

In Memory of Prof. Mark O. M. Tso

(1936 – 2025)



With deepest sorrow, we share the sad news of the passing of Prof. Mark O.M. Tso, former Treasurer of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), who is best remembered for his lifelong dedication to ophthalmic education.

Prof. Tso left his footprint worldwide by teaching ophthalmology across five continents. In 1994, he relocated from the United States to Hong Kong, becoming the Founding Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Clinical Professor at his alma mater, the University of Hong Kong, and Chief of Service at the Hong Kong Eye Hospital. As an entrepreneurial leader, he raised funds in 1999 to establish the Peking University Eye Center in Beijing, China, where he served as Founding Director and Professor of Ophthalmology until 2010.

Inspired by his mentor, Prof. Lorenz E. Zimmerman, Prof. Tso's pedagogical philosophy was to teach ophthalmic pathology as the scientific basis of the art of clinical ophthalmic practice. Beyond training medical students and supervising postgraduate candidates at universities, he embarked on numerous teaching tours in Southeast Asia, passionately promoting ophthalmic subspecialty education. He served on the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) as its Vice President from 1998 to 2006, and subsequently as Director for Education until 2012. In honor of his commitment to nurturing the next generation of eye doctors, the ICO established the Mark Tso Golden Apple Award in 2006 to recognize ophthalmologists who exemplify innovation and leadership in regional training and education.

At APAO, Prof. Tso was an active member, serving as our Treasurer from 1997 to 2005, and later an Advisor to the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee. Among the many APAO congresses he participated in, his contributions to the 2015 congress in Guangzhou, China, as a Scientific Program Committee Member were particularly noteworthy. For his distinguished work in our field, he was honored with the De Ocampo Lecture, the Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award, and his namesake ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award in 1995, 2001, and 2012, respectively.

On May 24, 2025, Prof. Tso passed away peacefully in Baltimore, Maryland, the United States, at the age of 88. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time. His legacy in ophthalmic education will continue to impact many generations of ophthalmologists to come.

On behalf of APAO, I would like to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Professor Mark O.M. Tso.

Prof. Tso was a legendary figure in ophthalmology whose lifelong dedication to education, leadership, and mentorship profoundly shaped the field. He was the founding Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the founding Director of the Peking University Eye Center. Globally, he educated generations of ophthalmologists across five continents and served with distinction as Vice President and later Director for Education of ICO.

Within APAO, Prof. Tso played a vital role as Treasurer from 1997 to 2005 and continued to support the community as an Advisor to the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee. He was honored with the De Ocampo Lecture, the Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award, and the ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award, which bears his name and continues to inspire excellence in ophthalmic education.

We are deeply grateful for Prof. Tso's visits to Japan, where he generously shared his knowledge and wisdom. His legacy lives on through the many doctors he mentored and the global initiatives he championed.

May his soul rest in peace. Our thoughts are with his family during this time of great loss.

Tetsuro OSHIKA
President, APAO



Prof. Mark Tso (second left in the standing row), Founding Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), alongside the three subsequent CUHK Chairmen of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, on stage at the Opening Ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Glaucoma Congress in Hong Kong in 2014.

It is with profound sorrow to share the sad news that our former APAO Treasurer, Prof. Mark Tso, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2025, at the age of 88.

As an active member of the APAO community, Prof. Tso was our Treasurer from 1997 to 2005, and later an Advisor to our Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee. For his distinguished accomplishments in our field, he was honored with the APAO De Ocampo Lecture, the Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award, and his namesake ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award at our APAO congresses in 1995, 2001, and 2012, respectively.

May Prof. Tso rest in peace, and let us express our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

With deepest sorrow & sympathy,

*Clement THAM
Secretary-General, APAO*

A legend is gone.

I worked with him in 1989 while he was in Chicago.

A great scientist. A compassionate human being. A forward-thinking administrator.

His legacy would continue through the Chinese University of Hong Kong and his numerous students.

His [ARVO 1989 Friedenwald Lecture](#) demonstrates his scientific curiosity and foresight.

Om Shanti.

*Taraprasad DAS
President-Elect, APAO*

Very sad to hear of Mark Tso passing.

*David MACKEY
Vice-President, APAO*

I express my deepest condolences for the passing of Prof. Mark Tso, another giant of APAO. May his soul rest in peace.

Best regards,

*Paisan RUAMVIBOONSUK
Vice-President, APAO*

My deepest condolences for the passing away of Prof. Tso. It is a great loss to the ophthalmic fraternity,

May he rest in peace.

Best Regards,

*Namrata SHARMA
Treasurer, APAO*

This is sad news.

The ophthalmic community is fortunate to have benefited and flourished under his care and wide and enduring influence.

Our sincerest condolences to the family.

Kind regards,

*Andrew CHANG
Deputy Secretary-General, APAO*

So saddened to hear the shocking news of the passing of Prof Mark O.M Tso. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to his family. He is a great leader, mentor and dedicated ophthalmic educator. Praying to rest his departed soul in peace.

Best Regards,

*Ava HOSSAIN
Immediate Past President, APAO*

On behalf of the Indonesian Ophthalmologists Association, please receive our deep condolences for the passing of Prof. Mark Tso.

May he rest peacefully.

Mohamad SIDIK
APAO 2024 Congress President

RIP Professor Tso!

The world will remember you.

Lalit VERMA
APAO 2025 Congress President

On behalf of SNEC and SERI, I would like to express my deepest condolences on Prof. Mark Tso's passing.

He was a highly respected member of our ophthalmology community who made many contributions to the field and helped train many doctors from Asia Pacific.

May he rest in peace.

Tin AUNG
APAO 2027 Congress President

I am deeply saddened to hear the passing of Prof Mark Tao. I express my deepest condolences.

May he rest in peace.

Sharfuddin AHMED
Regional Secretary for Bangladesh, APAO

On behalf of Cambodia Ophthalmological Society and myself I would like to express my deep condolences to the family of Prof. Mark Tso and may his soul rest in peace.

Do SEIHA
Regional Secretary for Cambodia, APAO

I express my deepest condolences for the passing of Prof. Mark Tso, the great teacher in APAO. May his soul rest in peace.

Kind regards,

An-Guor WANG
Regional Secretary for Chinese Taipei, APAO

I express my deepest condolences on Prof. Tso's passing.

He visited us in Japan several times and generously shared his insights.

May his soul rest in peace.

All my best,

Koh-Hei SONODA
Regional Secretary for Japan, APAO

I deeply regret the loss of such a bright, kind person who did so much in the field of ophthalmology.

Please accept our condolences.

Bulgan TUVAAAN
Regional Secretary for Mongolia, APAO

It's really a sad news to all of us about the demise of Prof. Mark Tso. Let his soul rest in peace.

Rohit SAIJU
Regional Secretary for Nepal, APAO

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Mark O.M. Tso. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

Prof. Tso was an extraordinary educator and leader whose contributions to ophthalmology have left a lasting legacy across the world. His passion for teaching, his pioneering spirit, and his tireless dedication to improving eye care will continue to inspire generations to come.

He touched many lives through his mentorship, leadership, and friendship. We join you in mourning his loss and honoring his remarkable life.

Muhammad MOIN
Regional Secretary for Pakistan, APAO

On behalf of all the members of all the members of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka I extend my condolences of the demise of such a dedicated member of APAO and other academic societies who serve lifelong.

May his soul rest in peace.

Lalitha SENARATH
Regional Secretary for Sri Lanka, APAO

It is with profound sorrow that I came across the news of the passing of our former Treasurer, Prof. Mark Tso, who departed peacefully on May 24, 2025, at the age of 88.

S NATARAJAN
Subspecialty Society Representative for
Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society, APAO

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (APSOPRS), we wish to convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Prof. Mark Tso. We will always remember him for his dedication to ophthalmic education and outstanding contributions to ophthalmology.

May his soul rest in peace.

Warmest regards,

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

I am sorry to hear of this loss. He was a great clinician - scientist and a visionary leader and worked relentlessly for the advancement of ophthalmology in the Asia - Pacific region.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Gullapalli Nag RAO
Councilor-at-Large, APAO*

Many have written of their memories of Mak Tso, such a great leader and innovator. I first met him visiting the Wilmer Institute. I met him several times in Hong Kong and was thrilled to attend the opening of the Eye Centre in Beijing.

I had great pleasure working with him when we were both on the International Council of Ophthalmology in the old days and then thrilled when his Golden Apple became a regional educational award.

What a legacy he left and how much we remember his contributions.

Best wishes,

*Hugh TAYLOR
Councilor-at-Large, APAO*

Passing of a true legend.

Prof. Mark Tso was a towering presence, and he will be sorely missed.

My condolences.

*Ashok GROVER
Councilor-at-Large, APAO*

Mark made a great contribution to ophthalmology not only in the Asia Pacific region but also internationally.

I first met Mark in Baltimore in late 1971 when I took the Pathology course run by Prof. Zimmerman. Mark was an instructor on the course. Moya and I stayed friends with him and Patrina. We unfortunately lost contact a few years ago.

During the course there were evening sessions that were optional. These were run by Mark. We reviewed many pathology slides.

Regards,

*Frank MARTIN
Advisory Standing Committee Chair, APAO
Constitution & Bylaws Standing Committee Chair, APAO*

Deepest condolences - it is very sad news for the field.

Growing up from the residency times, he has been a strong advocate for ophthalmic education.

Please convey our condolences to Prof Tso's family.

*Daniel TING
AI & Digital Innovation Standing Committee Chair, APAO*

He was a leader in ophthalmic education, a thorough gentleman and has made a great and lasting impact on ophthalmology.

*Nitin VERMA
Gateway Project Standing Committee Chair, APAO*

On behalf of the All India Ophthalmological Society our deep condolences to the bereaved family of Prof Mark Tso.

We lost a dedicated ophthalmic leader who devoted his life to uplifting ophthalmology for the future generations.

With deep respect,

Partha BISWAS
President, All India Ophthalmological Society

This is indeed sad news of the passing of Ophthalmology Great.

On behalf of the Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan, I offer my heartfelt condolences.

P Salim MAHAR
President, Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan

A great loss of a true giant of ophthalmology.

He was a great leader.

I was fortunate to attend the meeting in Hong Kong that celebrated Professor Tso's appointment and truly honoured to be a recipient of the Golden Apple award.

Peter MCCLUSKEY
President, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

On behalf of The Ophthalmological Society of Chinese Taipei and in my capacity as President, I wish to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Prof. Mark O.M. Tso.

Prof. Tso was a towering figure in ophthalmology whose contributions to our profession—particularly in education and international collaboration—have left an indelible legacy. From his groundbreaking leadership as the Founding Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong to his visionary efforts in establishing the Peking University Eye Center, Prof. Tso exemplified excellence and selfless dedication.

Many of us were fortunate to learn from him directly or indirectly. His influence reached five continents, nurturing a generation of eye doctors and inspiring countless others. We remember him not only for his numerous accolades—including the De Ocampo Lecture, the Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award, and the ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award—but also for the warmth, generosity, and passion he brought to every endeavor.

He was a role model to many in our society and a cherished friend. We are truly grateful for the legacy he leaves behind.

May Prof. Tso rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and the entire APAO community during this time of mourning.

With deepest sympathy,

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

Please accept our deepest condolences on behalf of all of us at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital.

Prof. Tso has been towering figure in ophthalmology in our part of the world, and it is huge loss to our community.

Virender SANGWAN
President, Asia Cornea Society

Truly a great loss and passing of legend in our field and in humanity at large. His academic, leadership and mentorship contributions with enduring legacy of having trained numerous ophthalmologists and researchers leave the world a much better place. His global footprint over the decades is an act to be emulated by our current and rising physician leaders.

May his soul rest in peace, condolences to his family and may he continue to inspire us all.

*Gangadhara SUNDAR
President, Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society*

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (APSOPRS), we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Prof. Mark Tso.

Prof. Tso's remarkable legacy in ophthalmology, education, and leadership has left an indelible mark not only across the Asia-Pacific region but globally. His pioneering contributions as the founding Chair at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Director of the Peking University Eye Center have greatly advanced ophthalmic care and education in our region. His role in the International Council of Ophthalmology and in shaping the ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award speaks volumes of his commitment to excellence and mentorship.

We are very much saddened by this loss.

Prof. Tso will be remembered with great respect and admiration by the entire APSOPRS community.

His passion for teaching and dedication to our field continue to inspire generations of ophthalmologists.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

With heartfelt sympathy,

*Kasturi BHATTACHARJEE
President, Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*

I am sorry to hear a great loss for us, all ophthalmologists. I would like to express my deepest condolences to his family.

May Prof. Tso rest in peace.

Sincerely,

*Hiroko TERASAKI
President, Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society*