



APPA BULLETIN

ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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

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19TH APCP 2026



The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP) was proud and privileged to host the 19th Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics (APCP 2026) in Colombo from July 26-28, 2026. This achievement was all the more significant as the conference was organized amidst extraordinary challenges, including global geopolitical uncertainties and the severe economic impact of Cyclone Ditwah.

BACKGROUND

Preparations for APCP 2026 began in January 2025 with the establishment of the main organizing committee. Bringing together past presidents of SLCP, key office bearers, and category vice-chairs under a unified structure, the committee analyzed previous APCP conferences and adopted targeted strategies to ensure a comprehensive scientific discourse, boost international attendance, and achieve financial sustainability.

The next challenge lay in integrating the SLCP annual sessions into the APCP conference. Demonstrating strong cooperation, the SLCP Council provided full support by making thoughtful adjustments and compromises to reach a consensus acceptable to all including the Asia Pacific Pediatric association. As such, APCP 2026 was held in conjunction with the SLCP annual academic sessions under a unified theme 'Redefining Paediatric Care - Blending Equity, Excellence and Technology'.

The 19th Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics (APCP 2026) and The 28th Scientific Congress of The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

The pre-congress workshops set an exceptional standard for the rest of the conference. Designed to offer targeted, hands-on learning prior to the main sessions, the workshops covered a broad spectrum of critical paediatric disciplines. Featured sessions included advanced seminars in nephrology and career development, an expert forum on point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), master classes in developmental paediatrics and neonatology, and deep dives into regional challenges like dengue fever and snakebite envenomation.

Attendance across all tracks was remarkably strong, with several sessions reaching maximum capacity and closing registration early due to overwhelming demand from both local clinicians and international delegates. Participants praised the interactive format, which combined evidence-based lectures with practical hands-on training and direct access to renowned regional experts. Overall, the high engagement and positive feedback established the pre-congress workshops as an indispensable foundation for APCP 2026.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The inauguration of the 19th Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics, held jointly with the 28th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Members of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA),

It is a great honour and privilege to serve as the President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA). I am deeply grateful for the trust

placed in me and for the opportunity to work alongside pediatricians, healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, and advocates who share a common commitment: to ensure that every child in the Asia-Pacific region has the opportunity to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to a remarkable diversity of cultures, health systems, economies, and communities. Yet, across our region, children and families share many common challenges. While significant progress has been made in reducing childhood mortality and improving access to healthcare, substantial inequities remain. Children living in poverty, remote communities, conflict-affected areas, and other vulnerable circumstances continue to face barriers to essential health services, nutrition, education, and protection.

Our responsibility as pediatricians extends beyond treating illness. We must work collectively to address the social, environmental, and economic determinants that shape the health and wellbeing of children. Equity must therefore remain at the heart of our regional pediatric agenda.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COLLABORATION

No single country or institution can address the complex challenges facing children today. APPA has a unique role in bringing our countries and professional communities together, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices.

During my term, I hope to strengthen meaningful collaboration among pediatric societies across the Asia-Pacific region. We will seek to create stronger networks for clinical practice, education, research, advocacy, and professional development, while respecting the diversity and individual strengths of each country.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

The future of pediatrics depends on the next generation of pediatricians and child-health professionals. We must invest in training, mentorship, leadership development, and capacity building, particularly in settings where resources and opportunities remain limited.

APPA should be a platform where young pediatricians can learn, connect, collaborate, and lead. By creating opportunities for regional fellowships, educational programmes, mentorship, and exchange, we can strengthen pediatric capacity and develop a new generation of compassionate and capable leaders.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research must remain a cornerstone of our efforts to improve child health. We need stronger regional research collaborations that address the health priorities of our own

populations and generate evidence that can be translated into better policies and clinical practice.

At the same time, innovation - including digital health, telemedicine, data science, artificial intelligence, and new approaches to education - offers exciting opportunities to reach children and families more effectively. We should embrace innovation while ensuring that technology serves the principles of safety, accessibility, ethics, and equity.

GIVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES A STRONGER VOICE

As pediatricians, we are privileged to speak on behalf of children, but we must also listen to them and to their families. Advocacy should be an integral part of our professional responsibility.

APPA must continue to advocate for policies that promote child health, nutrition, mental wellbeing, immunization, protection from violence and exploitation, environmental health, and access to quality healthcare. We must ensure that the voices and rights of children remain central to health policy and decision-making.

OUR VISION FOR THE COMING TERM

My vision for APPA is "One Region, One Pediatric Community, Working Together for Every Child."

Over the coming term, I hope we will focus on five priorities:

- Strengthening regional partnerships and collaboration among pediatric societies and institutions.
- Promoting equity in child health, with particular attention to vulnerable and underserved populations.
- Building pediatric capacity through education, training, mentorship, and leadership development.
- Fostering research and innovation that address the region's most important child-health challenges.
- Strengthening advocacy so that the health, rights, and wellbeing of children remain at the centre of national and regional agendas.

These priorities can only be achieved through collective effort. APPA belongs to all of us, and its strength comes from the commitment, diversity, and expertise of its members.

I invite every member society, pediatrician, trainee, researcher, educator, and partner to join us in this journey. Let us build bridges across countries and disciplines, learn from one another, support those who need us most, and create opportunities for every child to flourish.

The challenges before us are considerable, but so are the opportunities. With unity, compassion, evidence, innovation, and a shared commitment to equity, I am confident that we can make a meaningful difference to the lives of children and families throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Together, let us place children at the centre of our work and build a healthier, more equitable future for every child.

With warm regards and sincere commitment,
- **Prof. Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena**
President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)



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College of Paediatricians, marked a memorable and historic commencement at the BMICH in Colombo.

The occasion brought together a distinguished gathering of special guests, key dignitaries, and leaders in child healthcare. Prof. Dr. Joseph Haddad, President of the International Pediatric Association, served as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Dr. Steve Turner and Dr. Niroshini Kennedy were the Guests of Honour. President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Prof. Dr. Joselyn Eusebio, APPA Secretary General Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, and many other dignitaries representing APPA were also in attendance. Expressing their sentiments all speakers highlighted upon the importance of *'Redefining Paediatric Care - Blending Equity, Excellence and Technology'*.

The event drew an impressive turnout of over 700 attendees, uniting healthcare professionals, researchers, and global experts from local medical institutions and overseas delegations across the Asia-Pacific region. In keeping with tradition, seven outstanding paediatricians were conferred with Fellowship of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, alongside one Honorary Fellowship.

The ceremony concluded with a captivating cultural performance showcasing the rich heritage and vibrant traditions of Sri Lanka. Through traditional dance, resonant drumming, and symbolic artistic expressions, the performance offered delegates a warm Sri Lankan welcome and set an inspiring tone for the days of scientific exchange ahead.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The scientific programme stood out as the intellectual centerpiece of the congress, delivering a rich academic experience carefully crafted to address the evolving landscape of paediatric medicine. The conference attracted over 1,000 abstracts from across the globe; following rigorous review, 36 oral presentations, 127 rapid oral presentations, and 390 posters were selected for presentation. The 3-minute rapid oral presentations were a new concept adopted by the scientific committee to provide an additional platform for many young researchers to present their work.

The event brought together an exceptionally high caliber of local and international resource persons. Global experts, leading researchers, and clinical specialists delivered top-notch lectures across diverse paediatric subspecialties, sharing cutting-edge insights and evidence-based practices that kept delegates thoroughly engaged. Dynamic interactive discussions followed each symposium.

On the first day of proceedings, the prestigious Professor C.C. De Silva Memorial Oration - a highlight of the SLCP scientific sessions - was delivered by Dr. Vindya Gunasekera on the timely topic, *"From Scarcity to Strength: The Journey Towards Comprehensive Paediatric Kidney Care in a Resource-Restricted Setting"*.

To encompass the broad spectrum of pediatric disciplines, the academic program was structured into four concurrent parallel tracks. The comprehensive agenda featured 3 plenary lectures, 24 guest lectures, 60 symposia, 16 rapid-fire clinical updates, and 6 expert panel discussions, including two

specialized symposia supported by WHO and UNICEF technical expertise. This multi-track format enabled delegates to tailor their itineraries to their specific subspecialties and clinical interests. Despite the operational complexity of managing four concurrent halls, the sessions ran with remarkable precision and punctuality, facilitating engaging Q&A discussions without disrupting the schedule.

In a landmark achievement, APCP 2026 secured European CME accreditation for the first time, attracting over 50 delegates from non-APPA member countries. The conference concluded with the official launch of the Asia Pacific Paediatric Association (APPA) position paper on *Protecting Children and Adolescents in the Asia Pacific Region from harmful marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages*.

THE FACULTY DINNER

The opening day concluded with a memorable faculty dinner hosted at a serene beachside venue. Set against the backdrop of ocean breezes and live music, the evening offered international delegates an opportunity to unwind and connect over authentic Sri Lankan culinary specialties and traditional regional drinks.

THE GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner, held on July 28, was a memorable highlight offering delegates an evening of celebration, camaraderie, and tradition.

During the formal proceedings, continuing Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) traditions, sixteen individuals were honoured with the Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Awards for their exceptional contributions to child health in their respective countries. A central moment of the evening was the official ceremonial transition of leadership within the APPA, formally marking the appointment of Professor Asiri Abeyagunawardena as the new President of APPA for a two-year term, alongside the announcement of Prof. Dr. Vitharon Boon Yashdi of Thailand as President-Elect.

Following the formal proceedings, attendees enjoyed a delightful social evening featuring a lavish spread of local and international culinary delights, accompanied by a live band. With music, food, and dancing, the evening provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to relax and build lasting professional friendships.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The APCP, held in conjunction with the SLCP annual academic sessions, attracted 440 international registrants, over 600 local registrants, and a faculty of more than 100 experts. It was a resounding success that showcased the SLCP's capacity to organize an international event of this magnitude.

We take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the APPA secretariat and to the organizing committee for their extraordinary commitment, tireless effort, and seamless teamwork. A special note of gratitude goes to our esteemed Advisory Committee, whose expert guidance set the tone for this success.

- **Prof. Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena, Congress Chair**
- **Prof. Dr. Pujitha Wickramasinghe, Congress Co-Chair & President SLCP**



19TH APCP 2026

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APPA OFFICE BEARERS

New APPA Office Bearers 2026-2028

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Dr. Chok-wan Chan (*Hong Kong*)

Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim (*Malaysia*)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena (*Sri Lanka*)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Vitharon Boon-yasidhi (*Thailand*)

SECRETARY GENERAL

Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam (*Malaysia*)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Joselyn Eusebio (*Philippines*)

STANDING COMMITTEE

OCEANIA REGION:

Dr. Nirosini Kennedy (*Australia*)

EAST ASIA REGION:

Dr. Lilian Wong (*Hong Kong*)

Dr. Sun Kun (*China*)

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION:

Dr. Alvin Chang (*Singapore*)

Dr. Pimol Wongsiridej (*Thailand*)

SOUTH ASIA REGION:

Dr. Pujitha Wickramasinghe (*Sri Lanka*)

Dr. Neelam Mohan (*India*)

APPA E-JOURNAL

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Sultan (*Pakistan*)

- Co-Opted member as Editor-In-Chief of APPA e Journal -
Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health (APJPCH)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Fairos Nazri (*Malaysia*)

ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATOR

Che Surina Sulaiman (*Malaysia*)



ACP/APCP

From APSSEAR to APPA

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) was formerly known as the Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APSSEAR).

APSSEAR was established on April 30, 1974 in Manila, Philippines.

Inauguration of APSSEAR with 15 countries and regions represented were:

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hoong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The 1st Asian Congress of Pediatrics (ACP) was organised in Manila, Philippines, from April 30 - May 4, 1974 with the theme "Towards Optimum Health for Asian Children".

Since 2007, ACP has changed its Congress name to The Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP).

Below is the list of ACP/APCP, Year and Host countries of the Congresses.

ACP/APCP	HOST	YEAR
1 st ACP	Manila, Philippines	1974
2 nd ACP	Jakarta, Indonesia	1976
3 rd ACP	Bangkok, Thailand	1979
4 th ACP	Seoul, Korea	1982
5 th ACP	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1985
6 th ACP	Tokyo, Japan	1988
7 th ACP	Perth, Australia	1991
8 th ACP	New Delhi, India	1994
9 th ACP	Hong Kong	1997
10 th ACP	Taipei, Taiwan	2000
11 th ACP	Bangkok, Thailand	2003
12 th APCP	Colombo, Sri Lanka	2007
13 th APCP	Shanghai, China	2009
14 th APCP	Sarawak, Malaysia	2012
15 th APCP	Hyderabad, India	2016
16 th APCP	Bali, Indonesia	2018
17 th APCP	Lahore, Pakistan	2022
18 th APCP	Cebu, Philippine	2024
19 th APCP	Colombo, Sri Lanka	2026
20 th APCP	Pattaya, Thailand	2028
21 st APCP	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2030
22 nd APCP	New Delhi, India	2032



19TH APCP 2026



Deepest Gratitude to the APPA Council of Delegates (2024-2026)

Dear Esteemed Members of the Council of Delegates,

As I complete my 2024-2026 tenure as President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association, I want to express my deepest appreciation to all our National Member Societies.

The strength of APPA lies in the unity, diversity, and commitment of this Council. Thank you for your unwavering trust, your invaluable contributions during our deliberations, and your steadfast commitment to our shared mission. Your grounded leadership in your respective countries has been an inspiration, and your unconditional support over the last two years made our collective vision a reality.

Together, we have strengthened the bonds of friendship and professional synergy across the Asia-Pacific region, ensuring that the voice of child health remains strong and impactful.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and warmth throughout my presidency. I wish you all continued success as we carry APPA's noble cause forward.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm regards,

Dr. Joselyn A. Eusebio
MD, FPPS, FPSDBP

President (2024-2026)

Asia Pacific Pediatric Association



Message from Outgoing APPA Secretary General



Dear Presidents and Secretaries of APPA member societies and SC members making up the Council of Delegates (CoDs),

As we part ways after the exciting and enjoyable 19th APCP, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Asiri, Prof. Dr. Pujitha and their organizing committees for a successful 19th APCP. This success is even more remarkable as it is happening immediately after a financial catastrophe for Sri Lanka just 4-5 years earlier.

The issuance of a stamp to mark the exceptional contribution of a prominent senior paediatrician during the inauguration makes this APCP memorable, especially for first-day-cover collectors like many of us.

As I end my tenure as the Secretary-General of APPA, I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the privilege of working with you and for your kind cooperation. I have tried to keep

the secretariat, finances and records in order and there are times when we fall short of expectations, even our own.

For the latter, I apologise. I would also like to add a special thanks to Joselyn as the President of APPA for her hard work at keeping all of us together and organising the webinars for our members. I have worked with many APPA Presidents in the past, and I have to admit that the closest bond has been with Dr. Joselyn.

Thank you all and my apologies for any missteps or inadvertent harsh words during our encounters.

Wishing you and APPA the very best.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail

Secretary General, APPA 2016-2026

A Precious Jewel in the World of Paediatrics A Tribute To Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail



Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, a Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) Committee Member being conferred the MPA Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 in conjunction with the 45th MPA Annual Congress held from September 26-28, 2024 in Kuala Lumpur

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, is a world-renowned award-winning paediatric cardiologist, a legendary consultant paediatrician, academician, writer, speaker, and a specialist in the field of paediatric cardiology and Asian paediatricians.

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) expresses its deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Dr. Zulkifli, the Outgoing APPA Secretary General for his outstanding and excellent leadership throughout his more than 30 years at APPA.

He was the Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APSSEAR)/APPA Deputy Secretary General from 2000-2012. APSSEAR moved its Secretariat from Manila, Philippines to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2000.

APSSEAR changed its name to APPA during the 29th Meeting of National Delegates of APSSEAR in Bangkok, Thailand on November 4, 2003. APPSEAR was established in Manila, Philippines on April 30, 1974. Prof. Mohd Sham Kasim (Malaysia) was APSSEAR/APPA Secretary General, from 2000-2016.



Prof. Dr. Zulkifli (second from right) chaired the last 46th Meeting of the National Delegates of APPA on July 28, 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. On his right is APPA President, Dr. Joselyn Eusebio, Prof. Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena, APPA President-Elect and APPA Immediate Past President, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon. On Prof. Dr. Zulkifli's left is APPA Treasurer, Prof. Dr. Selya Kumar Sivapunniam



Group photo with APPA delegates after the 45th Meeting of National Delegates of APPA, held at the Tulip Room, Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo, Sri Lanka on July 27, 2026

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Prof. Dr. Zulkifli during the 6th APPA Executive Committee/Standing Committee Zoom meeting, held on June 21, 2026

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli was also **APPA President from 2012-2016 and from 2016 till 2026, as APPA Secretary General**. July 28, 2026 during the 46th Meeting of National Delegates of APPA in Colombo, Sri Lanka, marked a sad day for APPA as it is Prof. Dr. Zulkifli's last term as APPA Secretary General as his 3-year term had ended.

He was succeeded by APPA Treasurer, Prof. Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam from Malaysia who won the election for the Secretary General post 2026-2028 after beating Dr. Vasant Khalatkar from the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP).

Navigating APPSEAR/APPA through Affiliated Presidents

Since year 2000, Prof. Dr. Zulkifli has navigated APPSEAR/APPA working with Presidents from Taiwan (year 2000), Thailand (2003), Sri Lanka (2007), China (2009), India (2016), Indonesia (2018), Pakistan (2022) and the Philippines (2024).

Prof. Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena from Sri Lanka holds the APPA Presidency from July 28, 2026 - October 26, 2028. Thailand will then host the 20th APCP in Pattaya from October 26-29, 2028, followed by Malaysia in 2030 and India in 2032.

Prof. Dr. Zul as he is widely known, has been devoting his career to the child health care in children especially in the field of cardiology and is a serious advocate for childhood vaccination, injury prevention issues and public education strategies especially on dengue, immunisation as well as vaccination issues. He has made significant contribution to the world of Paediatricians in Malaysia and the region.

I first met Prof. Dr. Zul in early 2000 when I was an Executive Journalist with the Sun Newspaper (Malaysia). I interviewed him about Shaken Baby Syndrome. At that time, Dr. Zulkifli was Professor of Paediatrics and Paediatric Cardiology in Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM), in Kuala Lumpur. I never knew that I will meet him again on April 2002 when I first joined APSSEAR as its Executive Secretary. Dr. Zulkifli was APSSEAR Deputy Secretary General.



The late Prof. Dr. Enver Hasanoglu, Secretary General of the Turkish National Pediatric Society (TNPS) and former IPA President, presenting the Honorary Memberships of Turkey National Pediatric Society (TNPS) and a Gold Medal to Prof. Dr. Zulkifli, for his achievements in Global Child Health, during the TNCP 2019 that was held from October 30 - November 3, 2019 in Vokolida, Turkey

Current Activities and Contributions

Prof. Dr. Zul is currently a consultant paediatrician and paediatric cardiologist at KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital and visiting paediatric cardiologist at the KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital in Selangor state. He is also Clinical Professor at KPJ University College of Health Sciences, Chairman of the Positive Parenting Management Committee and serves as the Chief Editor of the Positive Parenting Guide, a quarterly publication aimed to equip Malaysian parents with reliable and practical local information on maternal, child and family care since 2002 (www.mypositiveparenting.org).



Representatives from 6 regional organisations pose on stage after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the 9th Asia Dengue Summit on June 15, 2026 in Singapore. The agreement aims to boost regional cooperation and vector control strategies against dengue. Signatories include The Asia Dengue Voice and Action Group (ADVA), the Philippines Empowering Networks to Defeat Dengue Coalition (END Dengue), Dengue Prevention Advocacy Malaysia (DPAM), Indonesia's Kobar Lawan Dengue, the Singapore Dengue Alliance and the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISNTD). Prof. Dr. Zul is 6th from right

Besides that, Prof. Dr. Zul is also Editor of Berita MPA (Malaysian Paediatric Association), a quarterly newsletter publication distributed to fellow members of the Association, Editor of APPA Bulletin, a quarterly publication of APPA and Associate Editor of the APPA e-Journal, Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health (APJPCH).



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(From left) End Dengue Deaths campaign co-chairman, Prof. Dr. Selya Kumar Sivapunniam, Prof. Dr. Zulkifli, Deputy Health Director-General (Public Health Malaysia, Dr Ismuni Bohari and campaign chairman Dr. Koh Kar Chai at the Zero Dengue Deaths campaign on May 22, 2025

He also constantly advocates the prevention and elimination of dengue, and is Chairman of the Dengue Prevention Advocacy Malaysia (DPAM), in association with Immunise4Life (IFL) Program run by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the MPA, aimed at promoting vaccination for all ages (www.ifl.my).

Prof. Dr. Zul's Main Research

Prof. Dr. Zuli's main research and interest are main factors affecting morbidity and mortality of children in various communities. childhood injury especially home injury, transport of the critically ill newborn and child, and cardiac abnormalities associated with other organ system abnormalities.

He currently serves as a board member of the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), is a member of the Malaysian Ministry of Health Unrelated Transplant Approval Committee (UTAC) and was on the editorial board of the Malaysian Journal of Paediatrics & Child Health (MJPCH). He also served as a reviewer for the Medical Journal of Malaysia and the Philippines Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.

Dr. Zul has also expressed APPA's concern about the political situation in Myanmar since February 1, 2021 when Myanmar's military detained State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint in the country's first coup since 1988, bringing an end to a decade of civilian rule.

On October 16, 2023, APPA had emailed a written Statement to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres on the Situation of Children in Gaza, Palestine and expressed deep alarm and sadness at the atrocities being committed against the people of Gaza, especially children. Prof. Dr. Zul, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon, APPA President at that time and Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad, Chair of APPA TAG on Child Rights,

Environment and Child Health signed the Statement on behalf of APPA.

Awards for Achievements in Global Child Health

Prof. Dr. Zul received numerous awards for his achievements in the field of paediatrics. **Among them:**

- On February 1, 2008, Dr. Zulkifli was conferred the *Darjah Panglima Mahkota Wilayah* by the Malaysian King that carries the prestigious honorific title of 'Datuk'.
- The **Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award (OAPA) 2012** in conjunction with the 14th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) held in Kuching, Malaysia, from September 14-18, 2012.
- **Honorary Memberships of Turkey National Pediatric Society (TNPS)** and a **Gold Medal** during the Turkish National Congress of Pediatrics (TNCP) 2019 that was held from October 30 - November 3, 2019 in Vokolida, Turkey.
- Conferred the **Malaysian Paediatric Association MPA Lifetime Achievement Award 2024** in conjunction with the 45th MPA Annual Congress held from September 26-28, 2024 in Kuala Lumpur.

Past Contributions

Prof. Zul was formerly Professor of Paediatrics and Paediatric Cardiology in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and has also served as the Head of the Paediatric Department and Director of Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM) as well as Medical Director of its private wing, UKM Specialist Centre in Kuala Lumpur, before opting for early retirement from the academic world on July 31, 2005.

He also served as Past President of MPA, Chairman of the Asian Strategic Alliance for Pneumococcal Disease Prevention, (ASAP), a member of the Rotavirus Organization of Technical Allies (ROTA) Council and the Asia Dengue Voice & Action (ADVA) group. He was also President of the Thalassaemia Association of Malaysia (TAM) from 2003-2016.

He has published in peer-reviewed international and local journals in addition to numerous abstracts and articles for the lay-public on various issues involving child health, paediatrics and vaccinology. He has authored or co-authored books for parents, medical students and nurses as well as lay public articles in mainstream media.

Once again, Thank You Very Much Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail for your invaluable and excellent Leadership in APSSEAR/APPA and we wish you All the Very Best in your future endeavours!

- **Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA**



OUTSTANDING ASIAN PEDIATRICIAN AWARD 2026

Recipients of The Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award 2026, Cinnamon Life, City of Dreams, July 28, 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

in conjunction with the 19th Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics (APCP) & 9th Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatric Nursing (APCPN), held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo, Sri Lanka, from July 26-29, 2026

PROF. DR. GUOYING HUANG - CHINA

Subspecialty: Study and Treatment of cardiovascular diseases in children

Prof. Dr. Huang is the current Chief Physician and Doctoral Supervisor at the Department of Cardiology, Children's Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

His innovative work has had a profound impact on reducing infant mortality rates.

Prof. Dr. Huang is an outstanding representative in the field of pediatric medicine in China and Asia. He has also united pediatricians in China and Asia Pacific countries and has made remarkable achievements.



DR. LEUNG TZE CHING, VINCENT - HONG KONG

Subspecialty: Neonatology

Dr. Leung is a highly respected Specialist in Paediatrics based in Hong Kong.

He is known for his clinical expertise, extensive research in neonatal care and philanthropic medical missions.

Dr. Leung is also an experienced neonatologist who graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong in 1972 and has contributed extraordinary in the field of paediatrics in Hong Kong and in the Asian region.

DR. NEELAM MOHAN - INDIA

Dr. Neelam Mohan is the current President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) and also Senior Director of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Liver Transplant at Medanta The Medicity, Gurugram in Delhi, India.

Dr. Mohan pioneered the development of the pediatric liver transplant program in India and is credited with several groundbreaking achievements in liver transplantation, both nationally and globally.

Dr. Mohan also established the first centre of excellence in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Liver Transplantation in India at Medanta The Medicity Hospital-Gurugram, which caters to all facilities including liver transplantation and Neuro-Gastroenterology.



DR. RINA TRIASIH - INDONESIA

Subspecialty: Paediatric Respiratory Medicine

Dr. Rina Triasih is a paediatrician with more than 22 years of experience in clinical practice, medical education, public health programs, and child health policy. Her work focuses on paediatric respiratory.

She also has strong background in community-based works and implementations and dedicated to improve paediatric training programs at both institutional and national levels.

Dr. Rina has played an important role in regional and international paediatric initiatives and is actively involved in the establishment of Asia Pediatric Pulmonology Society (APPS) in 2012 and currently serves as its President.

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OUTSTANDING ASIAN PEDIATRICIAN AWARD 2026

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PROF. DR. KAZUMOTO IIJIMA - JAPAN

Subspecialty: Nephrology and Pediatrics

Prof. Dr. Iijima has made pioneering contributions to the treatment of childhood idiopathic nephrotic syndrome (INS). He played a central role in the development of rituximab therapy as a novel treatment for pediatric INS. Today, rituximab is recognized not only in Japan but also in many countries worldwide as a standard therapy, particularly for children with refractory INS and this achievement has transformed clinical practice and improved the lives of countless children across the globe.

Prof. Dr. Iijima has also contributed significantly to fostering academic exchange and cooperation and for many years, and has served as Organising Committee member of the Japan-Korea-China Pediatric Nephrology Seminar, strengthening ties among pediatric nephrologists in East Asia.



PROF. DR. SELVA KUMAR SIVAPUNNIAM - MALAYSIA

Subspecialty: Paediatric Nephrology

Prof. Dr. Selva Kumar, is currently Professor of Pediatrics, Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology (AIMST), University in Bedong, northern Kedah state, Malaysia. He is also Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Nephrologist and has been elected as the new Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Secretary General.

Prof. Dr. Selva Kumar is also the International Pediatric Association (IPA) Standing Committee (SC) member from May 2025 - July 2027, and among others, Council Member, Asian Society of Pediatric Nephrology since 2020.

He was formerly President, Malaysian Pediatric Association from 2021-2023 and former APPA Treasurer from 2019-2026.

PROF. DR. SAW WIN - MYNMAR

Subspecialty: General pediatrician with special interest in respirology

Prof. Dr. Saw Win has demonstrated exemplary services to Pediatrics in Myanmar and the Asia Pacific region for more than four decades.

His distinguish career, marked by leadership, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to child health, reflects the highest standards of professional excellence.

Prof. Dr. Saw Win has played a substantive role in regional immunization policy through his long-standing involvement with the World Health Organization South East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-ITAG). He served the SEAR-ITAG since 2014-2020.



PROF. DR. MANINDRA R. BARAL - NEPAL

Subspecialty: Neonatology & Diarrhoeal Diseases / Paediatric Gastroenterology

Prof. Dr. MR Baral is a Nepalese Paediatrician with over 60 years of service in child health and advocacy.

Prof. Dr. Baral has distinguished himself not only as a clinician but also as an educator, researcher and administrator with leadership positions at all levels.

He was in public service for 40 years and eventually served as Director and Chairman of Kanti Children's Hospital. He has been the President of Nepal Medical Association (NMS) twice, NEPAS, Perinatal Society of Nepal and Nepal Medical Council.

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OUTSTANDING ASIAN PEDIATRICIAN AWARD 2026

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PROF. EMERITUS DR. SAJID MAQBOOL - PAKISTAN

Subspecialty: Neonatology

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Sajid graduated from the K.E. Medical College and trained in the USA in the field of Paediatrics. After working as a faculty member College / Mayo Hospital, he then helped established the department of Pediatrics as Head of the Department at the Shaikh Zayed Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan.

In 2000, he took over as the Dean of the Institute of Child Health/Children's Hospital, setting the institution on the present course. He continues his association with the Children's Hospital as Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics.



DR. MAE CONCEPCION J. DOLEND - PHILIPPINE

Subspecialty: Pediatric Oncologist

Dr. Dolendo is currently Program Lead and Independent Contractor at the St. Jude Global Asia Pacific region and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Global Alliance, Philippines. She is also Honorary Consultant, Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) in Davao.

Among Dr. Dolendo's achievements are capacitating medical institutions for improved pediatric cancer services and outcomes in the Asia Pacific Region through St Jude Global Alliance. She also established the first pediatric oncology service in a public hospital in Mindanao, Philippines (SPMC in 2004) and organized the first pediatric oncology training outside Metro Manila accredited by the Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology (SPMC, 2018).

PROF. DR. ANNE GOH - SINGAPORE

Subspecialty: Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy

Prof. Dr. Goh is the Senior Consultant of the Paediatric Allergy Service and the Respiratory Medicine Service at the Department of Paediatrics, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore.

She is also President of the Asian Paediatric Pulmonology Society and the Head of the Paediatric Lung Disease Assembly of the Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology. She is formerly the President of Singapore Paediatric Society and Clinical Professor of the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School as well as Associate Professor of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

Her clinical and research interests are in the areas including respiratory infections, bronchial asthma management, obstructive sleep apnea and allergy.



PROF. DR. SEI-WON YANG - SOUTH KOREA

Subspecialty: Pediatric Endocrinology

Prof. Dr. Yang is Professor and Head-Paediatrics at the Seoul National University Hospital, in South Korea.

He received his undergraduate and doctorate degrees from Seoul National University and is known for research in pediatric endocrinology.

Prof. Dr. Yang has published 138 research works with 2749 citations including History of insulin treatment of pediatric patients with diabetes in Korea. He was among others, formerly President of Korean Pediatric Society (2015-2018), President of Korean Pediatric Endocrine Society (2003-2007) and Vice President of Korean Diabetes Association (2003-2005).

Prof. Dr. Yang is also Consulting Editor of Clinical Pediatric Endocrinology.

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OUTSTANDING ASIAN PEDIATRICIAN AWARD 2026

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PROF. DR. SHAMAN RAJINDRAJITH - SRI LANKA

Subspecialty: General Paediatrician with Special Interest in Paediatric Gastroenterology

Prof. Dr. Shaman Rajindrajith is currently Professor of Paediatrics, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, and Consultant Paediatrician at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo, Sri Lanka respectively.

He was also former President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP) from 2021-2022.

Prof. Dr. Rajindrajith is among others Council Member, Commonwealth Paediatric Gastroenterology Association and Member of the Asian Neurogastroenterology and Mortality Association. He is also in the Editorial Board Member to the World Journal Pediatrics and Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology.



PROF. DR. YEN-HSUAN NI - TAIWAN

Subspecialty: Pediatric Gastroenterologist / Hepatologist

Prof. Dr. Ni is a Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at the National Taiwan University and was formerly President of the Taiwan Pediatric Association (TPA). He is also Chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Taiwan University Children's Hospital and Dean of the College of Medicine at the National Taiwan University, demonstrating exceptional leadership in both academic medicine and medical education.

Prof. Dr. Ni has made outstanding and pioneering contributions to pediatric hepatology, particularly in the field of pediatric liver diseases and hepatitis research and has also sustained excellence, leadership and impactful contributions to child health.

EMERITUS PROF. DR. SUBHAREE SUWANJUTHA - THAILAND

Subspecialty: Paediatric Pulmonology

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Suwanjutha is widely recognized as the founding architect of paediatric pulmonology and paediatric critical care medicine in Thailand. She is also a leading contributor to child respiratory health, across the Asia-Pacific region.

For more than four decades, she has advanced paediatric respiratory care through clinical innovation, workforce development, research, and policy leadership.

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Suwanjutha's enduring legacy lies in building systems, developing people, and improving outcomes for children across Thailand and the Asia Pacific region. She had established Thailand's first Paediatric intensive care and respiratory training programs, laying the foundation for a national subspecialty workforce.



PROF DR. TRAN MINH DIEN - VIETNAM

Subspecialty: Pediatric Critical Care Physician

Prof. Dr. Tran Minh Dien is the current President of the Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA) and Director of Vietnam National Children's Hospital.

For over three decades, Professor Dien has shaped the landscape of Pediatric healthcare in Vietnam and contributed meaningfully to regional child health advancement across the Asia-Pacific. His leadership reflects not only clinical excellence, but vision, integrity, and a sustained commitment to strengthening pediatric system in low-and middle-income settings.

As Director of Vietnam National Children's Hospital-the country's largest tertiary pediatric referral center, Professor Dien has led the development of advanced subspecialties including pediatric intensive care, neonatology, infectious diseases, cardiovascular surgery, transplantation and clinical research.

- Compiled by Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA



Six Regional Organisations Sign MoU to Strengthen Asia's Dengue Response as Cases Rise

Asia Dengue Voice and Action



Representatives from 6 regional organisations pose on stage after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the 9th Asia Dengue Summit on June 15, 2026 in Singapore. The agreement aims to boost regional cooperation and vector control strategies against dengue. Signatories include The Asia Dengue Voice and Action Group (ADVA), the Philippines Empowering Networks to Defeat Dengue Coalition (END Dengue), Dengue Prevention Advocacy Malaysia (DPAM), Indonesia's Kobar Lawan Dengue, the Singapore Dengue Alliance and the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISNTD).

Announced at the 9th Asia Dengue Summit in conjunction with ASEAN Dengue Day and the first WHO-recognised World Dengue Day, the MoU establishes a regional framework for knowledge-sharing, advocacy and coordinated dengue action.



The Asia Dengue Voice and Action Group (ADVA) and partner organisations from across Asia have signed a new regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen regional cooperation on dengue prevention and control. The partnership comes at a critical time as countries face growing mosquito populations, rising dengue risks and increasing case numbers, driven in part by climate change and urbanisation in the region.

The MoU establishes a regional framework for ongoing knowledge exchange, coordination and collaboration among advocacy groups, community organisations and public health stakeholders working to address dengue across Asia. Participating organisations will collaborate on public education, regional advocacy and the exchange of outbreak insights and community-based approaches, while exploring joint publications, policy recommendations, regional

awareness campaigns, educational resources and digital knowledge-sharing platforms to support more coordinated dengue action across the region.

Signatories to the MoU include ADVA, the Philippines Empowering Networks to Defeat Dengue Coalition (END Dengue), Dengue Prevention Advocacy Malaysia (DPAM), Indonesia's Kobar Lawan Dengue, the Singapore Dengue Alliance, and the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISNTD).

As the convening organisation, ADVA will facilitate engagement on emerging insights, common challenges and explore opportunities for collective action.

Prof. Dr. Tikki Pangestu, Advisor, ADVA and Visiting Professor, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National

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MOU ON DENGUE

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University of Singapore, said, "There is no single solution to dengue. Sustainable progress requires a holistic approach that brings together effective surveillance, vector control, clinical management, community education and vaccination. As countries across Asia continue to face a growing dengue burden, it is essential that we learn from one another's experiences and work together to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based strategies. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening regional collaboration and advancing practical solutions that can help move us closer to the goal of zero dengue deaths."

The MoU was signed on ASEAN Dengue Day and the first World Health Organisation (WHO)-recognised World Dengue Day in the presence of Guest of Honour Dr Janil Puthucherry, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Education, Singapore, as well as ambassadors and diplomatic representatives representing countries across Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. The ceremony was part of the 9th Asia Dengue Summit - a regional platform that brings together policymakers, scientists, clinicians, public health experts and advocacy groups to advance dengue prevention and response across Asia.



Aedes mosquito

Prof. Dr. Ooi Eng Eong, from the Emerging Infectious Diseases Signature Research Programme at Duke-NUS Medical School, in Singapore said, "We are at a very different point in the dengue response today compared with a decade

ago. Advances in surveillance, vector control and vaccination have expanded what countries can do, but progress remains uneven. The next challenge is implementation: ensuring that these advances are used consistently, sustained beyond outbreak periods and translated into measurable public health impact. That will be critical if the region is to move closer to Zero Dengue Deaths by 2030."

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Lee Ching, Group Director of Environmental Health Institute (EHI), National Environment Agency (NEA) Singapore, said, "Dengue control cannot rely on a single intervention or a single agency alone. Singapore's experience has shown that sustained surveillance, clinical management, vector control, public awareness and community participation all play an important role in managing dengue risks. Maintaining a multi-sectoral effort consistently over time remains critical, even outside major outbreak periods."

Running from June 15-17, the Summit brings together stakeholders from across the dengue control ecosystem to bridge the gap between scientific progress and real-world impact. Through discussions on dengue policy, scientific innovation, vector control, vaccine implementation and youth engagement initiatives such as the Dengue Slayers Challenge, participants will explore how progress in dengue prevention and control can be translated into greater public health impact across the region.

For more information about the 9th Asia Dengue Summit or to access resources on dengue prevention and advocacy, visit <https://www.asiadenguesummit.org/> or <https://www.adva.asia/>.

About ADVA

Asia Dengue Voice and Action (ADVA) is a scientific working group dedicated to dengue vaccine advocacy in Asia, with the aim of disseminating information and making recommendations on dengue vaccine introduction strategies in Asia. The group has formulated recommendations with an ultimate aim of translating the science of dengue vaccination into messages for policy makers, general public and health care workers. For more information, visit <https://www.adva.asia/>.

Source: Asia Dengue Voice and Action

- PRNewswire, Singapore, June 15, 2026



Breaking the Silence: Addressing Bullying and Building Safe Spaces for Children and Adolescents in the Asia-Pacific Region

**ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION
WEBINAR**

**BREAKING THE SILENCE:
ADDRESSING BULLYING AND BUILDING SAFE
SPACES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

SPEAKERS

DR. JACQUELINE O. NAVARRO
PHILIPPINES
UNDERSTANDING BULLYING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONTEXT

PROF. VITHARON BOON-YASIDHI
THAILAND
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT OF BULLYING ON YOUNG PEOPLE

ASSOC. PROF. LILIAN HIU LEI WONG
HONG KONG
THE RISE OF CYBERBULLYING IN A DIGITALLY CONNECTED REGION

PROF. THIYAGAR NADARAJAW
MALAYSIA
PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION: BUILDING SAFER SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

31 May 2026, Sunday 3:00 PM (HK Time)

Registration

**BREAKING THE SILENCE:
ADDRESSING BULLYING AND BUILDING SAFE SPACES
FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

PROGRAMME

3:00 PM - 3:05 PM
WELCOME ADDRESS
DR. JOSELYN A. EUSEBIO
President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

3:05 PM - 3:10 PM
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS
PROF. SELVA KUMAR
Treasurer, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

3:10 PM - 3:30 PM
UNDERSTANDING BULLYING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONTEXT
DR. JACQUELINE O. NAVARRO (PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY)
Immediate Past President, Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

3:30 PM - 3:50 PM
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT OF BULLYING ON YOUNG PEOPLE
PROF. VITHARON BOON-YASIDHI (THAILAND PEDIATRIC SOCIETY)
Pediatrician and Child Adolescent Psychiatrist, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital Mahidol University, Bangkok

3:50 PM - 4:10 PM
THE RISE OF CYBERBULLYING IN A DIGITALLY CONNECTED REGION
ASSOC. PROF. LILIAN HIU LEI WONG (HONGKONG PEDIATRIC SOCIETY)
President, Hong Kong Pediatric Society

4:10 PM - 4:30 PM
PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION: BUILDING SAFER SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES
PROF. THIYAGAR NADARAJAW (MALAYSIAN PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION)
Past President, MAPM (Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health)

4:30 PM - 4:55 PM
Q&A AND PANEL DISCUSSION
MODERATOR: PROF. SELVA KUMAR
Treasurer, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

4:55 PM - 5:00 PM
CLOSING REMARKS
PROF. ZULKIFLI ISMAIL
Secretary General, APPA

The serious issue of bullying took center stage last May 31, 2026 in a webinar hosted by APPA, titled “Breaking the Silence: Addressing Bullying and Building Safe Spaces for Children and Adolescents in the Asia-Pacific Region.” Speakers from the member nations included Dr. Jacqueline Navarro from the Philippines, Prof. Dr. Vitharon Boon-Yasidhi from Thailand, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilian Hiu Lei Wong from Hong Kong and Prof. Dr. Thyagar Nadarajaw from Malaysia.

Bullying as everyone learned is one of the most prevalent forms of violence affecting children and adolescents worldwide affecting approximately one in three children throughout the region. The Asia-Pacific region is unique in that it is the home to more than half of the world’s children and encompasses extraordinary diversity in culture, language, socioeconomic development, educational systems, digital connectivity, and healthcare resources. The forms of bullying observed throughout the Asia-Pacific region are diverse, which include verbal bullying, physical bullying and relational bullying.

One important phenomenon is that cyberbullying has emerged as one of the fastest-growing forms of bullying owing to widespread smartphone ownership, social media use, online gaming, and digital communication among adolescents. The persistence and anonymity of cyberbullying amplify its psychological impact and make it particularly challenging for families, schools, and healthcare professionals to detect and address.

The discussion of bullying is important because of its significant impact with immediate and lifelong consequences for physical health, mental health, development, education, and social functioning. The strongest and most consistent evidence links bullying with adverse mental health outcomes. Bullying is also associated with self-harm, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and trauma-related symptoms. One important impact is that bullying frequently extend well beyond childhood such as having increased risks of depression, anxiety disorders, substance misuse, unemployment, reduced educational attainment, poorer

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APPA WEBINAR ON BULLYING

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physical health, and diminished quality of life during adulthood.

The webinar concluded with a discussion on interventions to prevent and mitigate the effects of bullying. Emphasis was made on evidence-based, whole-school bullying prevention programs that promote positive school climates and student well-being.

It is ideal to incorporate routine developmentally appropriate inquiry about bullying in regular pediatric health visits like with the use of a good screening tool. Lastly, the APPA as a lead

organization in the region was challenged to promote collaborative partnerships among pediatricians, families, educators, mental health professionals and policymakers. This is a challenge that everyone welcomed as the APPA believes that every child has the right to a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. Moving forward, the APPA was challenged to create a position statement on prevention and management of bullying in the region.

- by **Dr. Jacqueline O. Navarro**

Immediate Past President

Philippine Society for Developmental & Behavioural Pediatrics



APPA WEBINAR

Webinar on Micronutrients in Children

ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION

"Micronutrients in Children - Is there a Need to Supplement?"

DR. FELIZARDO N. GATCHECO
PREVENTION OF MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN ASIAN CHILDREN

DR. JOSSIE M. ROGACION
FOOD-BASED STRATEGIES: ARE THEY SUFFICIENT TO FIGHT MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES?

DR. ORAPORN DUMRONGWONGSIRI
VITAMIN D STATUS IN INFANTS LIVING IN TROPICAL AREAS: DO THEY NEED SUPPLEMENTATION?

1.5 PPS CPD Units

7 June 2026, Sunday 3:00 PM (Manila Time)

Registration

"Micronutrients in Children - Is there a Need to Supplement?"

PROGRAMME

3:00 PM - 3:05 PM
OPENING REMARKS
JOSELYN A. EUSEBIO, MD, FPPS, FPSDBP
President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

3:05 PM - 3:25 PM
PREVENTION OF MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN ASIAN CHILDREN
FELIZARDO N. GATCHECO MD, MSC, FPPS, FPSPGHAN
Pediatric Gastroenterologist and Clinical Epidemiologist

3:25 PM - 3:45 PM
FOOD-BASED STRATEGIES: ARE THEY SUFFICIENT TO FIGHT MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES?
JOSSIE M. ROGACION, MD, MSCE, FPPS, FPSPGHAN
Past President, Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

3:45 PM - 4:05 PM
VITAMIN D STATUS IN INFANTS LIVING IN TROPICAL AREAS: DO THEY NEED SUPPLEMENTATION?
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. ORAPORN DUMRONGWONGSIRI
Associate Professor, Division of Nutrition, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University

4:05 PM - 4:25 PM
Q&A AND PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator: **Almida A. Roodica, MD, DPPS, DPSPGHAN**
Vice President, Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

4:25 PM - 4:30 PM
CLOSING REMARKS
HAZEL V. ARNALDO, MD, FPPS, FPSPGHAN
President, Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association in collaboration with Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition recently hosted a timely webinar entitled "Micronutrients in Children: Is there a need to supplement?". The program brought together experts from across the region to discuss the continuing challenge of micronutrient

deficiencies in children and the role of supplementation in promoting optimal health and development.

Micronutrient deficiency remains to be a significant challenge in pediatric practice despite advances in healthcare and nutrition. Across Asia, deficiencies in essential vitamins and

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minerals continue to affect millions of children, posing serious risks to physical growth, cognitive development, and immune function. Addressing these nutritional gaps remains a critical component in improving child health outcomes.

Opening the scientific session, **Dr. Felizardo N. Gatcheco**, a Pediatric Gastroenterologist and Clinical Epidemiologist, focused the discussion on the **prevention of micronutrient deficiency in Asian children**. He highlighted the significant role of micronutrients in maintaining good health. Deficiencies in essential nutrients such as iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, and vitamin D remain prevalent in many Asian countries despite significant advances in child health. Dr. Gatcheco emphasized the importance of early identification of at-risk children and shared important key messages on strategies to prevent nutritional deficiencies.

The discussion continued with **Dr. Jossie M. Rogacion**, who addressed whether **food-based strategies are sufficient to combat micronutrient deficiencies**. She underscored breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding, dietary diversification, and the use of fortified foods can help children meet their nutritional requirements while establishing healthy eating habits. However, she noted that dietary approaches alone may not always be adequate for children with limited food intake, increased nutritional needs, or underlying health conditions. Dr. Rogacion concluded that food-based strategies are more comprehensive and long lasting but more difficult to achieve. Targeted supplementation may be necessary in selected populations and the use of oral vitamin and mineral supplements may offer an alternative strategy especially in resource-poor settings but it has to be balanced with other resources in a particular country.

The final lecture was delivered by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oraporn Dumrongwongsiri**, who explored **vitamin D status in infants living in tropical areas and the need for supplementation**. Despite abundant sunlight in many Asian countries, vitamin D deficiency remains surprisingly common. Factors such as indoor lifestyles, limited sun exposure, cultural practices, and exclusive breastfeeding without supplementation may contribute to inadequate vitamin D levels. Dr. Dumrongwongsiri reviewed current evidence supporting vitamin D supplementation during infancy and highlighted the need for individualized assessment in older children.

The webinar was moderated by **Dr. Almida Reodica** and a lively panel discussion allowed participants to engage with the speakers on practical approaches to nutritional assessment, supplementation, and preventive strategies in pediatric practice.

The webinar reinforced a key message: while a nutritious and varied diet should remain the primary source of micronutrients for children, supplementation has an important role for those at risk of deficiency. Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, healthcare providers should tailor recommendations based on individual nutritional needs, dietary patterns, and clinical circumstances.

As childhood nutrition continues to evolve as a public health priority, the insights shared by the speakers serve as an important reminder that ensuring adequate micronutrient intake is fundamental to supporting healthy growth, cognitive development, and lifelong well-being of a child.

- Dr. Sarabeth V. De Castro

Secretary, Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PSPGHAN)





APPA Webinar Highlights Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region

ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION and PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY INC.

Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Challenges in Asia Pacific Region

SPEAKERS

- RISK OF ADULT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AMONG CHILDREN IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION**
Jonnie Bote-Nuñez, MD
 Treasurer/Board Member, PSPC
 Chair, CV Risk Reduction Working Group
- OBESITY SCARE & ITS CONSEQUENCES**
Lorna R. Abad, MD
 Pediatric Endocrinologist
 Board Member, Philippine Pediatric Society
- RECOGNITION & SCREENING OF HYPERTENSION IN CHILDREN**
Masood Sadiq, MD
 President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Cardiac Society
- HYPERLIPIDEMIA IN CHILDREN**
Chen Ching Kit, MD
 Pediatric Cardiology
 Asst. Professor, Nanyang Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

PROGRAMME

- Opening Remarks**
Joselyn A. Eusebio, MD
 President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association
- Risk of Adult Cardiovascular Disease among Children in Asia Pacific Region**
Jonnie Bote-Nuñez, MD
 Chair, Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Working Group
 Board Member, PH Society of Pediatric Cardiology
- Obesity Scare & its Consequences**
Lorna R. Abad, MD
 Pediatric Endocrinologist
 Board of Trustees, Philippine Pediatric Society
- Recognition & Screening of Hypertension in Children**
Masood Sadiq, MD
 President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Cardiac Society
- Hyperlipidemia in Children**
Chen Ching Kit, MD
 Pediatric Cardiology
 Asst. Professor of Pediatrics, Nanyang Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
- OPEN FORUM**
Sheldon P. Paragas, MD
 Board Member, Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology
- Closing Remarks**
Prof. Imalke Kankanaratchi
 Professor in Pediatrics, Univ. of Ruhuna

17 MAY 2026, SUNDAY 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Live stream via ZOOM

1 PPS CPD unit

On May 17, 2026, the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), in collaboration with the Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology (PSPC), successfully conducted a webinar entitled **“Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region”**. The event drew an overwhelming response from healthcare professionals across the region, reaching full online attendance capacity.

The webinar featured distinguished speakers **Dr. Jonnie Bote-Nuñez** and **Dr. Lorna R. Abad** from the Philippines, **Prof. Dr. Masood Sadiq** from Pakistan, and **Dr. Chen Ching Kit** from Singapore. The session was moderated by **Dr. Sheldon Paragas**, while Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, President of APPA, delivered the Opening Remarks, emphasizing the timeliness and importance of addressing cardiovascular risk factors early in life.

In her lecture, **“Risk of Adult Cardiovascular Disease Among Children in the Asia-Pacific Region”**, Dr. Nuñez highlighted that cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide, with the majority of cases linked to modifiable risk factors. She emphasized that adult cardiovascular disease often begins in childhood through the cumulative effects of obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, insulin resistance, and unhealthy lifestyle behaviors. With the Asia-Pacific region facing a rapidly growing cardiometabolic crisis driven by urbanization, nutritional transition, sedentary lifestyles, and socioeconomic disparities, she underscored the

need for a strategic shift from treatment to prevention and from adult-focused care to lifelong cardiovascular risk reduction beginning in childhood.

Dr. Abad’s presentation, **“Obesity Scare and Its Consequences”**, focused on the alarming rise in childhood obesity and its far-reaching cardiovascular, metabolic, hepatic, renal, and psychosocial consequences. She stressed that obesity is a preventable condition and called on healthcare professionals to promote healthy lifestyle habits from early life and to routinely monitor growth parameters to facilitate early intervention.

In **“Recognition and Screening of Hypertension in Children”**, Prof. Dr. Sadiq discussed the increasing prevalence of pediatric hypertension in the Asia-Pacific region and the large proportion of cases that remain undiagnosed. He emphasized that elevated blood pressure in childhood strongly predicts adult hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Key recommendations included routine blood pressure measurement in children aged three years and above, proper measurement techniques, confirmation of abnormal readings, and prioritization of lifestyle modification as the foundation of management.

The final lecture, **“Hyperlipidemia in Children”**, by Dr. Chen highlighted the growing burden of pediatric dyslipidemia and the importance of early prevention. He noted that

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APPA WEBINAR

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atherosclerosis begins in childhood and progresses silently over time. The lecture reviewed current approaches to screening, the role of non-HDL cholesterol as a predictor of cardiovascular risk, and the importance of lifestyle modification and, when indicated, pharmacologic therapy in preventing future cardiovascular disease.

An engaging open forum followed, allowing participants to interact with the speakers and discuss practical approaches to cardiovascular risk reduction in children. The webinar concluded with closing remarks from **Prof. Dr. Imalke Kankananarachchi**, who thanked the speakers and

participants and reaffirmed the commitment of APPA to advancing child cardiovascular health throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The webinar reinforced a central message shared by all speakers: **the prevention of adult cardiovascular disease begins in childhood through the early identification and management of cardiovascular risk factors.**

- **Dr. Jonnie Bote-Nunez**
- **Incoming Secretary**
- **Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology**



INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EVENTS

THAILAND

The 6th Paediatric Flexible Bronchoscopy Course

Date: October 16-17, 2026

Venue: Olympus Thai-Training & Education Center (T-TEC), Bangkok, 10250 Thailand

Organised by: The Department of Paediatrics, Khoo Teck Puat-National University Children's Medical Institute, NUHS, Singapore

For more information and registration details, please email to Jason_WY_POH@nuhs.edu.sg

SOUTH KOREA

The 19th Congress of Asian Society for Pediatric Research (ASPR 2026) Seoul

Theme: "Advancing Child Health, Bringing Science and Society"

Hosted by the Asian Society for Pediatric Research and organized by The Korean Pediatric Society (KPS)

Date: October 21-23, 2026 **Venue:** Lotte Hotel World, Seoul, South Korea

Website: www.aspr2026.org **Secretariat:** info@aspr2026.org

The Korean Pediatric Society - Email: peditrics@peditrics.or.kr

AUSTRALIA

The 24th World Congress of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology WCBIP 2026

Date: December 3-6, 2026

Venue: Melbourne, Australia

Website: wcbip2026.com

Email: wcbip2026@theconferencecompany.com

2028

* * THAILAND * *

The 20th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) 2028

Date: October 26-29, 2028

Venue: Pattaya, Thailand

AUSTRALIA

The 8th World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (WCPGHAN)

Date: August 30-September 2, 2028

Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)
in Brisbane, Australia

Website: www.wcpghan2028.com

NOTE:

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

- Compiled and updated by Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA