaya along with Associate Professor Dr Rupesh Agrawal, Secretary and Asst

Professor Dr Gangadhara Sundar, Chairman, Scientific Committee, APOTS bringing together experts and leaders from across the world along with national experts from various subspecialties and trainee postgraduates. There were 16 scientific sessions, 3 award lectures, 3 wet-lab sessions and 1 instructional course with a total of 85 faculties, of which 44 were local and 41 were international. The fully booked hands-on training wet lab sessions were attended by 54 participants, and each received close supervision on

techniques of repairing traumatic corneal injuries on donor corneas, and traumatic eyelids on mock models.

A major highlight of the meeting was the recognition of 3 International experts in the field of Ophthalmology, namely Dr Kamala Devi Lingam, Malaysia; Dr Ashok Kumar Grover, India, and Dr Ma Zhizhong, China for their immense contributions to the field of Ophthalmology, Oculoplastic Surgery, Vitreoretinal Surgery and Ophthalmic Trauma.

“An eye injury can have a significant impact on an individual, their family and society as a whole, physically, psychologically and economically,” said, Dr Norlina, Head, Dept of Ophthalmology, University of Malaya, Dr Manoharan Shunmugam, President, Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology (MSO) and Dr Natarajan, President, APOTS ‘and we must look to improve the management and prevention of these injuries to reduce this unnecessary cause of vision loss’.

Another highlight of the conference was a video prepared by the patient and family of Consultant Ophthalmologist and Vitreoretina Subspecialist Dato’ Dr Haslina Mohd Ali who is based in Kedah. “People risk losing their livelihood and impacting their whole life from eye injuries,” Dr Haslina commented ‘the video demonstrates the consequences of my patient’s complete vision loss in both eyes from an injury at work’.

To encourage awareness and interest in ophthalmic trauma among trainees, a trauma-themed quiz was held as the climactic ending to the conference. A total of 33 local and international trainees took part in the exciting and highly anticipated session, which was won by the 3-member ‘Victorem’ team from Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Also, to encourage research in the field of ophthalmic trauma, participants were encouraged to submit their work in the field of ophthalmic trauma to be presented as a free paper or poster.

The conference, a joint initiative of the COSC (Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference) and APOTS (Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society) (<https://cosc-apots2022.com/>) concluded with numerous Malaysian and International Ophthalmologists and Allied Health Professionals joining the Society, pledging to further improve the prompt and accurate diagnosis, with better management with a goal of preventing most of these injuries. The proceedings of the conference are published in the prestigious Malaysian Journal of Ophthalmology (<https://myjo.org/index.php/myjo/issue/view/18/21>).

The MSO is calling for “improved management of eye injuries, as well as legislation and policies to support eye injury prevention and enforcement in Malaysia, thus reducing morbidity and socioeconomic and psychological burden on the individual, families and the society.” The Malaysian Journal of Ophthalmology is an official journal of the Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology.