



## ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

formerly known as Association of Pediatric Societies of the SouthEast Asian Region (APSSEAR)

### HONORARY PRESIDENT:

- Dr. Chok-wan Chan - Hong Kong
- Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim - Malaysia

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- **President:**  
Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon - Pakistan
- **Immediate Past President:**  
Dr. Aman Bakhti Pulungan - Indonesia
- **Secretary General:**  
Dr. Zulkifli Ismail - Malaysia
- **President-Elect:**  
Dr. Joselyn Eusebio - Philippines
- **Treasurer:**  
Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam - Malaysia

### STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **Oceania Region**  
Dr. Nitin Kapur - Australia
- **East Asia Region**  
Dr. Sun Kun - China  
Dr. Wong Hiu Lei, Lilian - Hong Kong
- **South Asia**  
Dr. Binod Bajracharya - Nepal  
Dr. Manzoor Hussain - Bangladesh
- **South East Asia**  
Dr. Daniel YT Goh - Singapore  
Dr. Joselyn Eusebio - Philippines
- **APPA e-Journal**  
Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Sultan - Pakistan  
(Co-opted member as Editor-in-Chief of Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health-APJPCH)

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Fairos Nazri - Malaysia

### ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATOR

Che Surina Sulaiman - Malaysia

### SECRETARIAT ADDRESS:

Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)  
Unit 16-02, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Menara Arina Uniti  
97, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz  
50300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Email: appa.kl.secretariat@gmail.com  
Website: www.a-p-p-a.org

### AFFILIATED TO:

International Pediatric Association (IPA)

### PRINTED BY:

Suria Time Enterprise  
No 32, Jalan Tembaga SD5/2H  
Sri Damansara Industrial Park  
52200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: 6011-3322 8830  
Fax: 603-6730 9062  
E-mail: suriatime@yahoo.com

Volume 90

JANUARY - APRIL 2024

No. 80



18<sup>th</sup> APCP 2024

## Countdown to the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics in Cebu City, Philippines: Latest Updates and Preparations Unveiled

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

apcp2024.org

**18th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics**

Redesigning the Horizon of Pediatric Healthcare in the Asia Pacific

**NOVEMBER 14-17, 2024**  
**WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL**

Cebu, Philippines

As the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) draws nearer, the organizing committee is meticulously planning to create memorable scientific, cultural and social experiences for foreign and local delegates. Here are concise updates on the preparations for the Congress in Cebu City, Philippines on November 14 to 17, 2024.

### Scientific Program Highlights:

The scientific program of the convention was meticulously crafted to feature the latest

advancements, best practices and emerging trends in pediatrics. It features the combined contributions of Filipino and around 30 international experts from across the Asia Pacific region. This collaborative effort ensures an excellent opportunity for learning and exchange of ideas for all participants in the congress.

**A. Regular Pre-Congress Modules:** The Congress will feature 8 Regular Pre-Congress Modules on neurology, developmental

*continued on page 3 ...*



## APPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The first three months of the year have flashed by quite rapidly with many celebratory events (new year, Chinese New Year, Navroz etc) as well as celebration of almost all religions of the world.

There had been some natural disasters in our region that had occurred in Indonesia, India and Taiwan, and necessary humanitarian aid to all affected population including that for children were delivered and or is being delivered.

However, the world is sadly watching a most savage and inhumane acts of murders of children & women / lactating cum pregnant mothers and destruction of survival necessities like shelter, essential of life such as water, food, medicine and other most basic needs in Palestine.

All this leads to additional slow death from hunger and disease. The worst part is that this genocide continues unabated despite ever growing condemnation by the world.

UN resolutions and ICJ judgements demanding immediate ceasefire as well as provision of all humanitarian support without delay have fallen on 'deaf ears' of perpetrators of genocide in the name of "self defence".

Neither any kind of protection has been forthcoming, nor any aid is reaching a huge, most vulnerable population in "open air prison". Children's advocates were only been able to write letters but all are thrown in the dustbins. I know that so many of us are saddened and disturbed with regard to this issue.

### 18<sup>th</sup> APCP 2024

Our next Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (18<sup>th</sup> APCP) in Cebu, Philippines from November 14-17, 2024 is fast approaching and the organizing team under the leadership of Chair, Dr. Joselyn Eusebio is making it special with the celebration of APPSEAR/APPA's Golden Jubilee.

APPA was formerly known as Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APPSEAR) and was established on April 28, 1974.

Let us make APPA a vibrant Association by holding an APPA symposium in every member country's national event and send report with photos to the APPA office so that it could be published in the APPA Bulletin (newsletter). It could also be disseminated through email and social media.

The cost of such addition can be offset, if necessary by the use of AI resources. In this regard two APPA members have taken the lead, namely Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians and Pakistan Pediatric Association. I request all to follow the lead.

A sub regional group named South Asia Pediatric Association (SAPA) is holding its 1<sup>st</sup> Scientific congress on June 24, 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We look forward to see its report, photos and recommendations in our newsletter and website as well.

I end this note with prayers that every help and support should be forthcoming, without delay, an urgent ceasefire in Palestine, avoid further deaths, prevent diseases with maximum protection to the children. Ameen.

**Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon**  
**President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)**



## INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EVENTS

### NOTE:

These paediatric events are for information purposes and does not constitute any endorsements from the APPA Secretariat.

### AUSTRALIA

**The Annual Congress of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) 2024**

**Date:** May 16-17, 2024

**Venue:** International Convention Centre (ICC), Sydney, Australia

**Website:** [www.racp.edu.au](http://www.racp.edu.au)

### MALAYSIA

**7<sup>th</sup> Asia Dengue Summit 2024**

**Theme:** "Towards Zero Dengue Deaths: Innovation, Collaboration, Action in Asia"

**Date:** June 5-7, 2024

**Pre-Summit Workshop:** June 4, 2024

**Venue:** Double Tree by Hilton Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Website:** [www.asiadenguesummit.org](http://www.asiadenguesummit.org) / [www.adva.asia](http://www.adva.asia)

**Malaysian Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (MySPGHAN) Biennial Scientific Congress 2024**

**Date:** June 27-29, 2024

**Venue:** Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Email:** [secretariat@MySPGHAN.org.my](mailto:secretariat@MySPGHAN.org.my) **Register:** <https://myspghan.org/my/>

**Asia Pacific Neurocritical Care Conference**

**Theme:** "Strength Through Diversity"

**Date:** June 28-30, 2024

**Venue:** Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia

**Website:** [neuro-criticalcare.org](http://neuro-criticalcare.org) **Email:** [info@neuro-critical.org](mailto:info@neuro-critical.org)

### INDONESIA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Echocardiography Course on Congenital Heart Disease**

**Date:** July 5-7, 2024

**Venue:** Bandung, Indonesia

**Website:** [asiapacificchocardiographycourse.com](http://asiapacificchocardiographycourse.com)

**Contact Person:** Wulan (+62 821 2040 5228), Ella (+62 812 2144 5857)

### MALAYSIA

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of The Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) & 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of The Malaysian Association of Paediatric Surgery, In Conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of The ASEAN Society of Pediatric Surgery**

**Theme:** Different Perspectives, One United Vision

**Date:** September 26-28, 2024

**Venue:** Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

**Email:** [secretariat@asps2024.org](mailto:secretariat@asps2024.org) **Website:** [www.asps2024.org](http://www.asps2024.org)

### PHILIPPINES

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (18<sup>th</sup> APCP)**

**Theme:** "Redesigning the Horizon of Pediatric Healthcare in the Asia Pacific"

**Date:** November 14-17, 2024

**Venue:** Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu, Philippines

**Email:** <http://apcp2024.org>

**For more information, please contact:** [secretariat@apcp2024.org](mailto:secretariat@apcp2024.org)

2  
0  
2  
4



... continued from page 1

pediatrics, neonatology, allergology, hematology, pulmonology, nephrology and cardiology. Each module is designed to provide comprehensive updates on the innovations, advances and guidelines in these subspecialties and their applications in general pediatric practice.

**B. Special Pre-Congress Vaccinology Masterclass:** In recognition of the importance of vaccination in pediatrics, a Special Pre-Congress Vaccinology Masterclass will be conducted by Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific (IPAP). International experts will lead discussions and provide updates on vaccine development, immunization strategies, vaccine safety, surveillance, pandemic preparedness, new vaccines, and other important topics that will provide an in-depth knowledge and understanding of this critical aspect of pediatric healthcare.

**C. Plenary Lectures:** The Congress features 10 plenary lectures with focus on topics vital to pediatricians in the Asia Pacific region. Distinguished regional experts will discuss updates and perspectives on Infectious Diseases, Social Pediatrics, Preventive Pediatrics, Environmental Pediatrics, Nutrition and Food Security, Research and Public Health in Pediatrics, Digital Health, and Building Resilience in Pediatric Healthcare with the goal of capacitating delegates and enhancing their clinical practices.

**D. Simultaneous Sessions:** Afternoon simultaneous sessions focusing on pediatric subspecialty topics with applications on general pediatric practice will provide attendees with opportunities to delve into their specific areas of interest. These sessions will cover the entire spectrum of pediatric subspecialties and are designed to provide the general pediatricians with the knowledge and skills to provide optimal patient care and outcomes.

**Preparation for Social and Cultural Activities:**  
In collaboration with the Cebu City local government and the Central Visayas Chapter of the Philippine Pediatric Society, preparations for social and cultural activities are in full swing

to complement the academic sessions with experiences showcasing the heritage and hospitality of Cebu City and the Philippines. From tours to historical landmarks and traditional performances to native delicacies, every effort is being made to create a cultural and social program that will leave a lasting impression on both local and foreign delegates. The organizing committee aims to blend academic excellence and cultural immersion to create an international congress experience that will foster lifelong friendships and collaboration among the participants.

**Congress Website, Online Registration, and Abstract Submission are Now Open:**

The official website, <https://apcp2024.org>, is now live and serves as the virtual gateway to the Congress. The website contains essential information and resources for prospective attendees including details on the scientific program, registration guidelines and travel essentials. Delegates can now register and pay online for both the Pre-Congress Modules and the main Congress. Likewise, the website is already accepting abstracts for possible presentation during the Congress. Information on hotel accommodations and the social events will soon be available.



**ONLINE REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS OF PEDIATRICS!**

*Please register and visit the congress website at <https://apcp2024.org> or scan the QR code*

**The organizing committee is committed to deliver a worldclass congress experience. Cebu City awaits you to an unforgettable 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics on November 14 to 17, 2024!**





# Child Rights Committee (CRC) Statement on Children in Gaza, Palestine



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

### Delivered by

### Ann Skelton, Chair of the Committee

At the Child Rights Committee (CRC) press conference on February 8, 2024.

No child should grow up in fear, pain and hunger.

Yet, today, no child in Gaza is free from fear, pain and hunger.

In fact, they will be considered lucky if they can even survive this war and have the chance to grow up.

According to the latest UN figures, 27,585 Palestinians have been killed and 66,978 injured since the 7<sup>th</sup> of October last year. More than 7,000 are estimated to be buried under rubble, raising the total number of casualties to more than 100,000 people.

Many of them are children.

Some of them have lost their lives, others have lost their limbs, their parents, siblings, and friends. All children living in the Gaza Strip have lost their childhood. They are traumatized, and will forever live with a permanent impact on their mental health.

More than ten children per day, on average, have lost one or both legs in Gaza since the conflict erupted four months ago, according to Save the Children. UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, estimates that at least 17,000 children are unaccompanied or separated from their parents, and almost all of Gaza's 1.2 million children are in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

These children also need attention and action from the international community.

The ruling of the International Court of Justice on January 26, 2024 found that South Africa's claim that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza to be "plausible," and ordered Israel to "take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of article II of the Convention", including killing members of the group; to "prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide"; and to "enable the provision of... humanitarian assistance".

### Appeal for immediate ceasefire

The Committee - again - urgently appeals for an immediate ceasefire, the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid and the immediate release of all hostages, in particular children and their caregivers. In this regard, we echo the "grave concern about the fate of the hostages" expressed by the International Court of Justice, and we echo also its call for their "immediate and unconditional release."



Photo: Anadolu

In view of the colossal humanitarian needs faced by more than two million people in the Gaza enclave, the Committee urges all donor States who have suspended their funding or future funding to The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), to reconsider their decision immediately and provide sufficient funds to ensure that all urgent aid can be provided to all, to each and every child.

Furthermore, we call for massive psycho-social support to children and families to relieve the traumatic and long-lasting effects of the war, including Israeli children that were victims of or witnesses to the attacks and those whose family members have been taken hostage.

We also emphasise our grave concern about the situation of children living in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, who are facing arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killing, and violence committed by occupying forces and settlers.

We call upon the State of Israel to immediately comply with the ruling of the International Court of Justice. We also call on all States to take action to end the conflict by establishing an immediate ceasefire, resuming peace negotiations and restoring funding to UNRWA without delay.

The State of Israel was on the list of States to be reviewed during this session, the CRC was to have reviewed Israel, but unfortunately the Israeli Government decided to postpone its participation.

The Committee deeply regrets that it has not had the opportunity to review Israel when time is of the essence. The rights of children living under the State of Israel's effective control are being gravely violated at a level that has rarely been seen in recent history.

*continued on page 5 ...*



## CHILDREN IN GAZA

... continued from page 4

We look forward to an interactive dialogue with the State delegation from Israel, which is now scheduled for the Committee's September session. In the meantime, the Committee will send Israel an additional list of issues on the situation of children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory since October 7, 2023. - [www.ohchr.org/statements/2024/02](http://www.ohchr.org/statements/2024/02)

**Note: Between October 7 and March 21, 2024, some 31,988 Palestinians, including 13,000 children have been killed and murdered by Israeli forces in Gaza. Palestine. Some 74,188 Palestinians have been injured, according to the Gaza based Palestinian Health Ministry on March 12, 2024.**



Photo: Anadolu



## E-CIGARETTES

# Fighting Against E-Cigarettes in Thailand

E-cigarettes pose significant dangers due to their addictive nicotine content and potential harm from other chemicals. Key risks include:

1. **Nicotine addiction:** E-cigarettes deliver nicotine rapidly, increasing the risk of addiction, especially among young users whose developing brains are more susceptible.
2. **Cognitive impairment:** Nicotine exposure during youth can impair cognitive functions like decision-making and memory, with long-term effects on intellectual abilities.
3. **Physical health risks:** Nicotine's harmful effects extend to every organ, raising concerns about cardiovascular health and brain development, particularly in young users.
4. **Youth targeting:** E-cigarettes often come in appealing flavors and are marketed as fashionable accessories, attracting youth and potentially leading to lifelong addiction.
5. **Gateway to smoking:** There is the worry that e-cigarette use may lead to traditional cigarette smoking, increasing overall health risks.

Addressing these dangers requires comprehensive public health measures to prevent youth initiation and support cessation efforts among current users.

The campaign launched by the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand, the Pediatric Society of Thailand, and the Thai Anti-Vaping Alliance (TAVA) is comprehensive and aims to tackle the multifaceted issue of youth e-cigarette use effectively. Here's a breakdown of the strategies outlined in the campaign:

1. **Government advocacy:** The campaign advocates for maintaining a prohibition on e-cigarette imports. Research suggests that countries with bans on e-cigarettes have lower usage rates among young people. This indicates the importance of regulatory measures in curbing youth access to these products.
2. **Law enforcement and regulation:** It is crucial to encourage law enforcement to monitor compliance with regulations and trade exclusion of e-cigarette products.



*Prof. Dr. Somsak Lolekha, the President of the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand announced the statement in supporting the "E-cigarette Ban Law" to protect children and youths on September 13, 2023.*



*Youths from The Society of Medical Students of Thailand and The Children and Youths Council of Thailand submitted a letter to the Prime Minister to protect children and youths from e-cigarettes on the occasion of National Children Day (January 13, 2024).*

continued on page 6 ...



## E-CIGARETTES

... continued from page 5

Additionally, implementing bans on advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, including digital marketing, can further limit youth exposure to e-cigarettes.

- Public education:** Educating the public, especially children and youths, on the myths and facts about e-cigarettes is essential. Various channels, such as school lecture tours, workshops, press conferences, and social media campaigns, can help disseminate accurate information and raise awareness about the risks associated with e-cigarette use.
- Tobacco-free school and university campaigns:** Collaborating with academic institutions to promote tobacco-free environments and raise awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes is vital. By engaging teachers, administrators, and students, these campaigns can create a supportive environment for preventing e-cigarette use among young people.

- Pediatrician involvement:** It is crucial to empower pediatricians to educate communities and create awareness about the risks of e-cigarette use. Pediatricians play a key role in advocating for youth health and can provide valuable support in preventing new use and helping current users quit.

Overall, this campaign employs a combination of policy advocacy, education, community engagement, and healthcare involvement to comprehensively address the issue of youth e-cigarette use. By targeting multiple stakeholders and utilizing various strategies, it aims to mitigate the harms associated with e-cigarette use among children and adolescents in Thailand.

- **Professor Suwanna Ruangchanasetr, M.D.**  
**Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine**  
**Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok,**  
**Thailand.**



## JPS TRAINING PROGRAM 2023

# A Truly Life Changing Opportunity

The internship program offered by the Japan Pediatric Society, through the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), was truly a life-changing opportunity.

The 3-month stint which began November 2023, consisted of high-yield didactics and exposure to several pediatric neurology cases in Japan under the guidance of a highly-skilled and brilliant professor.

My rotation in the Department of Neuropediatrics at Tottori University Hospital in Yonago, Japan has enriched my knowledge and showed me new perspectives in the management of patients.

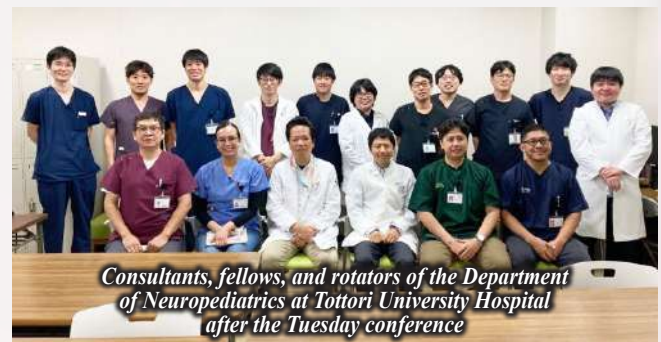
A distinguished professor, Dr. Tohru Okanishi, served as my mentor during the rotation. It is through his gentle guidance, excellent knowledge, and vast experience that I was able to go through the program smoothly.

Aside from being an exemplary clinician, he is also an accomplished researcher who has published numerous articles locally and internationally. He was an expert in the fields of pediatric neurology, epilepsy, and epilepsy surgery and made sure that I maximize my learning through conferences, lectures, endorsements, and outpatient clinics.

One of the activities that I always look forward to would be the weekly EEG checking with Dr. Okanishi. I had the opportunity to read EEG with more depth, correlating the abnormal findings with possible pathophysiological occurrences in the brain.

### Clinic days

Another activity that I also enjoyed were the clinic days. Though I could not fully understand the conversation in Japanese, prior to any consult, Dr. Okanishi always gave a short background and current status of the case. We likewise check the previous EEGs and neuroimaging done to better understand the case.



Consultants, fellows, and rotators of the Department of Neuropediatrics at Tottori University Hospital after the Tuesday conference

After the consult, we discuss the management - any changes in the therapeutics, further diagnostics, and other long-term plans. It was also fascinating to encounter rare cases which I have only read in textbooks. Being able to see and examine these patients gave me a sense of fulfillment, along with learning more on their work-ups, treatment regimen, monitoring for comorbidities, and prognosis.

Overall, the internship program was a worthwhile experience. The program had a good and adaptable structure with the goal of exposing the trainee to various cases and activities to maximize learning.

I believe that the direct guidance from my mentor, conversations and discussions with other pediatric neurology fellows, and some interaction with the patients allowed me to grow as a clinician, expand my knowledge, and always put the patients' well-being at the center of care. Moreover, the dedication that my mentor and colleagues showed in their work has inspired me to perform better with the aspiration of healing one pediatric brain at a time.

This is truly an outstanding and memorable memory for me. As my mentor wrote in a letter, I will continue to strive,

continued on page 7 ...



## TUBERCULOSIS

# IPA and IPS Tuberculosis Workshop to Achieve WHO's 2030 END TB Target

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that causes the second highest mortality rate after COVID-19, with an estimated 10.6 million people suffering from TB worldwide, 1.3 million of whom are children.

Globally, Indonesia has the second highest incidence of TB, contributing 10% of the world's total TB cases. The World Bank reports that by 2022, the TB incidence rate in Indonesia will be 385 per 100,000 population and there will be 100,726 cases of TB in children.

UNICEF Indonesia has documented that only 65% of child TB cases are reported, 35% are not reported to Indonesia's National TB Program, and only 9.3% of children under 5 years old, who are household contacts of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases, are on TB preventive treatment.

Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) in collaboration with the International Pediatric Association (IPA) recognized the importance of a practical approach to help achieve the WHO's END Tuberculosis (TB) 2030 target. One of the initiatives undertaken were to hold a Tuberculosis Workshop in

Indonesia to strengthen and provide Indonesian pediatricians, from all regions, not only with the clinical care of tuberculosis, but also advocacy, raising awareness and strengthening health care systems related to pediatric tuberculosis.

### Some 400 pediatricians attended the workshop

The Tuberculosis Workshop entitled "Pediatricians Key Role in Strengthening National System to Achieve WHO's 2030 END TB Target" was held on March 8, 2024, and was attended by about 400 pediatricians from all over Indonesia.

This activity certainly invited experts from Indonesia or internationally, including Prof. Dr. Rajeshwar Dayyal, as Chair of IPA Working Group in Tuberculosis, Dr. Rina Triasih as Chair of the Respiriology Working Group and Dr. Nastiti Kaswandani.

Besides bringing together various experts in the sector, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, Budi G Sadikin, also gave his opening remarks and keynote speech to all participants of the workshop.

He stated that the number of pediatric tuberculosis cases found in Indonesia is still high, highlighting that there is a need to improve access to tuberculosis diagnosis, therefore pediatricians have a crucial role to play in ensuring that every child with tuberculosis receives comprehensive tuberculosis treatment.

- Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS), April 11, 2024



Tuberculosis Workshop entitled "Pediatricians Key Role in Strengthening National System to Achieve WHO's 2030 END TB Target" in Jakarta



Speakers with Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso, President of Indonesian Pediatric Society (third from left) and Prof. Dr. Aman Bhakti Pulungan, as Executive Director of International Pediatric Association (second from left)



## JPS TRAINING PROGRAM 2023

... continued from page 6

challenge, and push myself to become the best pediatric neurologist that I can be.

- **Sally Andrea D. Gaspi, MD, DPPS is currently Active Consultant at South Imus Specialist Hospital in Cavite, Philippines.**



Consultants, fellows, and rotators of the Department of Neuropediatrics at Tottori University Hospital during the Year-End Party



IDPC

# INAUGURAL DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS CONFERENCE

## 'Integrating Family-Centred Practice in Developmental Paediatrics'

March 6 and 7, 2024, Singapore

The Department of Child Development (DCD), KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) successfully organised the Inaugural Developmental Paediatrics Conference (IDPC) at the Academia, Singapore General Hospital (SGH) on March 6 and 7, 2024.

This two-day conference was attended by around 700 professionals that included doctors, allied health professionals, early childhood educators and early interventionists from Singapore and 10 other countries. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mary Daniel, Head of DCD, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Alex Sia, CEO of KKH, who shared the milestones achieved by both KKH and DCD, highlighting the transformative journey to redefine healthcare delivery beyond the confines of our institution.

The Guest-of-Honour, Prof. Dr. Ivy Ng, Senior Advisor of SingHealth Board, shared wonderful anecdotes of her association with DCD. Prof. Dr. Ho Lai Yun, Emeritus Consultant and Director of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Child Development Programme (CDP) then gave an overview of the CDP in Singapore.



Attendees at the opening ceremony

Day 1 saw the launch of the Lim Sok Bee Developmental Paediatrics Programme Fund, established under the SingHealth Duke-NUS Paediatrics Academic Clinical Programme, to honour the late Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Sok Bee, the highly regarded former Head of DCD, who was passionate about the care of children with special needs. The aim of the fund is to sponsor the professional growth and development



Launch of the Lim Sok Bee Developmental Paediatric Programme Fund

of local and regional paediatricians and other members of multi-disciplinary teams involved in developmental paediatrics. This also includes supporting the Developmental and Behaviour Paediatrics (DBP) fellowship training programme\* run by DCD to train paediatricians from regional countries.

There were four keynote lectures by overseas experts. Mr Warren Cann, Principal Consultant, Parenting Research Centre, Australia, shared on 'Realising Authentic Family-centred Practice (FCP) in Services for Children with Developmental Delays and Disabilities'. Dr. Zaby Bassi, Clinical Director of the Department of Developmental Paediatrics, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, UK, presented on the 'Early Multi-disciplinary Neurodevelopmental Management of the High-risk Child', including clinical care pathways to enhance patient management. Dr. Peter Rosenbaum, Professor of Paediatrics from McMaster University, Canada, spoke on 'Family-centred Service in Developmental Paediatrics' which provided practical tips on how FCP can be achieved in clinical practice. Dr. Salam Soliman, Director, Center of Prevention and Early Trauma Treatment, Child First, USA, delivered the final keynote lecture on 'Affirming Dignity for Families and Staff', why it is important and how this can be achieved.

### Scientific programme

The scientific programme also included exciting symposia such as 'Lived Experiences' where adults with special needs

*continued on page 9 ...*





... continued from page 8

and their caregivers shared their own experiences of journeying with disabilities, their challenges and supporting systems that helped them. This was certainly an eye-opener for many of the participants. A session on the Relational Invitational Approach (RIA) was conducted by Mr Warren Cann. One of the most popular symposia was 'Developmental Surveillance and Screening' where practical tips were shared. In another parallel symposium, nurses presented their role in enhancing developmental care, including highlighting the 5Cs of the Child Development Nurse - Compassion, Coordination, Communication, Collaboration and Child Development Screening.

There were clinically relevant symposia addressing screening and management of mental health concerns for both children and their caregivers. There were also presentations depicting various programmes to support learning and education across childhood as well as programmes specifically catering to vulnerable populations. There was an enthusiastic response from local and overseas participants for abstract submissions, resulting in excellent presentations competing for oral and poster prizes.

Closing symposia included 'The Future of Developmental Paediatrics', which focused on exciting novel innovations

employing technology to enhance care and 'Aligning Service Delivery in Developmental Paediatrics with Family-centred Practice'.

The conference was highly successful in attracting a huge number of participants from Singapore and the Southeast Asia region. This allowed professionals from health, early intervention, social service, and education sectors the opportunity to network and establish connections, setting the stage for future regional collaborations.

The conference would not have been possible without generous funding from Lien Foundation. Given the overwhelming positive response to the conference, the next is being planned for 2 years' time. So, watch this space!

\*For more information, please refer to <https://www.kkh.com.sg/education-training/training-fellowships/Pages/child-development.aspx>

Written by:

**Dr. Yeleswarapu Sita Padmini, Chair of the Organising Committee, and Dr. Wong Chui Mae, Chair of the Scientific Committee**



*Guest-of-Honour with invited speakers and special guests*



## NCCHD NICU Experience



*Team photo with the visiting NICU team from Poland*

I am grateful for the opportunity offered by the Japan Pediatric Society (JPS) and the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) to help Pediatricians from countries in the Asia Pacific to experience and learn from world renowned hospitals in Japan.

From the different subspecialties that were offered in the 3-month scholarship program, I had opted to do Neonatology due to the high burden of neonatal morbidity and mortality and the gaps in the quality of Newborn care in my country, Papua New Guinea.

I had learnt through correspondence with the Japan Paediatric Society and the team at the National Center for Child Health and Development (NCCHD) that I was to be attached with the NICU team at the NCCHD in Setagaya-ku, Tokyo. I then chose to do my attachment from November 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024.



*Dr. Watch meeting with medical students from Keio University*



*With Dr. Yuka Sano Wada, Chief Physician for Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal and Reproductive Medicine, Division of Neonatology at the Follow up clinic*

Despite the language barrier and my lack of exposure in a Level 4 NICU, I tried to adapt and figure out how best to learn from this opportunity. It involved attending morning and afternoon handovers, observing various procedures and management approach, communicating with the NICU team and reading certain topics to further my understanding.

In addition, this scholarship has given me the opportunity to learn about the culture in Japan through my colleagues, church friends and the general Japanese society as a whole. I have also made connections with other Neonatologists from various parts of the world who had visited NCCHD during my attachment.

I hope that this scholarship will continue to benefit other colleagues in the Asia Pacific region and maybe one day can move on to a scholarship that can help Pediatricians in developing countries subspecialize in their field of interest.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Japan and will apply the knowledge that I have gained to help improve the neonatal care in my resource limited setting.

**Dr. Villa Watch**  
**General Paediatrician**  
**Goroko Provincial Hospital of Papua New Guinea (PNG)**  
**PNG Paediatric Society**



## CONSULTATIVE MEETING



بچا جا حفاظتی ٹیکہ اچھے

# Consultative Meeting on Measles, Diphtheria, and Other Vaccine Preventable Diseases

EPI Epi Hall, Karachi  
February 13, 2024



A consultative meeting focusing on Measles, Diphtheria, and other Vaccine Preventable Diseases was held at the EPI Hall, Karachi, Pakistan and was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Naem, Project Director of EPI, Sindh.

Dr. Iqbal Memon announced a series of pediatric seminars scheduled in Gambat, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana in the coming weeks, where vaccination messages, particularly focusing on Measles, will be promoted.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Sohail Raza Shaikh, Additional PD EPI, and attended by esteemed medical professionals including Dr. Khalilullah Memon Deputy Director EPI, Professor Dr. Iqbal Memon (Asia Pacific Pediatric Association President), Prof. Dr. Khalid Shafi (Secretary General, Pakistan Pediatric Association), Dr. Samreen Zaidi, Assistant Professor at Pediatric Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Centre, Dr. Wajid Hussain, Assistant Professor at NICH, Dr. Muhammad Amjad from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Dr. Ghulam Hussain Buledi from World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Mehboob Surveillance, Dr. Arsalan Memon, Dr. Tasleem Khaminsani, Suneel Raja SBC Specialist, Dr. Marriam Choudary, Dr. Nabeela, and other distinguished guests.

Dr. Khalid Shafi Chair NITAG Pakistan stressed the importance of engaging the medical community, especially pediatricians, in promoting vaccination and emphasized the need to strengthen the routine immunization and surveillance system.

The meeting also saw active participation from Dr. Wajid Hussain, Dr. Samreen, Dr. Amjad Ansari, and Dr. Khalilullah Memon in the general discussions.

A presentation on the Diphtheria situation in Sindh for the year 2023 was delivered by Dr. Ghulam Hussain Buledi, highlighting sustained transmission, suspected cases, and related deaths. Additionally, VPD surveillance data for measles and diphtheria for the year 2024 till week 5 was shared, outlining the current scenario and challenges.

Dr. Naem, PD EPI, expressed his appreciation for the participation of prominent pediatric professors from various hospitals and professional bodies, acknowledging their continuous support in promoting vaccines through the EPI program.

The meeting concluded with a call for support from General Practitioners and Pediatric Doctors in sensitizing healthcare professionals, strengthening routine immunization activities, advocating for increased acceptance of routine immunization, and enhancing coordination efforts.

Dr. Sohail Shaikh, Additional PD, highlighted the challenges faced by the EPI and urged all key stakeholders to support efforts in combating measles. He specifically called upon the Pakistan Pediatric Association to allocate time in major events to present EPI data and emphasize the importance of vaccinations.

**- Dr. Muhammad Naem, Project Director of EPI, Sindh, Pakistan. February 13, 2024, EPI Hall, Sindh, Pakistan**





18<sup>TH</sup> PSPGHAN

# 18<sup>th</sup> PSPGHAN Annual Convention

## In Sync: Exploring New Insights on Old Paradigms

March 11-12, 2024

Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City, Philippines

The Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PSPGHAN) held its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention with the theme *In Sync: Exploring New Insights on Old Paradigms* on March 11-12, 2024 at the Iloilo Convention Center, co-hosted by the Philippine Pediatric Society Western Visayas Chapter. The Convention aimed to provide updates and explore the most current knowledge in the fields of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

The Organizing Committee, led by Dr. Sarabeth De Castro, Overall Convention Chair, with the guidance of Dr. Josephine Azucena Tan, President of PSPGHAN and Dr. Josie Grace Castillo, President of the Philippine Pediatric Society Western Visayas Chapter and their advisers, prepared a 2-day convention to provide the appropriate approach to current pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition concerns through best practice sharing in the delivery of care and to encourage collaboration among different subspecialties in dealing with pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutritional issues.

This convention marked the Society's recommencement of face-to-face convention following 3 years of holding it virtually. It was open to all physicians and allied health professionals and the convention was a resounding success with 1055 attendees.

The keynote speaker for the Perla Santos Ocampo Professorial Lecture was Dr. Sylvia Estrada. Dr. Estrada talked about *Obesogens: Endocrine Disruptors and Obesity Risk*, its impact as well as strategies to address these issues. Attendees were updated with a State of the Art lecture by Dr. Jose Sollano Jr. on *Fecal Microbiota Transplantation*, its use, promise and future direction in pediatrics.

Expert presentations by specialists discussed topics on nutrition, the role of endoscopy in children, pediatric liver problems, common gastrointestinal problems encountered in the clinics, the gut and infections, current perspectives in childhood obesity and the liver.

Attendees were also given updates on the latest 2023 guidelines of the WHO on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional edema in infants and children under five and they were given a preview of the joint clinical practice guidelines of PSPGHAN and PSAAI on the dietary primary prevention of allergic diseases in children. Each day was capped with a panel discussion that presented perspectives and detailed insight on feeding difficulty in children and the evolution of complementary feeding methods.

**- Dr. Lyca Hilario, Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Annual Convention**

