

Biography of. Dr Paisan Ruamviboonsuk, APAO Vice-President (2025-27)



Paisan
RUAMVIBOONSUK
MD
Thailand

Dr. Ruamviboonsuk Ruamviboonsuk plays an important role in broadening ophthalmic care from tertiary to primary, bringing up young ophthalmologists to successful growth, and bridging between Asia-Pacific and global ophthalmologists to promote global eye care.

After finishing his vitreo-retinal fellowship training at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center in New York in 1995, Dr. Ruamviboonsuk went back to improve ophthalmology in Thailand. Learning that diabetic retinopathy (DR) was the second leading cause of blindness in the country in the late 1990s, he studied the application of digital retinal photographs, just recently available then, to screening this condition in rural areas since the early 2000s. His project on training nationwide mid-level health personnel to detect sight-threatening DR from photographs was recognized and awarded by the United Nations in 2012, and became a national program endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. The program has recently been improved further with the integration with artificial intelligence. His lifelong dedication to development of this project to improve primary care in Thailand earned him the Sasakawa Health Prize from the WHO in 2023.

For APAO, Dr. Ruamviboonsuk was a graduate in the first APAO LDP Class in 2010. He was then elected the President of the Thai Retina Society and the President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand and hosted the 10th APVRS Congress in 2010 and the 34th APAO Congress in 2019 as the Congress President. Both congresses were very successful, particularly the 34th APAO Congress; it was one of the most successful APAO Congresses in terms of hosting, number of attendees, scientific programs quality, and income. Nowadays, Dr. Ruamviboonsuk contributes to nurture and support young ophthalmologists in activities, such as Academy of Asia-Pacific Professors of Ophthalmology (AAPPO) Academic Mentorship Development Scheme (ADMS), APVRS LDP, and APAO LDP. He is also a member in the APAO Congress Standing Committee, and the APAO AI and Digital Innovation Committee.

For global ophthalmology, Dr. Ruamviboonsuk travels regularly to speak in variety of international congresses, such as AAO Global Summits, EURETINA, and the Precision

Medicine Without Border symposium hosted by Harvard Medical School, bridging a connection between not only Asia-Pacific and worldwide ophthalmologists but also ophthalmologists and worldwide non-ophthalmologist physicians and researchers. He is currently an International Trustee-at-large on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustee and wishes to contribute to the collaboration between AAO and APAO to further improve global eye care.

(Last updated February 17, 2025)