

## In Memory of Professor Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu (1945-2024)



The Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) mourns the loss of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu, our former Regional Secretary for Mongolia and a pioneering eye surgeon who has inspired us all with her innovations and enthusiasm.

An unrelenting trailblazer, Prof. Baasankhuu's career was marked by numerous firsts in Mongolia. She performed the country's first IOL implantation in 1983, first phacoemulsification surgery in 1997, and first LASIK procedure in 2005. She also introduced various glaucoma surgeries into Mongolia, such as trabeculectomy, deep sclerectomy, scleranguloreconstruction (SAR), argon, and various glaucoma laser treatments, significantly advancing ophthalmic care in her homeland.

As Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine of the Health Sciences University, she established a 3-year residency program in 1997, enriching professional ophthalmic training in Mongolia. In 2001, she founded the Bolor Melmii Eye Hospital and served as its General Director.

Her influence extended globally through her work with ORBIS International, with which she visited 9 countries in Southeast Asia to conduct lens implantation and glaucoma surgeries for patients in need. With research interests in glaucoma, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and climatic keratopathy, she had published and presented over 80 papers in various national and international journals and meetings throughout her academic life.

Prof. Baasankhuu was a devoted member of APAO. From 2009 to 2017, she served as our Regional Secretary representing Mongolia. In recognition of her outstanding work, APAO honored her with the prestigious Holmes

Lecture in 2014, the highest award for exceptional contributions to preventive ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to that, she received the Distinguished Service Award in 2011 for her unwavering efforts in enhancing ophthalmic care.

On July 1, 2024, Prof. Baasankhuu passed away peacefully at the age of 79, after a battle with kidney cancer. She leaves a legacy of excellence and dedication that has profoundly impacted our field and touched the lives of countless individuals. We extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. May her undaunted pursuit of excellence continue to guide us all.



“Prof. Baasankhuu worked tirelessly to promote professional exchanges among ophthalmologists from different countries during her tenure as the Regional Secretary for Mongolia of APAO. We are indebted to her for her selfless commitment and immense contributions towards APAO.

On a more personal level, I have had the great pleasure and privilege to visit Prof. Baasankhuu and her hospital in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia on 3 occasions, in 2012, 2018, and then 2019. During our APAO Satellite Congress in Ulaanbaatar in 2019, my family came along to Ulaanbaatar too, and we had the great pleasure of enjoying Prof. Baasankhuu’s hospitality during our stay. Prof. Baasankhuu showed us around Ulaanbaatar and the surrounding region, and we had a most joyous and memorable summer there.

We will all miss Prof. Baasankhuu. May she rest in peace.”

*Clement C THAM*  
Secretary-General & CEO, APAO

“My heartfelt condolences.”

*Taraprasad DAS  
Vice-President, APAO*

“This is a real loss to the ophthalmic community in Mongolia, and APAC at large! She’s a visionary leader with all her heart and mind for patients and the profession at large. She must be resting in peace and grace in heaven now. Her spirit will always be with us. God bless!”

*Dennis LAM  
Immediate Past Secretary-General, APAO*

“On behalf of the Indonesian Ophthalmologists Association, our deep condolences for the passing of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu.”

*Mohamad SIDIK  
APAO 2024 Congress President*

“The Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan offers its heartfelt condolences for Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu from Mongolia.”

*Muhammad MOIN  
Regional Secretary for Pakistan, APAO*

“On behalf of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society, we extend our deepest condolences to the family of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu.

May her soul rest in peace.”

*Ke YAO  
Regional Secretary for China, APAO*

“The ophthalmological fraternity from Nepal extends our heartfelt condolences for Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu from Mongolia.”

*Rohit SAIJU  
Regional Secretary for Nepal, APAO*

“On behalf of the Ophthalmological Society of Chinese Taipei, we would like to express our deepest condolences to their family and friends.”

*An-Guor WANG  
Regional Secretary for Chinese Taipei, APAO*

“It is with deep sorrow that we reflect on the passing of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu, our esteemed former Regional Secretary for Mongolia. Her legacy in ophthalmology and her pioneering spirit have left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to know her.

I remember Prof. Baasankhuu not only for her groundbreaking achievements in Mongolian ophthalmology but also for her warmth and unwavering dedication to our profession. Her contributions, from the first IOL implantation to her impactful work with ORBIS International, exemplified her commitment to improving eye care globally.

During her tenure as Regional Secretary from 2009 to 2017, she guided us with wisdom and passion, earning well-deserved accolades such as the Distinguished Service Award and the Holmes Lecture. Beyond her professional accomplishments, she was a mentor and a friend to many, always willing to share her knowledge and support.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside Prof. Baasankhuu, witnessing firsthand her leadership and compassion. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will continue to inspire us.

Please join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Prof. Baasankhuu's family during this difficult time. Let us honor her legacy by sharing our cherished memories and stories, which will be a testament to the profound impact she had on our lives and the field of ophthalmology.”

*I-Jong WANG  
President, The Ophthalmological Society of Chinese Taipei*

“The Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand expresses its heartfelt condolences for Professor Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu.”

*Wanicha CHUENKONGKAEW  
President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand*

“On behalf of the Afghanistan Society of Ophthalmology, I would like to express my deepest condolences to their family and friends.”

*Sayed Shahpoor SADAT  
President, Afghanistan Society of Ophthalmology*

“Sorry to hear this sad news. It is a big loss to ophthalmology. On behalf of the Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society, we convey our heartfelt condolences to the family.”

*S. NATARAJAN  
President, Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society*

“Indeed it is sad to hear about the passing of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu. Indeed she has been a great stalwart in ophthalmology and in glaucoma in Mongolia. She served as a Board member of Asia Pacific Glaucoma Society (APGS) and Asian Angle Closure Glaucoma Club (AACGC) and hosted numerous glaucoma conferences in Ulaanbaatar. On behalf of APGS and AACGC, please convey our deepest and heartfelt condolences to her family.

Her contributions to ophthalmology and especially glaucoma will be greatly missed.”

*Seng Kheong FANG  
Subspecialty Society Representative for Asia-Pacific Glaucoma Society, APAO*

“On behalf of the Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (APSOPRS), we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu. May her soul rest in peace.”

*Reynaldo JAVATE  
Subspecialty Society Representative for  
Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, APAO*

“Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu is a very lovely person. We all witnessed this ourselves in the APAO Council Meetings throughout the years. She was a strong voice for Mongolian ophthalmologists and APAO. This is a great loss for all of us.

May Prof. Jamiyanjav Baasankhuu rest in peace. We will remember her.”

*Paisan RUAMVIBOONSUK  
Councilor-at-Large, APAO*

“I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Professor Baasankhuu. I met her multiple times in Mongolia, at the APAO meetings and also at the Korat Course run by Professor Konyama. She was a wonderful warm woman, a great leader, and always fun to meet with. She really pioneered the changes to bring modern ophthalmology to Mongolia. Her contributions and her memory will live on, but we are very sorry that she has passed.”

*Hugh TAYLOR  
Councilor-at-Large, APAO*