

BERITA CSM



Newsletter of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

Message from the President

April Camilla Roslani



The surgical profession has evolved tremendously since it was first recognised as such, with the award of the Royal Charter to the Company of Barber Surgeons in the 16th century. What does it now mean to be a surgeon in the 21st century? Clearly, a surgeon must demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skills, and must have undergone satisfactory training in these domains. There is a growing recognition, however, that professional behaviours are what set respected surgeons apart from their peers, and that there is no end-point to learning. The enforcement of specialist regulation by the Malaysian Medical Council, through its Code of Professional Conduct, requirement for registration in the National Specialist Registry, and evidence of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), means that surgeons are required, and must continue to prove their qualifications and fitness to practise in their particular specialty or sub-specialty.

CSAMM's motto - *Jaya Berbakti* (Success through Devoted Service) - recognises that the surgical profession must place itself above commercial interests. Integrity and exemplary conduct are essential to maintain public trust, and prevent medicolegal repercussions as well as workplace abuses. It is no longer sufficient to rely on the master-apprentice paradigm to ensure that trainees learn and apply these principles. Thus, throughout 2019, CSAMM has used its standing as the voice of the surgical profession in Malaysia to advocate for a higher standard of professionalism - be it in training or practice.

1. ASSEMBLING THE TEAM

The CSAMM AGM & Council Meeting took place on 27th April 2019, uncoupled from our Annual Scientific Congress in order to comply with constitutional requirements. It was a great honour for me to receive the mantle of the Presidency from my illustrious predecessor, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, who has set a very high bar in terms of leadership. The new Council represents the diversity of CSAMM's membership, with a good mix of specialties, types of practice, and experience.

POST	SPECIALTY
President	
Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani	General Surgery / Colorectal
Immediate Past-President	
Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid	General Surgery / Vascular
Senior Vice-President	
Associate Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee	General Surgery
Honorary Secretary	
Dr Siow Sze Li	General Surgery / Upper GI
Honorary Treasurer	
Dr Christopher Ho	Urology

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POST	SPECIALTY
Council Members	
Associate Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap	General Surgery / Colorectal
Professor Dr Liew Ngoh Chin	General Surgery / Vascular
Professor Dato' Dr Subramaniam Muniandy	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Professor Dr David Choon	Orthopaedic Surgery
Dato' Dr Abdul Jamil Abdullah	General Surgery
Dr Ng Char Hong	General Surgery / Breast
Dr Andre Das	General Surgery



CSAMM Council 2019 / 2020

In addition, we have restructured the education committee to be more representative of CSAMM's activities, separating the financial and implementation aspects, and creating new portfolios to facilitate our aspirations to be a key player in surgical education. These new portfolios encompass training, courses and examinations.

2. GATHERING DATA - CSAMM ROADSHOWS

The importance of understanding the needs of the surgical fraternity cannot be under-emphasised. In order to touch base and understand issues on the ground, CSAMM Council members undertook a series of roadshows across the country, to raise awareness of CSAMM's roles, and to understand how best we could help with current challenges. In this respect, we were aided significantly by the CSAMM state representatives, who were invaluable for organising logistics.

The 2019 schedule comprised the following:

• Kuantan, 7th August 2019

Dr Andre Das and I visited Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan (HTAA) in Kuantan, kindly hosted by the Pahang State Head of Surgical Services, Dato' Dr

Jiffre Din (also CSAMM's Training-the-Trainers chair) and HTAA Department of Surgery Head, Mr David Ong. We had run a Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NoTSS) course the day before, and were pleased to be invited to address the hospital staff about it. Then we adjourned to the Surgery Department where we engaged with specialists, registrars and medical officers of all surgical specialties, regarding training challenges.



Kuantan Roadshow

• Ipoh, 13th September 2019

Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, Associate Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap and I made this visit in conjunction with the Perak Surgical Update 2019, hosted by Mr Yan Yang Wai (State Head of Surgical Services) and his team. The Update is a biennial meeting, established in 2012, and driven by the surgical department of Hospital Raja Perempuan Bainun, Ipoh. It draws together trainers and trainees from around the country, and has become an indispensable part of the surgical educational landscape locally.



Ipoh Roadshow



In addition to delivering technical lectures, the CSAMM council members delivered a town hall session to engage attendees on its various roles. Some of the topics discussed included a proposed Basic Surgical Training (BST) curriculum, changes to Advanced Surgical Training (AST/Masters) in relation to the National Curriculum, relevant examinations (MedEx, MRCS, JSCFE) and regulatory requirements (NSR & CPD). There was great anxiety regarding the recently announced MedEx examination and its perceived impact on entry into advanced surgical training. Engagement was good, and the relief following explanations from CSAMM was palpable.

- **Seberang Jaya, 6th October 2019**

The Northern Surgical Emergency Update 2019, organised by the Seberang Jaya Surgical Society and the Surgical Department of Seberang Jaya Hospital, took place on 5th to 6th October 2019 in the Light Hotel Perai. Led by the Head of Surgery, Mr Nagarajan T Vellasamy, the programme comprehensively covered surgically relevant emergencies, through lectures delivered by leaders in their respective fields. There were 350 attendees, including surgeons, medical and house officers, medical students and paramedics. CSAMM Council member, Ismail Sagap, was amongst the speakers, and took this opportunity to engage with attendees regarding entry into advanced surgical training, and CSAMM's educational roles.

- **Sarawak, 4th - 6th November 2019**

This was a highly interactive tour, undertaken conjointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh representatives. Stops on the tour were Kuching, Miri and Bintulu, and the local organising committees really went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Especial thanks to Dr Clarence Lei (CSAMM State representative), Dr Siow Sze Li (Honorary Secretary), Mr Nik Azim Nik Abdullah (Head of Surgery, Sarawak General Hospital), Ms Aisah Munirah Wahi (Head of Surgery, Hospital Miri), Ms Dayang Azzyati Awang Dahlan (Head of Surgery, Bintulu Hospital) and Mr Ernest Ong (General Surgeon, Bintulu Hospital) for their hospitality. A full report on the Sarawak Roadshow by Dr Siow Sze Li appears later in this edition of Berita CSM.

- **Seremban, 16th November 2019**

The Malaysian Students' Surgical Society (MSSS) is a national student society established in 2018, to develop interest in surgery among Malaysian medical students and unify efforts by various

medical student surgical interest groups. Advised by CSAMM Past-President, Professor Dato' Dr Kandasami Palayan, and endorsed by CSAMM, previous collaborations have included workshops, symposia and the establishment of a medical students' programme at CSAMM's Annual Scientific Congress.



Small group discussions during Seremban CSAMM Roadshow

The 'Student to Surgeon Surgical Symposium was the second such activity organised by MSSS. I was privileged to be accorded a Presidential address. The Keynote Address on 'Pathways to Surgery in Malaysia: Have We Created Sufficient Opportunities?' was delivered by none other than the Director-General, Ministry of Health, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. I was joined by Datuk Dr Rohaizat bin Hj Yon, then-Deputy Director of Health, Ministry of Health, for a panel discussion on surgical career pathways. This was followed by a series of mini-workshops, including basics in knotting and suturing, laparoscopy, surgical ultrasonography, endoscopy and colostomy construction and care.



Group photo of Seremban CSAMM Roadshow Speakers and Organising Committee

Following the workshops, CSAMM Senior Vice-President Professor Lim Kean Ghee and I met with doctors who were at various stages in their careers, to clarify queries about surgical training and professional issues.



3. STARTING EARLY

Feedback culled from the roadshows showed that while there was great interest in surgical careers, the duration required for completion of training was prohibitively long, and often prolonged because of administrative impediments or exigencies of service. It is important, therefore, for CSAMM to help generate interest, identify potential trainees at an early stage, and provide learning opportunities independent of service requirements.

- **CSAMM Basic Surgical Skills Competition for Medical Students, 16th February 2019**

One of CSAMM's early endeavors to engage with medical students, this competition has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2013. Organised in collaboration with the Advanced Surgical Skills Centre (ASSC) in UKM, and ably coordinated by Dr Zamri Zuhdi under the watchful eye of Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, concept lectures and benchwork demonstrations, followed by regional heats, winnowed more than a hundred participants to just fifteen finalists. The top five were truly impressive as they worked their way through the challenging stations, and we hope they will choose to pursue surgery as a career. Congratulations to Norheidi Izzat Nor Azman (IMU), the champion, and runners-up, Toh Ee Syuen (IMU), Dennis Ting Siong Wei (USM), Mohammad Farhan Abd Wahab (UiTM) and Voon Hie Wei (USM).



- **Medical Students' Programme, CSAMM 2019**

The programme this year took advantage of the vastly experienced international faculty to deliver a thoughtful programme highlighting the many professional considerations for would-be surgeons. Topics included what constitutes a competent surgeon, delivered by RACS Vice-President, Mr Richard Perry, training pathways

around the world (Professor Dr Raghu Ram - India, Professor Dr Mike Lavelle Jones - UK, Professor Dr Andrew Hill - Australasia), professional behaviours and simulation in training (local faculty). Response from the students was enthusiastic, with many feeling inspired to continue on a surgical path.

- **Basic Surgical Training (BST) and E-training Management Platform**

CSAMM's involvement in the National Curriculum project has allowed us to identify gaps in early surgical training. Pre-Masters training is unstructured and uncoordinated, with no formal assessment of competencies. Recognising this, CSAMM was tasked by the Conjoint Specialty Committee for General Surgery to coordinate a Basic Surgical Training programme based on the curriculum drafted by the National Curriculum Writing Group. In order to assist in the coordination, a committee has been assembled to construct an E-training Management Platform, which is funded by AMM. We hope to be able to launch BST in 2020.

4. BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST

- **Improving Advanced Surgical Training (AST) Curricula**

The National Curriculum Project began in 2014 with the recognition that a critical look at training in Malaysia was long overdue, in order to address national needs. Furthermore, it was crucial to establish common standards across all programmes, particularly in those specialties that had programmes with overseas awarding bodies. CSAMM representatives have been an influential part of the surgical specialty writing groups. Among the surgical specialties, Orthopaedics and General Surgery have progressed the most rapidly, with the final version projected to be published in 2020.

- **Regulation of Specialists**

It has never been more important to maintain the public's trust in our profession. An important first step was the enforcement of registration with the National Specialist Registry, and this was soon followed by a CPD requirement for renewal of license to practice. However, the work on the National Curriculum highlighted the need to have common standards for recognised training, regardless of where that training took place. The Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) has drafted Standards for Postgraduate Training of Medical Practitioners, and work will be commencing on specialty specific standards. Nominees from CSAMM will be appointed to Specialty Sub-Committees (Education) for the relevant



specialties, who will be tasked to define these specialty specific standards and evaluate training programmes.

5. UNITING THE SPECIALTIES

• CSAMM Chapters

The raison d'être of CSAMM is to represent the surgical fraternity. There is strength in unity, and it is important to be inclusive particularly on matters of common ground, such as professionalism. To this end, the Council has sought to formalise the engagement with the surgical specialties, with the establishment of surgical chapters. In 2018, nine chapters were established. In 2019, we added two more - the Breast and Endocrine Chapter (replacing the Breast Chapter), and the Chapter of Women Surgeons.

• CSAMM / Asian Congress of Surgery (ACS) 2019, 2nd - 4th August 2019

Our annual scientific congresses are also forums for cross-specialty engagement. In 2019, the congress had an especially international flavour, as it was organised in collaboration with the Asian Surgical Association. Graced by HRH Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir, the opening ceremony began with an opening address by CSAMM Immediate Past President, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid. Awards conferred were the M Balasegaram Trainer award to Emeritus Professor Freda Meah, AM Ismail Orator to Professor Dr Mike Lavelle-Jones, GB Ong Orator to Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang, and RACS Orator, Professor Dr Glenn Guest.

Also significant was the renewal of a memorandum of understanding between CSAMM and Johnson & Johnson (represented by Christopher Henry, Head of Global Surgery) to continue developing the Science of Tissue Management courses, and the collaborative discussions with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh led by RCSEd President Professor Dr Michael Griffin, and the DG of Health, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah to progress Orthopedics training and Non-Technical Skills (NoTSS) courses.

We also engaged with our Trauma surgeons, with a dedicated symposium titled 'Disaster Management: Between a Rock and a Hard Place', covering areas of surgery that few will have vast experience in. Sharing their expertise were Professor Dr Aryono Puspongoro, who spoke on 'Erupting Merapi - Bringing order to chaos', Dr Azuddin Mohd Khairy, addressing 'The Lahad Datu attack - Our experiences with the aftermath of military conflict', and Dr Yuzaidi Mohamad, who recounted his experience with the Hospital Sultanah Aminah JB fire.

There was something for everyone in the comprehensive programme, whether established surgeons, surgical trainees, medical or house officers, medical students or nurses. Participants were able to keep track of it all with the AMM Events App, which was being used for our congress for the first time. A full report of the Congress appears later in this newsletter.



Launch of Pocket Mentor



Science of Tissue Management MOU Signing



Asian Congress of Surgery 2019 Stage Party



- **Follow-up engagement with the orthopaedic fraternity, 23rd September 2019**

The visit by RCSEd Vice President, Mr Pala Rajesh, for various events was a good opportunity for CSAMM (represented by me, Associate Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee, Associate Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap and Dr Andre Das) to convene a round-table discussion with Orthopaedic stakeholders from the Ministry of Health (Dato' Seri Dr Premchandran Menon and Dato' Dr Suresh Chopra), universities, orthopaedic specialty committee and curriculum writing groups (Professor Dr Azlina Abbas), CSAMM Orthopaedic Chapter (Dr Jamal Azmi) and Malaysian Orthopaedics Association (Dr Chye Ping Ping, Dr Roohi Waseem and Associate Professor Dr Nor Hazla), to have consensus on training pathways. Following robust discussions, common ground was established, with all stakeholders ready to move forward together.



Meeting with Orthopaedic Stakeholders

- **Follow-up engagement with the cardiothoracic fraternity, 12th December 2019**

Cardiothoracic surgery has made great strides to formalise direct-entry training programmes. In addition to the RCSEd-MBCTS-CSAMM collaboration, there is now a proposal for a home-grown Clinical Masters-type programme. Together with Associate Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee and Dr Andre Das, I met with key stakeholders to facilitate engagement regarding common standards and curricula, for a win-win solution. Stakeholders included Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang (MATCVS President), Dato' Dr Mohd Hamzah Kamarulzaman (MBCTS Chair), Professor Dr Raja Amin Raja Mokhtar (CSAMM CTS Chapter Chair), Professor Dr Zamrin Dimon (Dean, UiTM), Dr Sivakumar Krishnasamy (National Curriculum - CTS chair) and many prominent CTS surgeons from public and private sectors (Dato' Dr Zainuddin Wazir, Professor Dr John KM Chan, Dato' Dr Mohamad Arif

Muhammad Nor, Mr Abu Yamin, Mr Soon Sing Yang and Mr K Paneer Selvam).



Meeting with Cardiothoracic Stakeholders

6. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- **Reciprocal Visits**

Reciprocal visits are an important way for CSAMM to enhance its international network. Such relationships are critical for clearing the path for collaborations in training and education, research and other professional activities.

- ***Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress 2019, Bangkok***

I was privileged to be invited to speak on the challenges facing women surgeons in Malaysia on 9th May 2019, together with Dr Sally Butchers' presentation on rural surgery, and Senior Legal Counsel, Ms Rebecca Grover, who spoke on business challenges in private practice.

- ***American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2019, San Francisco***

This commenced with the ACS President's Dinner on 26th October 2019. Edward E Cornell III's thoughtful and well-received toast to the office of the President addressed the importance of civility, grace and dignity under fire. Outgoing president, Professor Dr Ronald V Maier, and incoming president, Professor Dr Valerie W Rusch, took turns to welcome the guests, of whom the Malaysians were me, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah and Professor Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har. The following day saw the convocation ceremony for a record number of new Fellows, including CSAMM members such as NOTSS Director, Dr Yeap Chee Loong, and CCriSP Instructor, Dr Naveen Rajaratnam.

- ***Association of Women Surgeons Annual Scientific Conference 2019, San Francisco***

On the morning of 26th October 2019, I had the opportunity to be a co-panelist for the Disruptive Technologies breakout session on Moving the Needle Forward in International Surgery.



I was so impressed by the audience, comprising medical students, trainees and attendings (consultants), who had virtually all worked at some point in a LMIC. Mentoring with cultural context, SoMe, outreach with a GlobalSurgery network were just some of the ideas discussed. The lively atmosphere was sustained by convenor Associate Professor Dr Sharon Stein, my co-panelists, Professor Dr Hilary Sanfey, Professor Dr Farah Bhatti (UK) and Dr Heather Bougard (South Africa), our scribe, Ms Camila Guetter, AWS National Medical Students Vice-Chair, and RACS Women Surgeons' Chapter Chair, Dr Christine Lai.

- Philippine College of Surgeons Annual Congress 2019, Manila

The opening ceremony of the 75th Philippine College of Surgeons Annual Congress on 1st December 2019, saw the induction of new Fellows, as well as the 50th Dr Gregorio T Singian Memorial Lecture, delivered by the Hon Teodoro L Locsin Jr, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Philippines. It was a good opportunity to catch up with fellow international guests, Mr Anthony Sparnon, RACS President (Australia), Professor Dr Paisit Siri Wittayakorn, RCST President (Thailand), and Professor Dr Chhuoern Vuthy (Cambodia).

In the International Academic Symposium, we went on to discuss Surgical Professionalism, Precision Medicine and Clinical Impact of Ethnic Diversity. Day two saw the launching of the PCS Commissions, an innovative effort to enhance collaborations in tackling healthcare problems. PCS Past President, Associate Professor Dr Manuel Francisco Roxas, a frequent visitor to Malaysia, was appointed Director of the PCS Commission for Cancer.

Finally, the President's Dinner was a convivial end to the day. Enormously privileged to sit with Professor Dr Henri Bismuth, Professor Dr John Fildes (the trauma surgeon who coordinated the response to the Las Vegas shootings), Dr Anthony Sparnon (RACS President and paediatric surgeon) and Professor Dr Alfred Belmonte. Plenty of other luminaries were at the event, and we had the opportunity to see some of the traditional dances that reflect the diversity of the Philippines. I wrapped up the following day by talking on the challenges of rural surgery in Malaysia, to which Malaysian Head of Surgical Services, Dato' Seri Dr Yusof Abdul Wahab had contributed significantly, and which was well-received. A big thank you to President, Dr George Lim and his team for their gracious hospitality.

- College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka (CSSL) Annual Congress, 2019

CSAMM has had a close relationship with CSSL since the time of Past-President Professor Dr Lamawansa, who has often visited Malaysia as an external examiner, and proposed a collaborative partnership in 2017. I was incredibly privileged to receive the Honorary Fellowship of CSSL on the occasion of their 48th Annual Congress, held in Galle on 22nd August 2019. Graced by Her Excellency, Mrs Wasantha Perera, Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, other recipients were Professor Dr David Richens, International Advisor for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Professor Dr Michael Griffin, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Dr Mahanama Gunasekara, Immediate Past-President of CSSL, Dr Santosh John Abraham, Past President of Association of Surgeons of India, and Professor Dr K B Galketiya of the University of Peradeniya.

The inauguration ceremony ended with the RL Spittel Oration, delivered by Lt Col (Dr) Amila Ratnayake, who spoke on 'War and Conflict: Surgeons of Victims of War - Translating and Transforming Trauma Care'. The oration is named after Richard Lionel Spittle, a Ceylonese (as it was called then) Burgher who trained as a doctor in Ceylon before qualifying as a surgeon in the UK, returning to serve in Colombo until his retirement. I would like to thank Professor Dr Nissanka Jayawardhana, the current President of CSSL for this wonderful honour, and President-Elect Professor Dr Jayindra Fernando for the lovely citation. May CSAMM and CSSL continue collaborations long into the future.



• Other Collaborations

- **Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)**

BCPS is responsible for conducting qualifying Fellowship examinations for surgeons in Bangladesh, and has recently begun inviting senior members of CSAMM to participate as external examiners. Council member Associate Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap was the first to represent our College, on 20th - 23rd July 2019, and we are grateful to him for paving the way for continued collaborations with a new sister College.

- **Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh (SOSB)**

This was the first invitation to CSAMM representatives to attend SOSB's annual congress. Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee and I were invited to speak at the 15th International Surgical Congress of SOSB in conjunction with the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Surgical Care Society Meeting 2019, beginning 7th December 2019. The first session of the opening day saw a plenary session that I was honored to be part of, speaking on Advances in Colorectal Cancer management.

This was followed by the Asir Memorial Lecture given by Professor Dr Shah Alam, a spine surgeon who presented his huge series of surgeries for spine tuberculosis. SOSB President, Professor Dr Zulfiquir Rahman Khan gave his views on the Congress theme, 'Innovate, Educate and Advance to Excellence' which included a demonstration of his skills on the piano! I spoke on treatments for anorectal conditions, and Associate Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee talked about NoTSS on the final day. There were useful discussions on potential future collaborations, particularly with regards to training and assessments. We are grateful to Professor Dr Zulfiquir for his kind invitation and hospitality.



**SOSB President,
Professor Dr Zulfiquir
Rahman Khan**



SOSB 2019

- **Association of Surgeons of India (ASI)**

ASI is a huge organisation, comprising more than 18000 members. Their Annual Conference (ASICON) this year was held in Bhubaneswar from 18th to 22nd December 2019.

I was humbled to be in the company of the international guests to be conferred the Honorary Fellowship, thanks to out-going ASI President, Professor Dr Arvind Kumar, and in-coming President, Professor Dr Raghu Ram. I look forward to strengthening the surgical collaborations between our two countries. Discussions on future ASI and CSAMM collaborations, particularly with regard to educational exchange opportunities for trainees, have made a promising start.



Conferment of ASI Honorary Fellowship

- **International Surgical Society (ISS)**

CSAMM members will, by now, be aware that through the good office of our Director-General for Health, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in his role as Councillor-at-Large in the ISS, CSAMM has been given the task to host the International Surgical Week in 2021 in Kuala Lumpur. We are also proud to note that Professor Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har, a CSAMM Past-President, is the President-Elect for ISS. In preparation for this monumental task, a sizeable CSAMM delegation, including the DG, made the trip to Krakow, Poland, to attend the World Congress of Surgery which commenced on 11th August 2019.

In addition to gauging requirements and expectations, it was also a good platform to publicize the upcoming congress, through our Malaysian booth stacked with local décor and culinary delights, as well as video presentations



ISSW 2019



highlighting interesting cultural and geographical aspects. This culminated in the signing of two memoranda of understanding - one cementing CSAMM's status as host for 2021, and another to facilitate Malaysians wishing to attend it. We ended the ceremony with a bang, singing 'Rasa Sayang' on stage, resplendent in Malaysian traditional dress - certainly a memorable sight!



MOU Signing with International Society of Surgery

Malaysians at ISW 2019

- **Examinations**

CSAMM continues to collaborate with overseas Colleges in a number of examinations held locally. At entry level, the MRCS OSCEs are conducted with local partners University of Malaya (RCS England & RCPS Glasgow), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (RCS Edinburgh) and RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus.

At exit level, the Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examinations (JSCFE) are now conducted in Malaysia for General Surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery and Urology. In addition, direct-entry programmes with exit examinations and overseas awarding bodies are available in

Urology (Malaysian Board of Urology with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow) and Cardiothoracic Surgery (Malaysian Board of Cardiothoracic Surgery with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh).

- **Courses**

CSAMM continues to deliver licensed surgical courses in collaboration with overseas Colleges. These include the Advanced Trauma and Life Support (ATLS) Provider and Instructor courses (American College of Surgeons), Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) Provider and Instructor courses (Royal College of Surgeons of England), and Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NotSS) courses (Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh).

Courses that are organised in collaboration with local institutions include Basic Surgical Skills, Science of Tissue Management (Johnson & Johnson), Entry into Postgraduate Training (UKM), Examiner Training (UM) and Examination Preparatory Courses / Mock Exams (universities and Ministry of Health hospitals).

We are also in negotiations with the International Association for Trauma and Intensive Care (IATSIC) through Professor Dr Ken Boffard, to develop a Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) course locally. In line with our vision to professionalise trainers, we will be looking to create Training-the-Trainer courses which are purpose-fit to local requirements.

7. A NEW HOME

Finally, I would like to reassure members that the search for a new Medical Academies' home is nearing its end. A site has been identified in Putrajaya, and the joint Academies Management Committee has been tasked to oversee the acquisition and subsequent planning. Although our offices in Enterprise 3, Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur have allowed us to continue activities, I believe a more permanent home will allow us to expand and serve our members more effectively. We envisage that the new home will not only have offices and meeting rooms, but also examination and simulation facilities, surrounded by accommodation and retail outlets, with good accessibility and connectivity.



Tribute to Immediate Past President Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid

Reported by Professor Dr Christopher Ho Chee Kong



Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah who hails from Perak, is affectionately known to his local friends as "Peah" and his overseas colleagues as "Hana". Dr Hanafiah received his education at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar and qualified with a BSc Medical Sciences from the University of St Andrews and MBChB from the University of Edinburgh Medical School with double distinctions. Upon returning from the United Kingdom, he trained in Hospital Ipoh, under the tutelage of Professor Dato' Dr P Kandasami and obtained his FRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in 1998. He was part of the core group of lecturers that founded the Perak College of Medicine and was appointed honorary clinical lecturer of the University of Sheffield.

He subsequently sub-specialised in vascular and endovascular surgery in Edinburgh leading to the award of CCST and a year as a Fellow at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle before returning to Malaysia to set up the vascular surgical division in UKM Medical Centre.

At Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, his unit has trained five international fellows in vascular surgery, all of whom had returned to their countries of origins and

became leaders in the field. Apart from training both local and overseas vascular surgeons, he was the coordinator of the Master of Surgery post graduate programme and external examiner for many universities, locally and overseas, and a visiting surgeon to the IJN.

His meteoric rise in the world of surgery is somewhat remarkable. He is the founding member and the director of the state of the art and award winning Advanced Surgical Skills Centre. This centre has conducted over 700 courses involving 6000 participants, including advanced skills courses using cadavers, simulators, animal models and other innovative techniques. In January 2018, ASSC became the first centre in the world outside the UK to be accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

In 2012 Dr Hanafiah became a council member, a year later the honorary secretary and a year later the senior vice president of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. In 2016, the Golden Jubilee year for the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, he became the president of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. The college faced many trials



and tribulations when he took over, but under his leadership, the College continued to soar to greater heights. He established the Sub-specialities Chapters in 2018 under the College of which at the moment there are a total of 9 Chapters in the college and they are the Urology Chapter, ENT chapter, Orthopaedic Chapter, Neurosurgery Chapter, Upper GI Chapter, Paediatric Chapter, Thoracic and Cardiovascular Chapter, Plastic, Aesthetics and Craniomaxillofacial Chapter and Vascular Chapter. The Breast and Endocrine Chapter, Women in Surgery Chapter will be inaugurated at the Asian Congress of Surgery this year.

He is also currently the Vice President of the Vascular Society of Malaysia, Editor in Chief of the Journal of Surgical Academia, Chairman of the Education Committee of the ASEAN Federation of Surgical Colleges and the International Surgical Adviser to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Indeed in August this year, he will assume the post of the President of the Asian Surgical Association.

Dr Hanafiah's ultimate passion is in teaching and training. His directorship of the advanced surgical skills centre has made it one of the leading and innovative surgical skill training centres in the region. He is a member of the Malaysian National Conjoint Board of Surgery, the Malaysian Board of Thoracic and CardioVascular Surgery, the NSR, a certified ATLS instructor and the Convenor of the Intercollegiate MRCS examinations and the Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examinations of the United Kingdom. Indeed it is his pivotal role that led to the historic opening of the first international office of the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh very recently in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Hanafiah's ambassadorial role does not stop there. He successfully bid in Tokyo to host the Asian Congress of Surgery in Kuala Lumpur in 2019, and before that, together with the Director General of Health, led a team in Basel that made history by successfully bidding to host the World Congress of Surgery in Kuala Lumpur in 2021. It is of no surprise, Myceb of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism awarded him the Kesatria Malaysia in 2013 for his significant contributions in the Convention and Exhibition industry.

Dr Hanafiah is also an academician. At St Andrews University, he was awarded the Margaret Pickerring gold medal for best student, where he obtained 15 distinctions. That tradition is continued throughout his career with numerous other awards including the Young Investigators Award at an international conference. He has authored over 80 peer reviewed articles, Clinical Practice Guidelines and text books and has regularly been invited as speakers at distinguished societies. He is also active in humanitarian missions both locally and abroad, was very active during the major floods mission and is appointed as a council member of Mercy Malaysia.

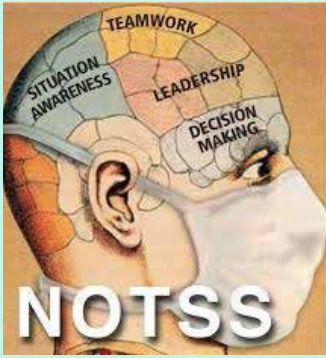
Dr Hanafiah's immense contributions have been recognised by his peers and this can be seen from his collection of awards of fellowships from the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia in 2016, the Academy of Medicine of Singapore and the American College of Surgeons in 2017 and recently became the first Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medicine of the Philippines, for his role leading to the formation of the academy. It is therefore, not a surprise that the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh awarded him the International Surgical Medal in 2015, making him the youngest ever recipient in their history and the first Malaysian to be bestowed that award. His latest Fellowship is from the College of Surgeons, Indonesia; of which he will be receiving this year; the first Malaysian to be awarded so.

And finally, in recognition of his contributions, Dato' Dr Hanafiah was awarded the DNS in 2014 and DBNS in 2017 by DYMM Yang di Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, who is also the Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

On his recipe for success, he has this to say. "There is no substitute for hard work. Surgical training is a lifetime process. Remember, people put trust in your hands. You must make sure you do your best and be the best. But don't forget to be humble. We are merely human, not God." Indeed, a man of honour, humble yet par excellence. The College would like to extend the utmost gratitude and thanks for his leadership the past 4 years in making the College stronger and well known throughout the world.



The Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) in Malaysia



Being a good surgeon is more than just being a good “pair of hands”, it’s about being a good team player, who listens and communicates well with patients and colleagues and empowers them to reach their full potential.

Having a good “pair of hands” akin having a high quality technical skills, which is very essential in managing a successful surgical practice. A technical skill refers to any psychomotor action or related mental faculty acquired through practice and learning pertaining to a particular profession. Much have written about the importance of developing good hand-eye coordination, manual dexterity and focused psychomotor skills in a “craft” specialty like surgery. The focus on technical skill development has been emphasised in major part of our surgical training. However, is technical skill the only key to delivering safe, high quality and reliable surgical practice?

Globally, there are an estimated 234 millions major surgical operations annually. This volume is thought to result in at least 7 million complications and one million deaths. In 1999, the report *To Err is Human* stated that between 44,000 to 98,000 people die in US hospital each year from preventable medical errors. A similar problem happened in UK as well. In surgery, it is evidenced that such harm is not due to deficient technical skills alone. Numerous studies have proven that deficiencies in teamwork in operation theatre are the main contributors to adverse events and poor surgical outcomes. Thus, this has led to an increasing focus on the non-technical skills for the surgical profession. Although the importance of the non-technical skills has become increasingly clear, today’s surgical curricula still lack of formal training in non-technical skills.



The first NOTSS course in Malaysia was held in Penang on 31st May 2015

Non-technical skill is a branch of human factors. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) defines non-technical skills as a collective term used to described the skills and behaviours encompassing: situational awareness, decision making, communication, teamwork and leadership. Others have defined non-technical skills along three dimension; interpersonal (e.g. communication, teamwork), cognitive (e.g. decision making, situational awareness) and personal resource skills (e.g. coping with stress and fatigue).



NOTSS was developed by a team in Scotland at the University of Aberdeen and funded by the RCSEd and NHS Education for Scotland. RCSEd has been successfully running the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) Masterclass in observing and rating behaviour for attending surgeons since 2006. The aim of the NOTSS project was to develop and test an educational system for assessment and training of non-technical skills in the intraoperative phase of surgery. NOTSS is a behaviour rating system based on a skills taxonomy that allows valid and reliable observation and assessment of four categories of surgeons' non-technical skill: situation awareness, decision making, communication & teamwork, and leadership. These are the essential non-technical skills surgeons need to perform safely in the operating theatre. It is never only about “cutting and sewing” skill.

On 31 May 2015, Mr Simon Paterson-Brown, one of the pioneers in developing NOTSS in Scotland, conducted the



first NOTSS course in Malaysia. It was held in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CSAMM) in Penang. It was a trainees course, highly stimulating and encouraging, given that it was held on the Sunday afternoon. The feedback was very good, with many mentioned that "I wish my boss attends this course too.."

The masterclass was conducted the very next day in Kuala Lumpur, which was fully attended by the senior surgeons in the country. A very active engagement with Mr Paterson-Brown was observed, with many were impressed to see how the surgical practice has evolved.



The second NOTSS course was organised at the University of Malaya on 1st June 2015

Since then, NOTSS course has been organised regularly, with high standard by the local faculty members of the CSAMM, in collaboration with the RCSEd. CSAMM now has six active faculty members and runs three to four courses annually. To date, CSAMM has conducted 10 NOTSS courses for the past five years. This course has started to attract participants from the ASEAN region, with the one conducted in HUKM recent saw 12 participants from Thailand.

There have also been lots of interest from the Ministry of Health and other university hospitals, especially after the presentation of such course at the national POMR business meeting in Kuala Lumpur by Professor Dr April Roslani, and then the NOTSS course during the recent national POMR conference August 2019 in Kota Kinabalu. More courses will be conducted to cover all hospitals in the country in years to come.

Plans for the future also include incorporation into the national postgraduate surgical training, and becoming



Presentation of NOTSS to the Ministry of Health Heads of Surgical Specialities

part of the national post graduate curriculum for surgical training, as well as expansion of numbers of local faculty members.



NOTSS course on 4th April 2019 in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kota Kinabalu



NOTSS course on 5th August 2019 in HUKM



NOTSS course on 6th August 2019 in Kuantan, Pahang



CSAMM has recently signed a MoU with the RCSEd to further strengthen the formal collaboration in this field. The MoU was signed by our President, Professor Dr April Roslani with the President of the RCSEd, Professor Dr Michael Griffin.



Renal Round Table

2nd August 2019

Reported by Dr Naresh Govindarajanthran and Professor Dr Liew Ngoh Chin

INTRODUCTION

The healthcare burden posed by renal replacement therapy has been increasing at an alarming rate. This is due to factors such as the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases like diabetes mellitus and hypertension among the Malaysian population. This is further worsened by the ageing population in the country. As a consequence of this, more and more patients will require long term renal replacement therapy. Haemodialysis, being the dominant modality for RRT in Malaysia require arteriovenous fistulae (AVF) to be created and this has been the Achilles heel of the RRT in Malaysia.

Arteriovenous fistulas have been created by a myriad of specialists ranging from general surgeon, urologist, plastic surgeon, vascular surgeon, hand and microsurgeon and occasionally orthopaedic surgeon. Currently, the treating nephrologist will refer the patients who are on dialysis or pre-dialysis to any access surgeons for creation of renal access. The sheer number of patients



Some of the participants of the Renal Round Table 2019

have overwhelmed the system and public hospitals can't cope with the burden of patients. This has increased the waiting list for access surgery, thus causing patients to be on dialysis catheters for long periods of time resulting in complications such as catheter related blood stream infections and central vein occlusion.

In view of the anticipated load of dialysis patients, and the difficulty in trying to cope on vascular access surgery, a meeting was held among the stake holders to find a solution to this pressing problem.

ATTENDANCE

Name	Speciality	Institution
Abdul Jamil Abdullah	General Surgeon	Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah
Azad Hussain	Urology	KPJ Tawakkal
Clarence Lei	Urology	Normah Medical Centre
Hafizan Md Tajri	Vascular Surgery	Hospital Kuala Lumpur
Hanif Hussein	Vascular Surgery	Hospital Kuala Lumpur
Kevin Mossinac	Vascular Surgery	Gleneagles Penang
Kingston Yeoh	Vascular Surgery	Loh Guan Lye Hospital
Lim Lay Hooi	Plastic Surgery	Hospital Pulau Pinang
Lim Yang Kwong	Plastic Surgery	
Liew Ngoh Chin	Vascular Surgery	Subang Jaya Medical Centre
Naresh Govindarajanthran	Vascular Surgery	Sunway Medical Centre
Ong Loke Meng	Nephrology	Hospital Pulau Pinang
Peter Wong	Plastic Surgery	Timberland Medical Centre
Salina Ibrahim	Plastic Surgery	Hospital Sungai Buloh
Selvalingam Sothilingam	Urology	Pantai Kuala Lumpur
Sunita Bavanandan	Nephrology	Hospital Kuala Lumpur
Vijayan Manogaran	Urology	Hospital Kuala Lumpur
Wong Hin Seng	Nephrology	Hospital Selayang



DISCUSSION

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Professor Dr Liew Ngoh Chin, Chairperson and this was followed by presentation by Dr Sunita, Head of Nephrology Unit Hospital Kuala Lumpur on the issues at hand- an overview of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in Malaysia and renal replacement therapy (RRT). She said that from the renal registry, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). With the low number of renal transplants, more dialysis centres have to be opened to cater to the need of patients. At present, our system is overwhelmed and especially so in renal access surgery. The government hospital waiting list for creation of arteriovenous fistula (AVF) is getting longer, running into many months. There are many problems faced by both patients and the treating physician which have not been addressed.

Mr Hanif, Head of Vascular Surgery Unit in Hospital Kuala Lumpur pointed out that lack of training of surgeons has been one of the reasons for this. Currently, AVF creation is not part of the syllabus for the Masters of Surgery training which has been the sole training pathway for General Surgeons. This needs to be looked at in the near future. At the moment, young general surgeons are offered a clinical attachment with the Vascular Unit of Hospital Kuala Lumpur for three months. During that period they will be exposed to ultrasound scanning, operative surgery and basic endovascular procedures. The application needs to be made to the Advisor of the Vascular Services of KKM via their respective Heads of Department.

The Urology fraternity comprising Dr Clarence Lei, Dato' Dr Selvalingam, Professor Dr Azad and Dr Vijay pointed out that access surgery have been the forte of the urologist since the 1970s and have been part of the training program in Urology. Lately, the number of referrals have reduced and this has in effect affected the training process of young urologist. There is also a lack in the continuity of care where the patients are not seen by the urologist post creation as they are being followed up by the nephrologist.

Professor Dr Liew mentioned that AVF creation is not limited to creation of access alone but include pre-dialysis counseling, pre-operative assessment, surgery, post-operative surveillance and salvage of fistula. The training should encompass all of this. A curriculum has to be drawn up for training of access surgeons to standardise the training process. This will later ease credentialing and privileging.

Professor Dr Liew has agreed to draw up a training curriculum, with the help of Vascular Society of Malaysia

(VSM) members so that more surgeons can be trained in proper AVF construction.

Dr Wong Hing Seng revealed that the ESRD burden is increasing with almost 9000 new patients needing RRT a year. This is alarming and something urgent needs to be done to address this issue. In addition to that, part of the reason for the delay in obtaining an AVF is the reluctance of patients to accept dialysis and as such, they often 'crash land. Dato' Dr Ong Loke Meng mentioned that medical officers can be credentialed to do AVFs. This is seen in Hospital Pulau Pinang and also some of the hospitals in East Malaysia. Mr Hanif replied that the credentialing is done by the hospital but there still needs to be coverage by the surgeon and the head of department.

The matter of peritoneal dialysis (PD) was also discussed. Dr Sunita mentioned that it is now a PD preferred policy in most government hospitals. The funding for PD from the government hospitals has increased but the take-up rate is still very slow. There is still very little support of PD in the private sector currently. The National Kidney Foundation is looking into the creation of a private PD centres to cater to the needs of patients. Dr Wong pointed out that 15-20% of patients on PD will require HD after three to five years due to various reasons. And this would be the ideal method of treating a patient who needs initial RRT. It is more difficult to manage patients on HD who need to change to PD. In effect, albeit the reduction of the need for HD with more utilisation of PD, the need for AVF still remains due to the above reasons.

Dato' Dr Lim Lay Hooi mentioned that the plastic surgical fraternity have been involved mainly for Paediatric AVFs. But there are units in the country that can perform AVFs whose services are underutilised. She suggested to engage private surgeons who are able to assist in providing the service. This can be done via the Public-Private partnership programme.

The discussion continued with a suggestion by Dato' Dr Jamil and Dr Vijay that a mapping system be drawn up to identify surgeons who are able to provide vascular access services all over the country. Dato' Dr Ong will circulate a google sheet which can be populated to identify those surgeons.

A brief mention was made about the e-NRR which has been established. A lot of data can be extracted from the new database for health planning purposes. It was suggested that in addition to the current data, other data including Endovascular procedures such as fistuloplasties be included in the current database. The data on types of access surgery needs to be recorded more accurately.



22nd Asian Congress of Surgery & Annual Scientific Congress 2019

7th - 9th August 2019

The 22nd Asian Congress of Surgery 2019 in conjunction with the College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2019 was held from 7th to 9th August 2019 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.



The Co-Chairpersons for the Congress were Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid and Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani. The Scientific Committee Chairperson was Dr Ng Char Hong ably assisted by his Deputy

Scientific Chairperson Associate Professor Dr See Mee Hoong.

The theme was "Unlocking the Secrets of Asian Surgery". There conference was well attended with 623 participants.

Pre and Post Congress Workshops

There were four Pre-Congress Workshops and one Post-Congress Workshop. This was not inclusive of the Medical Student Basic Surgical Skills Competition for Medical Students held at the Advanced Surgical Skills Centre (ASSC) at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia prior to the Congress. The workshops were "Basic Surgical Skills Course", "Hands-On Laparoscopic Workshop", "Endoscopic Mastectomy Workshop", "Science of Tissue Management Workshop (SoTM)" and Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) Workshop" In total there were 159 participants for these workshops.



Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was held on 7th August 2019 and was officiated by the HRH of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Muhriz ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir. This was followed by the 46th AM Ismail Oration on "Challenges of Delivering Surgical Training in the 21st Century" by Professor Dr Michael Lavelle-Jones, GB Ong Lecture on "History of Cardiac Surgical Services in Malaysia" by Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yahya Awang and the RACS Foundation Lecture on "East Timor: The Challenges of Rebuilding Surgical Capacity" by Professor Dr Glenn Guest. The citations were read by Dr Velda Chow, the Secretary General of the Asian Surgical Association.



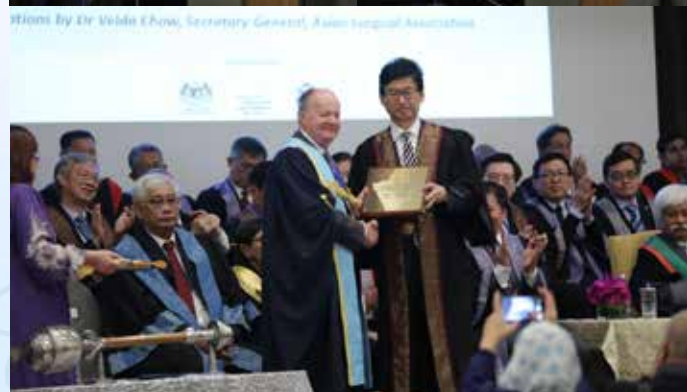
Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme over two and a half days comprised three plenaries, thirty symposiums, five meet-the-expert morning sessions, a "How I Do It" session, Ethicon Prize presentations and two free paper sessions and the official poster round.

The overseas speakers came from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. The Scientific Programme was well supported by a local faculty of 74 speakers.

Medical Student and Nurses Programme

There was a Day Symposium held for Nurses and Medical Students. 40 Nurses and 54 Medical Students attended these Symposiums.



Competitions and Winners

The Ethicon Prize was won by Dr Khoo Hui Ying from Penang General Hospital. Her paper was "Double-Blinded Randomised Controlled Study - To Determine Efficacy of Metoclopramide on Endoscopic Visibility Upper Gastrointestinal Bleed Patients in Penang Hospital".



There was also keen competition for the poster awards with 307 accepted posters and the winners were:



1st Prize - Dr Elaine Ng Hui Been - A Single Centre Retrospective Assessment of Quality of Life Post Pelvic Exenteration for Rectal Cancer in Malaysia



2nd Prize - Dr Lee Zhong Jie - Hormonal Receptors Expression of Breast Cancer Among Indigenous Groups in East Borneo



3rd Prize - Dr Chan Toi Yin - Long Term Outcome of Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract (LIFT) - Single Centre Experience



The Winner of the 7th Medical Student was Mr Nor Heidi Izzat Bin Nor Azman

There were six Oral Presentations and six International Oral Presentations.

The SMA Alhady Gold Medal was awarded to Dr Jonathan Seak Chen Ken, University of Malaya.



Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner was held on 8th August 2019 at the Sabah Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.



Industry Support

There was good support from the biomedical industry with 21 trade booths, two lunch satellite symposiums, three tea satellite symposiums and 3 hospitality suites taken up.



The Sarawak Roadshow

4th – 6th November 2019

Reported by Dr Siow Sze Li

THE HEADHUNTER TRAIL

On the 4th of November, the entourage led by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, President of CSAMM; Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap, Council member of CSAMM; Professor Dr Michael Lavelle-Jones, Immediate Past President of RCSEd & Catherine Thwaites, International Activities Manager of RCSEd arrived in Kuching for an open dialog with aspiring surgical trainees and local surgeons.

The meeting was hosted by a group of enthusiastic medical officers who went to great lengths to welcome the distinguished delegates. Approximately 30 aspiring surgical trainees, comprising both junior medical officers and house officers attended the meeting. During the meeting, Professor Dr April first presented the background information on the structure and organization of CSAMM and shared her perspective on various issues and topics such as basic surgical training, advanced surgical training (Masters), Medical Specialist Pre-entrance Examination (MedEx), National Curriculum, Membership of Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (MRCS), The Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examination (JSCFE), National Specialist Register (NSR) & Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

KUCHING

For basic surgical training, she emphasized on the importance of a structured training programme and the development of an E-learning platform soon to be implemented to address these requirements. In addition,

she encouraged all surgical trainees to register with the College to gain access to a wide range of activities and guidelines that should help them prepare for their future surgical training. As she rightly pointed out, the College requires commitment and involvement from the younger generation of surgeons for sustainable growth and development.



Mdm Catherine Thwaites then introduced herself and highlighted the role of the International Office for the RCSEd, located at the Advanced Surgical Skills Centre of University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The role involves engaging the local stakeholders, supporting the development of local curricula and assessments, promoting and maintaining highest surgical standards through the delivery of partnership projects and the sharing of expertise. It is the intention of the RCSEd to promote the highest standards of patient care through education, training & assessment.

This was then followed by a dialogue session where the participants had the opportunity to discuss various topics and give feedback on the meeting. The interaction was meaningful and was a civilised exchange of ideas, with actionable suggestions for both CSAMM and RCSEd to considered.



In the evening, the roadshow team had the opportunity to meet up with the senior Kuching based surgeons from both the public and private sectors, with representatives from general surgery, urology, orthopaedics and neurosurgery. The discussions were useful in gaining clarity and a shared understanding of training needs for the country. With the need to expand the human workforce to deliver high quality surgical training, it is timely to consider means by which cost-efficiency can be improved for the public-private partnerships.



MIRI

The following day, on the 5th of November, the entourage travelled to Miri and had a highly interactive session, hosted by Department of General Surgery, Miri Hospital. The hospital is the main secondary referral hospital in the northern region of Sarawak, Malaysia. It serves not only to the people of Miri district, but also a significant population from its more rural surrounding. We received a warm welcome at the Miri airport and were whisked off to the hospital. At the hospital, the delegation was greeted and given a brief tour of the hospital before adjourning to the seminar room. Professor Dr April gave her presentation followed by Mdm Catherine Thwaites. The morning ended with a highly entertaining and informal open dialog. The medical officers and surgical trainees were able to engage either individually or as a group with the members of the entourage on issues that require further clarification. There was more food for thought over a dinner when the Miri surgeons shared their unique challenges involved in practicing surgery and surgical education.



BINTULU

On the final day, 6th of November, we departed for Bintulu early in the morning before sunrise. We had a warm reception and enjoyed the little coffee break at the airport before being chauffeured to the hospital which is nestled on a hill. Bintulu hospital is the major specialist hospital with 292 beds and is the fourth largest hospital in the state of Sarawak. It is the only other hospital (other than Sarawak General Hospital) equipped with a dedicated Burn unit. It is staffed by three general surgeons who serve the Bintulu community and its surrounding towns well. The morning started in a similar fashion to Kuching & Miri with enjoyable presentations from Professor Dr April & Mdm Catherine Thwaites. The interactive session here was the most enjoyable and fun for both the panels and participants. This group of participants were by far the most interactive and engaging group, clearly inspired by their surgeons' work ethics. It was a pleasant surprise for the panels as we were asked to share our life journey of becoming a surgeon.



The event concluded with a memorable surprise visit to one of the 'rumah panjang' (longhouse) of the indigenous Iban. We were greeted at the doorstep by the welcoming ritual of Ngelangan, led by the Longhouse headmen, the "Tuai Rumah". It was a wonderful evening filled with music and laughter. We had such a good time enjoying the Ngajat dance by the colourfully dressed youngsters and the bountiful feast prepared by all the families. Some of us were invited to the dance floor performing the Ranyai Harvest ritual, with the Professor Dr April leading the way showcasing her extraordinary dance move.

Overall, the Sarawak Roadshow has been a success as highlighted by selected comments from the participants who attended the Sarawak Roadshow.

