

BERITA CSM



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

Message from the President *Surgery in the Time of COVID-19*

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani



The past year has been a tumultuous one. The unprecedented disruption effected by the scale of the SARS CoV2 pandemic has not been kind to the surgical profession. The limited evidence base, lack of resources and rapidly evolving landscape in the early days of the pandemic meant that surgical services and training bore the brunt of redeployment and reallocation policies. Elective lists were drastically cut, and even where some exceptions were made, such as for cancer surgery, patients themselves often refused admission due to fears of COVID-19.

Hands-on training opportunities were significantly reduced, not only as a result of reduced volumes, but in the early days, also due to the need to limit operating theatre presence to specialists, to minimize exposure and utilization of resources such as PPE and blood transfusions. Conferences and workshops were postponed, sometimes with significant financial repercussions. The CSAMM's annual congress, which had been scheduled for August 2020, was initially deferred to January 2021, then subsequently cancelled all together, when it became clear the pandemic was not rounding the curve.

Accrual for clinical research was delayed, and qualifying examinations were also postponed, leading to gaps in the surgical service supply chain. Socioeconomic inequities in healthcare were further accentuated, as patients with the means had the option of accessing private healthcare, which were still COVID-free in the initial stages of the pandemic, while those without were at risk for developing the complications of delayed surgery.

During this period, CSAMM sought to support its members through a number of ways. Many of its

members were involved in generating the evidence-base for surgery in the time of COVID-19, either locally or through international collaborations such as the COVIDSurg Collaborative. Practice guidelines, culled from the evolving evidence and best practice recommendations from our own Chapters as well as overseas sister colleges, were speedily developed, thanks to the connectivity afforded by our modern world. Through membership of advocacy groups such as the Malaysian Health Coalition, CSAMM was able to provide meaningful input to the authorities in charge of the pandemic response.

With travel having been severely curtailed, we have had to be creative in maintaining our networking and educational activities. Virtual conferencing platforms received an unexpected boost, as overnight, they became the primary mode of delivery. Interestingly, participation at these virtual conferences did not seem to be adversely affected compared with the conventional formats, and it could be argued that the flexibility offered by on-demand viewing was a value-add that had not been consistently provided by conventional meetings. Another silver lining for participants was the cost savings - fees for virtual conferences were often waived or lower than physical meetings, not to mention obviating the need for travel and accommodation expenses.

Attendance at organisational administrative meetings also improved with the hybrid format, as out-of-town members were able to participate without the added burden of organising travel.

The CSAMM AGM and First Council Meeting took place on 8th August 2020, utilising a hybrid platform, with Shangri-La Hotel, KL as the physical site, and Zoom for virtual attendees. This was made possible following approval from the Registrar of Societies to allow virtual AGMs. The Council bid farewell to Professor Dato' Dr

Hanafiah Harunarashid, the immediate Past-President, Professor Dr Liew Ngoh Chin, and Professor Dato' Dr Subramaniam Muniandy who completed their terms in Council. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for their many contributions, that have helped the College evolves to its present status as an important stakeholder in surgical education. We also welcomed some new members to Council, who I believe will continue to champion the College's ideals.

POST	SPECIALTY
President	
Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani	General Surgery / Colorectal
Senior Vice-President	
Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee	General Surgery
Honorary Secretary	
Dr Siow Sze Li	General Surgery / Upper GI
Honorary Treasurer	
Dr Christopher Ho Chee Kong	Urology
Council Members	
Dato' Dr Abdul Jamil Abdullah	General Surgery
Dr Andre Das	General Surgery
Dr Azlina Firzah Abdul Aziz	General Surgery / Breast
Professor Dr David Choon	Orthopaedic Surgery
Professor Dr Goh Bee See	Otorhinolaryngology
Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap	General Surgery / Colorectal
Dr Margaret Leow	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Dr Ng Char Hong	General Surgery / Breast

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.

I. MEDICAL STUDENT/EARLY CAREER ENGAGEMENT

It is never too early to engage with the potential next generation of surgeons. While the cancellation of our annual congress meant the usual medical students' session could not take place, CSAMM engaged through other student activities. The Malaysian Students' Surgical Society held their 2nd AGM virtually on 19 December 2020, and I was invited to speak on 'Undergraduate and Postgraduate Training - An Unforeseen Hiccup in 2020'. Other speakers included CSAMM Past-President, Professor Dato' Dr P Kandasami, who spoke of lecturers and students as new partners in learning; and CSAMM Council Member, Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap who addressed new surgical technologies.

UM MedSoc, the Universiti Malaya medical students society, has been organising a series of career guidance webinars. I was pleased to engage with them on 15th January 2021 to provide perspective on general surgery as a career.

The IMU Surgical Society was also very active throughout 2020/21, conducting workshops on wound care, knotting and suturing. In addition, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid spoke on COVID-19: Role of Surgeons During A Pandemic and What to Expect After the MCO through a webinar on 15th May 2020. And in conjunction with Women's History Month 2021, Associate Professor Dr Farrah Hani Imran recorded a wonderfully diverse video highlighting Malaysian Surgical Leadership & Empowerment which was streamed on 15th March 2021.

Mymedik Academy is an organisation that provides learning opportunities to early career doctors. Two activities that involve CSAMM members in relation to surgical training and assessments were the Roadmap to Master of Surgery Training webinar on 21st February

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2021, and a MedEx Preparatory Course on 12th June 2021.

The Opportunities by Pathways Webinar was organised by the Standing Committee of Medical Education (SCOME), the Society of MMA Medical Students (SMMAMS) and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). Students and early career doctors were able to learn about training pathways of various specialties locally as well as abroad. I was pleased to provide the local surgical training perspective.

II. SURGICAL TRAINING

1. Basic Surgical Training (BST) Programme

The Basic Surgical Training programme, based on the curriculum drafted by the National Curriculum Writing Group, was officially launched this year. Envisaged to address the pre-Masters gap in formalized training, it allows early career medical officers to work through and document their training, and democratize basic training to centres and trainers that might not yet fulfil requirements for advanced training. Targeted initially at medical officers in general surgery, the format can also be adapted for non-general surgical specialties. A series of webinars were conducted by members of the BST Committee to explain the programme prior to the launch, and special fees negotiated with AMM for enrolment of trainees as candidate members. We hope that by decentralizing the training sites while allowing centralized documentation of training evidence, the impact of the pandemic will be mitigated, while achieving the original aims of increasing training efficiency. A full report is provided later in this newsletter.

2. Inaugural Military Safe Surgery Saves Lives Seminar 2020

This seminar was organised by the surgical department at Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan. Initially planned for the end of 2020 as a physical meeting, it was converted to a two-day webinar from 12th - 13th March 2021. CSAMM was represented by Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, who spoke on communication to save lives, while I addressed keeping calm and staying focused in the operating theatre.

III. REGULATION OF SPECIALISTS

Following its drafting of the Standards for Postgraduate Training of Medical Practitioners, the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) conducted a workshop with specialty training stakeholders (Bengkel Penyelarasan Kepakaran Perubatan di Malaysia) on 10th - 11th April 2021 at the Pullman Bangsar. The objectives of this workshop were to standardize recognition and accreditation processes for all specialty training programmes, improve the workflow for specialist registration, refine Continuous Professional Development and reaccreditation criteria. Key stakeholders included representatives from the MMC, MQA (Malaysian Qualifications Agency), Malaysian Examinations Council, MoH (Ministry of Health), universities, and Academy of Medicine, including its member Colleges. Keynote lectures included a historical perspective of postgraduate medical programmes in Malaysia, delivered by Professor Dato' Dr Mahmud Mohd Nor, an eminent paediatric surgeon, who helped develop the clinical Masters' programmes. The legal and regulatory framework was also addressed in lectures and breakout groups, with the following references:

Dr Ng Char Hong

Dr Margaret Leow

Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap

Professor Dr
Goh Bee See

Professor Dr David Choon

CSAMM COUNCIL 2020 - 2021

Dr Azlina Firzah Abdul Aziz

Dr Andre Das

Dr Christopher Ho Chee Kong

Dato' Dr Abdul Jamil Abdullah

Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee

Dr Siow Sze Li

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani



Medical Act 1971 (2012 Amendment) [Act 50]
Malaysian Qualifications Act 2007 [Act 679]
Medical Regulations 2017 - Regulations 22, 23, 27
Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 [Act 30]
Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 [Act 555]

At the end of the workshop, the following key resolutions were proposed:

1. Successful MQA accreditation of postgraduate specialist medical programmes by registered training providers will be required for recognition, regardless of whether the awarding body is locally based or abroad.
2. A mechanism for benchmarking overseas programmes will be developed.
3. A list of recognized training and qualifications will be reviewed and updated by MMC for the purpose of registering specialists.
4. The generic and specialty-specific MMC standards will be used to evaluate programmes.
5. Procedures and guidelines for postgraduate specialist medical programmes must comply with the legal framework.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Despite restricted travel throughout 2020, CSAMM was able to sustain its international network through virtual platform activities. While many of our sister colleges deferred their annual scientific congresses to focus on the pandemic response, they continued to provide other educational opportunities, which CSAMM participated in. Ever more creative approaches will be needed in future to further develop such collaborations in training and education, research and other professional activities.

1. American College of Surgeons (ACS) Virtual Clinical Congress 2020

The American College of Surgeons elected to conduct their 2020 congress virtually from 4th - 8th October 2020. This included a virtual convocation ceremony, with Outgoing President, Professor Dr Valerie Rusch, addressing an international congregation. I was honoured to receive the Honorary Fellowship, only the second Malaysian after Professor Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har, to be awarded thus. There are currently more than 50 Malaysians who are members of the ACS, a clear sign of the mutual benefits of this long-term relationship.

2. Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Virtual Congress 2020

The 76th Philippine College of Surgeons Congress took place from 6th - 9th December 2020. Conducted virtually, the theme was Surgery: Through the Looking Glass, and I was pleased to represent CSAMM at the Opening Ceremony. In addition to exploring innovations in surgery, the impact of the pandemic was also spotlighted. PCS President, Dr Jose Antonio M Salud, and his team is to be congratulated on a diverse and engaging programme.

3. College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka (CSSL) Annual Congress 2020, 4th - 6th November 2020

CSAMM continued its tradition of participating in CSSL's annual congress, albeit virtually this year. Despite significant challenges, President, Professor Dr Jayindra Fernando and his team successfully organised their first virtual congress, which was well attended by both local and international participants. This was not surprising given the calibre of speakers. Among the plenaries delivered by international speakers were Professor Dr Ken Boffard (South Africa) speaking on Resuscitation Physiology in Trauma; Professor Dr Neil Mortensen (UK) on Anatomy of a Disaster; Professor Dr Michael Selwyn Griffin (UK) on Surgery and Competitive Sport - Are They Related? and Professor Dr Andrew Hill (New Zealand) on Work Life Balance. I was privileged to speak on Occupational Health Hazards for Surgeons - Towards a Gendered Understanding, and had the opportunity to hear Mr Johaan Peries expound on the parallels between surgical decision-making and those involved in scaling Mount Everest.

4. Induction Ceremony of the 39th President, CSSL, and Golden Jubilee, 15th January 2021

I was able to deliver a congratulatory message on behalf of CSAMM at the induction ceremony of the 39th President of CSSL, Professor Dr Srinath Chandrasekara. Professor Srinath is a urologist at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Faculty of Medicine, in Negugoda. This was also an occasion to celebrate their Golden Jubilee, and I was able to wish them even more success in the coming years.

5. Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) International Webinars

The International Office of RCSEd ran a series of webinars addressing the regional impact of various surgically-related issues. On 28th April 2021, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid hosted a session that discussed the impact of the pandemic on training



and examinations. I had the opportunity to speak regarding the impact on training while Mr Zahid Raza, the MRCSEd Examinations Convenor tackled the impact on international examinations. My thanks go out to RCSEd President, Professor Dr Michael Selwyn Griffin and his team for further cementing our longstanding collaborations.

6. 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 Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap was able to represent our College at the last diet before the COVID-19 Movement Control Order was enforced, on 21st - 25th January 2020, and we hope this collaboration will continue once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

7. Association of Surgeons of India (ASI)

The 80th Annual Conference of ASI (ASICON 2020) was held from 16th - 19th December 2020. Originally planned as a physical meeting in Visakhapatnam, ASI President, Professor Dr Raghu Ram and his team transitioned to a hybrid platform to allow the programme to continue. The Chief Guest at the Convocation Ceremony was His Excellency Dr Lotay Shering, the Prime Minister of Bhutan. A surgeon himself, he still continues to operate in underserved areas of Bhutan on weekends. In his address, he expounded on how operating with a scalpel parallels operating with a pen in governance of a nation. There were many important lessons to be learned from the leader of the Happiest Nation in the World.

While our nascent plans for ASI and CSAMM exchange programmes have been put on hold for now, I am pleased that we are still able to collaborate virtually. It was my honour to deliver the Dr PN Joshi Special Guest Lecture, sharing my thoughts on why curing fistula in ano is the Holy Grail of coloproctology. Dr PN Joshi was a founder member and Past President of the Association of Colon and Rectal Surgeons of India (ACRSI), whose name is synonymous with this specialty in India, and it was indeed an honour considering previous guest lecturers were stalwarts such as Stanley Goldberg, John Northover and Francis Seow-Choen.

8. International Surgical Society (ISS)

CSAMM had been gearing up to host the International Surgical Week in 2021, but as with so

many other activities, circumstances dictated that it be postponed to 2022. However, to maintain interest, ISS is planning to organise a series of webinars throughout 2021, one of which will be delivered by CSAMM. Our webinar will be themed Surgical Outreach, and I will moderate the session. Speakers representing CSAMM will be Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap, Brigadier General Dato' Dr Shabbar Husain Fazle Abbas and Dr Kim Tan.

9. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Millin and Charter Meetings

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland conducts two important meetings annually. The Millin Meeting, named in honor of Terence Millin, a urologist and past RCSI President, is usually a stand-alone meeting focusing on research. The meeting culminates with the Millin Lecture, delivered by a senior trainee or young Consultant. This year's 43rd Millin Lecture was delivered by Mr Colin Peirce, a colorectal surgeon from Limerick, who spoke on 'Electrodes to Robots - Evidence Based Change in Surgical Practice'.

The Charter Meeting is usually part of Charter Week, which celebrates the heritage of the College in commemoration of the Royal Charter of King George III in 1784. Traditionally, this involves a gathering of Fellows, Members, Alumni, Faculty, Students, Staff and the broader healthcare community in Ireland and overseas.

In light of pandemic restrictions, the planned meetings for 2020 were postponed and combined, taking place instead from 4th - 6th February 2021, on a virtual platform. RCSI President, Professor Dr Ronan O'Connell, kindly invited me to participate in the President's Symposium on Meaningful Surgical Research, which took place on Thursday 4th February 2021. Other speakers in this session were Professor Dr Soren Laurberg from Aarhus, Denmark who is the doyen of surgical research in Jutland, Professor Dr Dion Morton, who established the Birmingham Surgical Trials Consortium, Professor Dr Sara Marshall of the Wellcome Trust, UK, and Professor Dr Aoife Lowery, NUIG, Galway, Ireland. I shared my thoughts on key enablers for integrating research into clinical training.

10. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) 89th Annual Scientific Congress

This congress was postponed from 2020 to take place instead on a hybrid platform from 10th - 14th May



2021. The physical component took place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia. I was able to participate virtually at the Convocation Ceremony on 15th May 2021, at the kind invitation of RACS President, Mr Anthony Sparron. Some highlights of the congress included talks addressing the art of surgery: The Art of Being a Creative Surgeon, The Art of Healing, The Art of Communication in a Crisis, and The Art Behind Innovation.

V. EXAMINATIONS AND COURSES

Unfortunately, the pandemic took its toll on the conduct of examinations and courses. The local Clinical Masters examinations in May 2020 were deferred to November 2020, resulting in delayed exit of surgical specialists, negatively impacting staffing of surgical services nationwide. The entrance examination, MedEx, was repeatedly postponed, and eventually transitioned to an online platform to be delivered in 2021. Entrance evaluations for the 2021 intake were also deferred, resulting in the June 2021 intake being deferred to December 2021. This will have significant implications for surgical services, particularly in teaching hospitals in the short term, but in the long term, national services will also be affected.

International examinations, including the MRCS and JSCFE, have been put on hold. Trainees in specialties that rely entirely on such assessments have had their progress delayed. Similarly, courses and workshops for practical skills have been disrupted, placing further obstacles to

progress through programmes that require such courses to be completed. Clearly, given that these disruptions are unlikely to resolve soon, we will need to reinvent the way we train the next generation of surgeons.

The revised delivery of Science of Tissue Management (SoTM) courses is one example. An addendum to the SoTM Memorandum of Understanding between CSAMM and Johnson & Johnson was signed on 17th December 2020 for the provision of related educational material through a digital platform. Following this, training of SoTM trainers was converted to a series of webinars for each of the modules, before the hands-on sessions were conducted in a decentralized fashion. Although labour-intensive, this may be the way forward for workshops where a physical presence is unavoidable.

VI. THE MEDICAL ACADEMIES' BUILDING

The purchase of the proposed site for the Medical Academies' building was formalised on 20th July 2020, with CSAMM represented by our trustee, Dato' Yeoh Poh Hong. Located at plot 8C8 in Putrajaya, it is part of a broader plan to develop a medical hub in the surrounding region. The joint Academies Management Committee has appointed a Building Task Force, chaired by Tan Sri Ridzwan Bakar, and thus far, architects and project manager have been appointed. Although the original design has had to be amended due to budget constraints, I believe this new home will still fulfil our vision of being a central hub for educational and other activities for healthcare professionals.

54th MSCM / CSAMM ASC 2021

This year's Congress will be held in conjunction with the 54th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine. The theme for this Congress is "Disruptive Forces - Reimagining Our Future". Indeed, the pandemic has been disruptive; forcing us to adjust and adapt to the new norm. This will be the focus of our discussion at this congress.

The Organising Committee has decided along with the support of both the Academy Council and College Council to run the 2021 Congress virtually.





The Sabah Roadshow

A Voyage to the Land Below the Wind

13th - 16th March 2020

by Harivinthan Sellappan



Kota Kinabalu
13th - 14th March 2020



Tawau
15th March 2020



Sandakan
16th March 2020

In conjunction with Sabah Surgery 2020

"The Trainee to Surgeon Continuum: Connecting the Dots"

Sabah had the great privilege of hosting Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, President of CSAMM, and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap, Council Member of CSAMM for the Sabah Roadshow from 13th to 16th March 2020 in conjunction with Sabah Surgery 2020 conference. This strategy to engage directly with surgeons and surgical trainees at their home ground provides an ideal platform to introduce the initiatives by the College to promote a structured surgical training and education programme, as well as dialogue and networking.

The intent of the roadshow was in tune with the theme of the surgical conference, *"The Trainee to Surgeon Continuum: Connecting the Dots"*, and addressed four subject matters: (i) Basic Surgical Training, (ii) Advance Surgical Training, (iii) Surgical Skills Courses and (iv) CSAMM Membership.

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani clearly outlined the national surgical training curriculum and introduced

the e-learning platform for junior surgical trainees embarking on their surgical career pathway. She also clarified the role of MedEx, MRCS examinations, and surgical skills courses prior to entry into the Master of General Surgery programme. She addressed the training opportunities for junior trainees seeking the parallel pathway into cardiothoracic surgery and urology, as well as fellowships for general surgeons furthering their training in subspecialty fields. This was an interactive session that provided the perfect opportunity for attendees to raise issues and clarify doubts concerning their career pathways.

As a final touch, Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani urged surgical trainees and surgeons to enrol as members of the College, a professional body and advocate that represents the fraternity and is fundamental in moulding the future of surgical services and training in the country.



BASIC TRAINING

E-learning platform
BSE (Ortho)
MedEx
MRCS



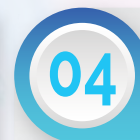
ADVANCE TRAINING

Masters / JSCFE
Parallel pathways
Subspecialty Fellowship
RCS Partner Institutions



COURSES

SoTM
Basic Surgical Skills
NOTSS
ATLS
CCrISP



CSAMM MEMBERSHIP

Ordinary Member
Candidate Member



Kota Kinabalu

(13th - 14th March 2020)

Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap arrived in Kota Kinabalu a day earlier, on 12th March 2020 to deliver his Colorectal series lectures at the conference while Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani flew in on 13th March 2020. They stayed at the Magellan Sutera Resort.

The Ministry of Health tertiary healthcare service in Kota Kinabalu is provided by three centres; 775-bedded Hospital Queen Elizabeth (HQE), 291-bedded Hospital Queen Elizabeth II (HQE II) and a 504-bedded Sabah Women and Children Hospital (SWACH). HQE provides General Surgery, Upper GI, Hepatopancreatobiliary and Colorectal Surgery subspecialty services in addition to Urology, Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery, Burns Unit, Orthopaedics and Otorhinolaryngology. HQE II provides Breast & Endocrine, Vascular and Cardiothoracic Surgery, whereas Paediatric Surgery runs their service at SWACH.

"The surgical subspecialty services serves the entire state of Sabah and island of Labuan, with a combined population of 4 million."

FACULTY DINNER

The faculty dinner was held on 13th March 2020 at Spice Island, Sutera Harbour Marina and Country Club, set in the picturesque backdrop of the marina with sunset over the South China Sea. The dinner was hosted by one of the main corporate partners for the conference; Antah Sri Radin group, led by their CEO Y.M. Tunku Mohamed Alauddin Tunku Naquiyuddin.



Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani addressing the surgeons and trainees in Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu

General Surgical services serves a population of 1.7 million from the districts of Kota Belud, Kota Marudu, Kudat, Ranau, Beaufort, Sipitang and as far south as Lawas, Sarawak. The surgical subspecialty services serves the entire state of Sabah and the island of Labuan, with a combined population of 4 million.

"I had a lot of my doubts cleared during the roadshow and got a clearer view of the direction we were moving towards in regards to the specialty training in Malaysia."

Dr Satbir S.G
Keningau Hospital

Tawau

(15th March 2020)

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap took the first flight out of Kota Kinabalu to Tawau, the third largest town in Sabah. Hospital Tawau (400-bedded) serves a large catchment area of patients living on the east coast districts of Sabah including Semporna, Lahad Datu and Kunak with a population of 1 million.

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap were hosted by Mr Khasnizal Abdul Karim, the Head of General Surgery, and his team of surgeons, medical officers and house officers. Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani delivered her presentation followed by an interactive Q&A session with the participants.

The Tawau team had the opportunity to share with the speakers about experiences and range of surgical services offered at their centre. The half day session adjourned with lunch at Truffle Bar in Kubota. The speakers flew back to Kota Kinabalu for the night.



Professor Dr April with the Tawau surgical team



“Participating in the CSAMM roadshow motivates and also broaden the path for junior surgeons to pursue their dreams of becoming a great established surgeon.”

Dr Atiqah Al-Aqilah Jamaluddin
Hospital Labuan

Mr Lai Chung Ket, the Head of General Surgery, and his team of surgeons, medical and house officers welcomed Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap to their centre. Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani introduced the role of the CSAMM in setting standards in surgical professionalism as well as training and education for upcoming surgeons. This was followed by a brief Q&A session.



Lunch at Truffle Bar with Professor Dr April, Professor Dr Ismail Sagap and the Tawau surgical team



Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and the Sandakan General Surgeons at Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre

The Sandakan team shared their local experience with the speakers including the range of surgical services provided to their patients. Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani was then brought on a tour of the local attractions in Sandakan including the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre and enjoyed the local seafood at the Sim-Sim Village Seafood Restaurant prior to her departure back to Kuala Lumpur the same evening.

“It was a progressive and informative session which addressed the many doubts about the surgical pathway, and the training programme. The highlight of the session was definitely the Q&A session which was able give an insight and clarity about the programme.”

Dr Dinesh Alagoo
Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Sandakan

(16th March 2020)

The following morning, Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap packed their bags, bid farewell to the Kota Kinabalu team, and took an early morning flight to Sandakan on the final leg of their journey. Sandakan, also fondly known as “Little Hong Kong”, is the second largest town in Sabah after Kota Kinabalu. Hospital Duchess of Kent (400-bedded) serves the interior districts of Kinabatangan, Beluran, Telupid and Tongod with a population of 870,000.





Lunch at Sim-Sim Village Seafood Restaurant with Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and the Sandakan surgical team

MOCK EXAMS AND MASTERCLASS

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCE @ UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH

The conference organisers seized the opportunity to organise a mock exam and masterclass for the Final Year Masters in General Surgery candidates sitting for their Part II exit examinations. Amongst the invited examiners were Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap, Professor Dr Rohaizak Muhammad, Associate Professor Dr Yoong Boon Koon, Assistant Professor Dr Ahmad Faidzal and Mr Lau Peng Choong.

A total of 16 candidates participated in the circuit which included long case, short case and viva stations followed by feedback from the examiners. A masterclass session on Vascular surgery, and Breast & Endocrine surgery was conducted in the afternoon.

This session received positive reviews from the candidates as it helped to fine tune their examination and answering techniques in preparation for the final exams.



“This roadshow provided us with the latest news and information especially in pursuing surgery for postgraduate study. I hope that it can be organised as an annual programme by the CSAMM especially for us in Sabah & Sarawak.”

Dr Muhammad Faris Zulkifli
Tawau Hospital

The maiden North Borneo trail by CSAMM turned out to be an immense success measured by the encouraging feedback by the participants throughout Sabah. It is a positive step forward in building a strong and lasting relationship between the College and the surgical fraternity at the grassroots.

“The CSAMM roadshow was an eye opener and an opportunity for us in Sabah to further understand the role of the College. Many cleared their doubts with regards to the AMM membership, e-training platform for surgery, MedEx, BST, AST, FRCS, career pathways and the criteria for masters entry. It benefitted members of all levels in the surgical fraternity and should be held annually nationwide.”

Mr Sentilnathan Subramaniam
Queen Elizabeth Hospital

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Sabah Surgery 2020 organising team; Mr Chuah Jitt Aun, Ms Rohamini Sibin and the Kota Kinabalu team; Mr Lai Chung Ket and the Sandakan team; and Mr Khasnizal Abdul Karim, Ms Nur 'Allaiyna Ferdaus and the Tawau team for the great deal of effort in making this roadshow a success despite numerous challenges and the constant threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. My heartfelt thanks to Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap for their initiative to reach out to the surgeons and trainees, for the betterment of the fraternity.



8th National Medical Student Basic Surgical Skills Competition 2020

The 8th National Medical Student Basic Surgical Skills Competition was organised in collaboration with the Advanced Surgical Skills Centre (ASSC), UKM under the stewardship of Mr Zamri Zuhdi. The Competition had three heats over the months of January and February which attracted 87 participants before whittling down

to 12 for the Finals on 29th February 2020. The winner of the competition was Ms Joyce Hii Beng Yee (USM).



CCrISP Course

A Care for the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) Course was held on 29th February 2020 & 1st March 2020 at the Clinical Skills Lab, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya with 16 participants, Dr Ng Char Hong was the Course Director.



NOTSS Course

A Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) Course was held on 15th August 2020 at the Cube, University of Malaya. There were 17 participants for the course.



Training Workshop for Basic Surgical Training Online Training Platform

A Workshop was held for the trainers and trainees for the Basic Surgical Training to acclimatize them to use the Online Training Platform on 22nd August 2020 at

the Cube, University of Malaya. The workshop was headed by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani and Dr Ang Chin Wee.



SoTM MOU Signing

An addendum to the SoTM Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia with Johnson & Johnson to undertake running the Science of Tissue Management (SoTM) Course online in light of

the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The signatories were Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani as the College President and Mr Christopher Henry, Head of Global Surgery Group, Johnson & Johnson.



30 August - 3 September 2021

The International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC) presents

VIRTUAL SURGICAL WEEK

isw2021.org

Jointly organized with
Integrated Societies and Participating Societies

ISS Webinar Registration Link:
<https://www.isw2021.org/registration>



Basic Surgical Training Programme

SETTING UP THE E-LEARNING PLATFORM FOR THE BASIC SURGICAL TRAINING (BST) OF GENERAL SURGERY

In line with the restructuring of the surgical training nationally, the College has been entrusted to implement the pre-Masters General Surgical training programme according to the Basic Surgical Training Curriculum, and as agreed upon by the Conjoint Specialty Committee for General Surgery.

With the launching of the BST E-Training Management Platform (EMP) on 23rd August, 2020, the BST Committee, which was appointed by the College has conducted a series of training webinars. These are to further enhance the awareness and understanding of the Basic BST programme and the EMP, to the potential trainees and trainers.

BASIC SURGICAL TRAINING COMMITTEE (BST)

The Basic Surgical Training Committee members have been appointed by the College and the tenure of the appointment is for two years from 21st July 2020 till 20th July 2022. The Committee members comprises:

- (i) Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, UMMC (Chairperson)
- (ii) Dr Ang Chin Wee, Mahkota Medical Centre, Melaka
- (iii) Associate Professor Dr Khong Tak Long, UMMC
- (iv) Dr Marjmin Osman, UKMMC
- (v) Dr Reynu Rajan, UKMMC
- (vi) Dr Islah Munjih Ab Rashid, IIUM
- (vii) Dr Wan Zainira Wan Zain, HUSM
- (viii) Dr Rosnelifaizur Ramely, HUSM
- (ix) Dr Gunaseelan, Hospital Serdang
- (x) Dr Andre Das, Hospital Kajang

The BST Committee has been entrusted with the responsibility of evaluation of applications of trainees and trainers. The evaluation is done objectively based on the stipulated criteria.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

The BST Committee had its first meeting on 2nd July 2020, and until April 2021, six meetings were held. The list of BST activities for year 2020/2021 are as follows:

THE BASIC SURGICAL TRAINING (BST) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 2020/2021

YEAR 2020		
NO.	DATE/VENUE	ACTIVITIES
1	2 nd July 2020	1 st E-Meeting of the BST Committee

YEAR 2020		
NO.	DATE/VENUE	ACTIVITIES
2	24 th July 2020 UM	Webinar: Workplace-Based Assessment & E-Portfolio for Surgical Training (for Trainers)
3	25 th July 2020 UM	Webinar: Workplace-Based Assessment & E-Portfolio for Surgical Training (for Trainees)
4	22 nd August 2020 UM	Workshop: AMM E-Training Management Platform & Workplace-Based Assessment for Basic Surgical Training for Trainers and Trainees
5	23 rd August 2020 UM	Launching of The Basic Surgical Training (BST) E-Learning Management Platform (EMP)
6	6 th September 2020	E-Meeting of the AMM E-Learning Management Platform (EMP) with the Master of AMM and Stakeholders
7	21 st November 2020	2 nd E-Meeting of the BST Committee
8	19 th December 2020	3 rd E-Meeting of the BST Committee

YEAR 2021		
1	30 th January 2021	4 th E-Meeting of the BST Committee
2	13 th March 2021	5 th E-Meeting of the BST Committee
3	2 nd April 2021	Webinar: Workplace-Based Assessment & E-Portfolio for Surgical Training (MOH Selangor Surgeons and other states)
4	17 th April 2021	6 th E-Meeting of the BST Committee
5	6 th June 2021	7 th E-Meeting of the BST Committee
6	June 2021 (date to be confirmed)	Video Conferencing with the Registered Trainees and Trainers in the BST Programme

NUMBER OF REGISTERED TRAINEES AND TRAINERS

As of 17th April 2021, a total number of 16 Trainees and eight Trainers (ratio of Trainers:Trainees - 1:4) have been registered and their user accounts of the E-Training Management (EMP) have been activated. Out of the eight Trainers, two Trainers have been assigned with three Trainees and one Trainer with two Trainees.

Out of the total 16 Trainees, 13 are from the public hospitals and three are from the university.



Chapter of Otorhinolaryngologists - Head and Neck Surgeons Activities 2020/21

by Dr Rohaizam Japar @ Jaafar

The Chapter of ORL-HNS continues to provide the guidelines on the MSO-HNS website and utilizes social media to advise our members and the GPs regarding the "new norm" of clinical practice in ORL-HNS during the movement control order (MCO) period. Nevertheless, it has been a challenging year for all of us as the COVID-19 pandemic hits us badly and to overcome the current COVID-19 situation's challenges, the Webinar series becomes the new normal to allow continuous medical education.

We have organised a series of webinars in conjunction with Johnson & Johnson on Perfecting Head and Neck Tumour Management on Oral Cavity and Oropharyngeal Tumor (24th June 2020), Laryngeal and Thyroid Tumor (6th August 2020), Nasopharyngeal Tumor (17th September 2020), and Hypopharyngeal Tumor (28th October 2020).

Providing updates to the general practitioners (GPs) around the country have been a recurrent event for the past few years. The reason this is continued is due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the GPs. For this term, there are three ENT GP updates starting in Penang (17th January 2021), Kuala Terengganu (5th March 2021) and Kota Kinabalu (23rd May 2021). These workshops provided updates on ENT problems, which are commonly seen among GPs and in government clinics.



Two upcoming major international events will be held in Malaysia, the 9th World Congress for Endoscopic Surgery of the Paranasal Sinuses, Skull Base, Brain and Spine (ENDOKL) and the 13th Malaysian International Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Conference in conjunction with ASHNO (Asian Society of Head and Neck Oncology) Congress Kuala Lumpur 2021 and Annual General Meeting of MSO-HNS. The 9th World Congress for Endoscopic Surgery of the Paranasal Sinuses, Skull Base, Brain, and Spine, has been postponed to October 2022 because most participants



and speakers were expected to be from overseas. Meanwhile, The ASHNO 2021 will proceed as a virtual conference on 3rd to 5th June 2021. The conference is co-organised with the Malaysian Oncological Society. We hope this conference will increase our collaboration with the respective teams in managing head and neck cancer.

Below is a list of other events that were successfully organised, endorsed or participated in for the year 2020/21.

- Asean Webinar on Management of Head and Neck Cancer During COVID-19 Pandemic - 22nd May 2020
- Extraesophageal Manifestation of Reflux: From ENT's Perspective - 13th June 2020
- Webinar Invitation: Challenges in Advanced FESS Surgery - 17th June 2020
- Perfecting H&N Tumour Management 2020 Webinar (ROUND 1) 24th June 2020
- Mylan ENT Series Webinar Rethinking Allergy - 4th July 2020
- 5th UKM Paediatric Airway Workshop @ Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre - 14th - 15th July 2020
- Medtronic MedEd ENT Webinar series - 3rd September 2020
- Nasopharyngeal Tumour (ROUND 3) - 17th September 2020
- The Amsterdam-USM Head And Neck Surgical Oncology Working Group - 14th October 2020

- ASEAN Head & Neck Webinar Ep.5 - 30th October 2020
- Management Strategies in Early and Late Stage Head and Neck Cancer - 6th - 7th November 2020
- Live Webinar: Prevention and Treatment of Hyper- and Hypotonicity Post Laryngectomy - 16th November 2020
- Unlocking the Frontal Sinus by Professor PJ Wormald - 19th November 2020
- Surgical Techniques and Their Impact on Communication and Hands-Free Speech 28th January 2021
- Unmasking the impact of antibiotics on gut microbiota in ENT practice - 4th February 2021
- Laryngology Webinar Series 2021 - Benign Causes Of Dysphonia - 18th February 2021
- UITM Robotic Surgery: Game Changing Management In Head & Neck Surgery - 9th March 2021
- Live webinars 2021: Voice prostheses: Adverse events and troubleshooting - 16th March 2021
- Laryngology Webinar Series 2021 - Neuro - Laryngology - 17th March 2021
- Practical Considerations in the Management of Allergic Rhinitis & Urticaria - 7th April 2021
- Laryngology Webinar Series 2021 - Early Glottic Cancer - 22nd Apr 2021
- Laryngology Webinar Series 2021 - Interventions In Adult Stridor - 20th May 2021
- ASHNO KUALA LUMPUR 2021 7TH ASIAN SOCIETY OF HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGY - 3rd - 5th June 2021

ASHNO KUALA LUMPUR 2021

13th Malaysian International ORL-HNS Congress & 41st AGM of MSO-HNS (Physical)
In conjunction with 7th ASHNO (Hybrid)
 3rd - 5th June 2021
 Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia

REGISTRATION FEES

CATEGORY	Before 1 st May 2021	1 st May 2021 Onwards
Local Delegate		
Specialist (Member of Chapter of ORL / MSO-HNS Life Member / MOS Life Member)	RM 1000	RM 1400
Specialist (Non-Member of Chapter of ORL / MSO-HNS Life Member / MOS Life Member)	RM 1200	RM 1600
Allied Health Professional / Medical Officer	RM 200	RM 1100
Sabah / Sarawak Delegate Virtual (3 rd & 4 th June 2021)	USD 150	
Overseas Delegate		
Physical	USD 450	USD 500
Virtual (3 rd & 4 th June 2021)	USD 150	

Abstract Submission Deadline: 31st March 2021
 Delegates, who would like to present their work at the meeting, either orally or as a poster, are invited to submit an abstract for consideration by the Scientific Committee. The topics include basic or advance research in head and neck, laryngology, rhinology, otology, paediatric ORL, oral maxillofacial, medical oncology and radiation oncology. Priority will be given to oncological-related topics.

www.ashnokl2021.org



Breast & Endocrine Chapter

by Dr Saladina Jaszle Jasmin

The year 2020 was indeed a challenging year for all due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we are still far from overcoming this situation despite going into May 2021.

Even though, face-to-face meetings were not possible, several virtual meetings / forums were successfully organised for the benefit of our members as well as the B&E surgical trainees and medical officers with special interest in pursuing surgery as their future subspeciality.

1. Asian Breast Surgery Forum

This forum was organised by Associate Professor Dr See Mee Hong as part of CME programme for the Breast and Endocrine Fellows with representatives from around the Asian region, especially from Korea, Taiwan and Japan. It was held via the e-platform, once a month. The aim of this programme was to enhance their knowledge and for exposure on new surgical techniques. The overwhelming response and feedback received from the trainees have prompted the organiser to extend this forum to all B&E members in the third quarter of 2020. All B&E chapter members can participate and log into the forum for free through a link shared via email.

So far five topics has been presented up to April 2021.

- 7/9/2020: TRAM Flap for Breast reconstruction by Professor Dr Supakorn (Thailand) & moderated by Dr Naomi (Japan)
- 12/10/2020: Cryotherapy in benign & Malignant Breast Diseases by Dr Elsuke Fukuma (Japan) & moderated Dr Sharon Chan
- 16/11/2020: Chest Wall perforator in Breast Cancer Reconstruction
- 29/12/2020: Robotic Mastectomy & autologous free flap by Associate Professor Dr Sylvia Kuo Wen Ling (Taiwan) & moderated by Associate Professor Dr Hyung Seok Park (Korea)
- 12/4/2021: Implant based Reconstruction with ADM: My experience by Dr Hwang Mei Ju (UK) & moderated Dr Jee Yeon Lee (Korea)

2. UKMMC Breast Cancer Updates

This series of Webinars / Lectures was organised by UKMMC for all B&E surgical trainees as well as members of the B&E Chapter as part of CME to increase and update members on the latest treatment guidelines in the management of breast cancer. It runs as a series of lecture often on Saturday morning from 9.00am to 12.30pm. Up to April 2021, a total of 7 sessions have been successfully organised.

In view of the ongoing pandemic, the Annual Scientific Congress for the College of Surgeons will be held in August 2021 as a Virtual meeting. As part of our commitment in CME, the B&E Chapter will be having one symposium session on breast disease related topic and one meet-the-expert session on an Endocrine topic. We hope to continue supporting the College with relevant topics pertaining to B&E Surgery in the future.

As part of CSR, the members of B&E Chapter together with College of Radiology has released an article on recommendation for breast imaging, vaccination and management of lymph node enlargement in patients with recent COVID-19 vaccination. This recommendation aimed to reduce patient anxiety as well as a guide to health care providers in Malaysia. The COVID-19 vaccination can result in lymph node swelling in the axillary region of the injected arm, for breast cancer patient undergoing surveillance monitoring this finding may cause some confusion to both patient as well as the health care provider. We felt that these guidelines were necessary to answer these questions related to the patients, namely breast cancer patients undergoing surveillance monitoring. We also hope this article will avoid further delay in vaccination amongst breast cancer patients due to a lack of understanding on the safety as well as side effects of the vaccination. We hope to encourage patients to take up the COVID-19 vaccination programme in line with the government aspiration.

We hope the second half of 2021 will be bright and more promising for all.



Chapter of Colorectal Surgeons

by Professor Datuk Dr Ismail Sagap

The year 2020/2021 has been a challenging year for all of us including the Chapter due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Chapter has not organised the activities on its own but members of the Chapter helped to organise and participated in the events organised by the Malaysian Society of Colorectal Surgeons.

The Annual Scientific Meeting "Virtual Coloproctology 2021" was held on 4th to 7th March 2021. This the first time that the conference was held virtually. More than 500 delegates in the conference and the faculty was from both local and overseas.



Below is the list of other events that were held in 2020-2021.

- » 28th March 2020 - Symposium on Reimagining Medical Treatment in Haemorrhoidal & Chronic Venous Disease.
- » 9th May 2020 - South East Asia Live Colorectal Webinar Series (Virtual).
- » 9th June 2020 - Webinar on Colorectal Surgical Practice: COVID-19 Era (Virtual).

- » 27th June 2020 - Webinar on Adjusting to the New Norm in Colorectal Surgical Practice (Virtual).
- » 23rd July 2020 - Webinar on Diagnosis and Management of Intra-Abdominal Infection (Virtual).
- » 25th July 2020 - Challenging Stoma Surgeries, CAPE Summit (Virtual).
- » 27th July 2020 - MY Webinar Series: Adjusting to the New Norm in Colorectal Surgery Practice (Virtual).
- » 8th August 2020 - Colorectal Webinar (Virtual): Better Outcome in Low Anterior Resection Surgery.
- » 12th August 2020 - MY TriEEA Launch Webinar (Virtual Seminar).
- » 14th August 2020 - Laparoscopic Colorectal Weekend at Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.
- » 19th August 2020 - It's Time For An Evolution - ECHELON CIRCULAR Product Launch Webinar.
- » 11th November 2020 - Antimicrobial Learning Continuum: Complicated Intra-Abdominal Tract Infections (cIATs) Colorectal Chapter (Virtual).
- » 17th November 2020 - Cochrane Incontinence - Faecal Incontinence Priority Setting Workshop (Virtual).
- » 28th November 2020 - Integrated Care in Haemorrhoidal Diseases and Chronic Venous Disorders (Virtual).
- » 23rd January 2021 - Masterclass in Venous and Haemorrhoidal Disease in Asian countries (Virtual).

COLORECTAL WEEKENDS

Two Colorectal Weekends were held.

1. 19th September 2020 at Dewan Dato' Hashim Department of Surgery, Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu, Kelantan Darul Naim.
2. 30th January 2021 at Seminar Room, Kulliyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia.



Sarawak Surgeons Report for 2020

by Professor Dr Clarence Lei & Dr Siow Sze Li

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought global travel to a standstill with many countries still having closed borders and reeling from the coronavirus. The lockdown has caused many global meetings and surgical educational activities postponed or rescheduled. This is a brief review of how Sarawak surgical services have endured through this unprecedented period.

At the beginning of 2020, before the pandemic hit, there was a proposal to organise a monthly Sarawak Surgeons Meeting where invited speakers could present on specific topics to broaden the horizons of surgeons and surgical trainees in the state. The proposal was to have monthly 'physical' meetings over 12 months. A web-based meeting was not deemed ideal as initial surveys among the surgeons showed poor interest in attending webinars of subspecialty interest. There were concerns of poor attendance as there were not many topics of general surgical interest. It is our hope that these meetings will start once the pandemic eases off.

In an effort to disseminate information and updates among the surgical fraternity in Sarawak, a WhatsApp group was established on 2nd September 2020. The group has 78 members with qualified surgeons from all sectors (Ministry of Health, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and private) and different disciplines. Through this WhatsApp group, surgeons who prior to this had rarely received updates regarding the activities organised by the College of Surgeons now were receiving regular updates. The Annual Report of the College, Berita CSM and other announcements are also disseminated via this group as well.

Sarawak has unique geography as a large state on the island of Borneo. Access to surgical services remains a challenge for a variety of reasons including poor roads and the sheer size of the state with most major hospitals located in major towns located along the Western coast. Thus, the population who live in the interior of Sarawak have difficulty obtaining basic surgical services in a timely fashion and this issue has been identified as a major area for development under

the global surgery initiative. Through the College, we have engaged various corporations, governmental and non-governmental organisations, to help coordinate outreach programmes to perform health screening and provide intervention in the past. However, these activities have been limited due this pandemic.

The pandemic has further compromised transportation infrastructure within the state. Commercial flights are now restricted, and patient transfers are becoming increasingly difficult. Multiple surgical services have had to adapt and use new technology to enable assessment and remote consultation to reduce unnecessary transfers and optimize readily available surgical services in the state. This framework has been embraced especially by the Neurosurgical Department which has helped elevate delivery of neurosurgical care to patients in a timely manner.



Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) which is a medical school based in Kuching had the final year professional examinations in December 2020. Traditionally, external examiners are routinely invited from both the government and private healthcare institutions. However, as the exam was scheduled during the height of the Movement Control Order (MCO), local surgeons from the state of Sarawak were the main core of examiners as external examiners from outside the state were unable to travel. The exam was conducted smoothly due to the high level of cooperation among surgeons in the state.

UNIMAS also has the honour of being an accredited overseas examination centre for the MRCS Part B

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Plastic Surgery Chapter

by Mr Regunathan Villanayer

The year 2020 was a sedate period for the Chapter. It started promisingly with the scheduled International Congress of OSAPS planned for the 21st June 2020. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the pandemic with severe restrictions of international travel effectively shelved this event for the year.

The annual general meeting of the Chapter was held on the 15th August 2020 after the nationwide lockdown was eased. The meeting was held on a hybrid platform but most of the attendees were virtual. Voting for the new executive committee was done. The new office bearers are:

CHAIRMAN

Mr Regunathan Villanayer

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Wong Thai Er

SECRETARY

Ms Margaret Leow

TREASURER

Ms Salina Ibrahim

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr Somasundram Sathapan

Mr Yeoh Tze Ming

Despite the ongoing restrictions, close liaison was maintained between the Malaysian Board of Plastic Surgery and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow to ensure the Parallel Training Programme in Plastic Surgery runs smoothly. The continuous education series was carried out on a hybrid platform with strict compliance to physical distancing.

It is hoped that 2021 will be a better year and we would all be able to implement our conventional programmes once again.

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examination by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh since 2010. This international collaboration has over the last decade resulted in camaraderie and transfer of knowledge among surgeons in the state and distinguished examiners from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Sadly, these examinations have had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We look forward to conducting the exams again once this pandemic abates.

Truly the COVID-19 pandemic has brought surgical education to a different level and significantly affected the delivery of surgical services in the state. However, the pandemic has made us all accept online meetings as the new norm and this has interestingly opened our borders and made the world more accessible from the comfort of our homes. There is no shortage of world class surgical educational activities online available on

Zoom and Google meets. While we may have less in the way of personal interaction, we have learned to adapt and embrace new technology and be creative in trying to provide quality surgical services in our state. Many Sarawak Surgeons joined the annual meeting of the Vikings Surgeons Association, hosted by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. It was held over three nights (Malaysian time of 2.00am - 3.00am) on 15th, 16th & 17th September 2020. The themes were relevant to us: rural surgery, tips and tricks, training of rural surgeons, etc. Sarawak surgeons who were speakers on national webinars also posted the links to their lectures. These included benign prostatic hyperplasia (9th October 2020); overactive bladder (31st October 2020); circumcision (10th October 2020, part of SIU annual meeting); Borneo Ophthalmology (8th December 2020) and many others. Sarawak surgeons will continue to aim high!



Chapter of Upper GI Surgeons

by Dr Hans Alexander Mahendran

The Chapter of Upper GI Surgeons was officially launched at the Opening Ceremony of the Annual Scientific Congress of the College of Surgeons on 11th May 2018 in Ipoh, Perak. Members of the Chapter have been involved in the organisation of activities and events of the Malaysian Upper GI Surgical Society (MUGIS).

MUGIS was formed in 2012 when members of the informal 'Upper GI Club' decided to formally register a Society with the aim of advancing Upper GI Surgical training and education in Malaysia. With an initial 16 founding members, the Society has grown to more than 50 members. Full membership is awarded only to qualified surgeons while allied membership is available for surgical trainees and allied health personnel.

The Society organises annual scientific meeting where surgeons and trainees can meet the leading Upper GI Surgeons from both the Western and Eastern hemispheres to better understand the challenges and controversies in the management of upper GI diseases. There also many smaller training activities such as endoscopic workshops, laparoscopic workshops as well as cadaveric workshops that have been organised each year.

Through regular collaborations, the Society has established long lasting association with multiple international societies such as the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE) and the ASEAN Upper GI Surgical Society (USAN) to name a few. These collaborative efforts have created lasting partnerships that enable the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of ideas across borders. Trainees have also been sent abroad for exposure and this has benefited the provision of upper GI Surgical services in Malaysia.

In 2019, MUGIS collaborated with the ASEAN Upper GI Surgical Society in holding an inaugural meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 28th and 29th of June. This was a meeting that saw Upper GI Surgical teams from Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Philippines coming together. The following month, MUGIS collaborated with the Johor Bahru Surgical Society in the inaugural Johor Surgical Conference that saw more than 300 participants from the Southern end of the Peninsula of Malaysia. The 8th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society was held in the Royale Chulan Hotel, Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur with a distinguished international faculty from Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam, India, and Singapore.

There were also workshops aimed at surgical trainees such as the Asian Novel Bio-Imaging and Intervention Group (ANBIIG) Endoscopy Workshop and also Masterclass sessions such as the Johor Bahru Upper GI Masterclass that saw eager participation especially from exam going trainees. The Society has created opportunities for all level of participants to enrich and advance Upper GI surgical services.

Sadly, with the pandemic, the Society has had little opportunity for hands-on training in 2020. But a silver-lining for the year is that the Society is now a leading stakeholder in Upper GI Subspecialty training with a new unified and streamlined training programme that is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health and the Universities. This partnership will ultimately benefit the trainees and ensure the highest standards of training. The Society and the Chapter will always continue to champion the advancement of Upper GI Surgery in Malaysia.



Chapter of Urology

Activities for 2020

by Dr Poongkodi Nagappan & Pn Najatushima Abdul Wahab

After the successful organisation of the 17th Urological Association of Asia Congress in August 2019, the Malaysian Urological Association (MUA) has continued to be active and involved in various activities related to training of junior doctors, as well as expanding the portfolios within the association. The Secretariat is currently based at Technology Park Malaysia in Bukit Jalil. Puan Najatushima Abdul Wahab remains our full time Executive Secretary.

1. The elected office bearers for the year 2020 are

PRESIDENT

Dato' Dr Selvalingam Sothilingam

VICE PRESIDENT

Professor Dr Ong Teng Aik

HONORARY SECRETARY

Dr Poongkodi Nagappan

HONORARY TREASURER

Dato' Dr Rohan Malek

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Associate Professor Dr Shanggar Kuppusamy

Associate Professor Dato' Dr Khairul Asri Mohd Ghani

Dr Vijayan Manogran

2. Two executive committee meetings were held for the year 2020. The meetings were held at the MUA office in Technology Park Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.
3. Two Board of Urology meetings were held for the year 2020 to discuss urology trainee appraisal.
4. The Parallel Pathway Programme in Urology continues into its fourth year in 2020.
5. Urocademy - A new electronic assessment platform for comprehensive management of urological training. This online portal has been designed to record and streamline each trainee's progress and self-development, as they rotate through their various rotations.
6. MUA Bulletin - The digital edition of the association's maiden issue was published in June 2020

7. Advanced Urology Courses and other educational opportunities conducted in 2020 for urology trainees include:

CONVENOR	DATE	COURSE
Poongkodi Nagappan	10 th May to 7 th June	Paediatric Urology
Yeoh Wei Sien	5 th September	Urological Oncology
Lee Say Bob	12 th - 13 th September	Urinary Tract Calculi and Infections

8. Other workshops and industry-initiated events

- Prostate Cancer Seminar sponsored by Ferring Sdn Bhd on 11th January 2020 in Le Meridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
- ONCO talks webinar on Current Management of Advanced Prostate Cancer during the COVID-19 Pandemic sponsored by Dr Reddy's Laboratories Malaysia Sdn Bhd on 19th May 2020
- Dispelling the Myths of Sexual Dysfunction in BPH Treatment sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Sdn Bhd on 2nd June 2020
- MDT-PaCMan online webinar sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd on 13th June 2020
- Expanding Horizon in Management of Prostate Cancer sponsored by Sanofi-Aventis (M) Sdn Bhd on 27th June 2020
- Meet the Expert Session on Practical Concepts and Management Updates on TDS sponsored by Bayer Co (M) Sdn Bhd on 27th June 2020
- Masterclass in LUTS/BPH Management sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Sdn Bhd on 26th September 2020
- PCA Expert Panel Discussion on Navigating Advanced Prostate Cancer Management: Focus on a Patient's ADT journey - an IP-MAN Story

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Chapter of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

by Professor Dr John Chan Kok Meng

Journal Club

There were weekly virtual presentations by the Cardiothoracic Fellows with moderators from the Cardiothoracic fraternity. In total there were 18 sessions throughout 2020.

CME Lectures

Regular CME Lectures were also held given by established Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeons from Malaysia and abroad.

Dinner Lecture

A Cardiac Hemostasis dinner lecture was held in February 2020 sponsored by Industry.

Aortic Arch Surgery Cadaveric Workshop

A cadaveric workshop was conducted on 8th January 2020 at the Academy For Silent Mentor, Kuala Lumpur.

The Course Directors were Dato' Dr Hamzah Kamarulzaman, Professor Dr John Chan Kok Meng, and Professor Dr Raja Amin Raja Mokhtar. In total 13 Cardiothoracic fellows participated in the workshop.

Cardiothoracic Parallel Pathway Training Program

National selection interviews were held in February 2020 and February 2021. Four Training Fellows were appointed in 2020 and three in 2021. In total, there are now 28 trainees in the training program.

National Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgical Database Registry

A congenital database was added to the Adult Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery registries and went live in January 2021.

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sponsored by Ipsen Pharma Singapore Pte Ltd on 26th September 2020

- Sanofi Art of Oncology Webinar sponsored by Sanofi-Aventis (M) Sdn Bhd on 26th September 2020
- 9. The Virtual Mini MUC 2020 was held on the 27th & 28th November 2020.
- 10. The MUA has a YOUTH Sub-Committee within the association with various Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on urological sub-specialties urological oncology, endourology, benign prostate disease and functional urology, urological infection, reconstructive urology, minimally-invasive and robotic urology, renal transplantation, andrology, female urology and paediatric urology.
- 11. The Malaysian Urological Foundation (MUF) aims to become the education and research arm of MUA. Its current core committee members are
PRESIDENT
Dr Azad Hassan Abdul Razack
VICE PRESIDENT
Professor Dr Clarence Lei Chang Moh
HONORARY SECRETARY
Dr Shanggar Kuppusamy

HONORARY TREASURER

Dr Chong Wooi Loong

- 12. The Research Consortium (MyURC) is placed under the MUA and includes public hospitals, as well as the university hospitals and private urologists. Its current core committee members are

ADVISER

Dr Norman Dublin

CHAIRPERSON

Professor Dr Ong Teng Aik

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Dr Ngoo Kay Seong

SECRETARY

Dr Ahmad Nazran Fadzli

- 13. The MUA website and mobile app were developed and are available for use of its members since 2019

- 14. The elected representatives of the MUA at the National Specialist Registry level are

MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

Dato' Dr Rohan Malek

Dr Noor Ashani Md Yusoff

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Professor Dr Clarence Lei Chang Moh

Dr Rajeentheran Suntheralingam

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Professor Dato' Dr Zulkifli Md Zainuddin



Chapter of Women Surgeons

**by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, Dr Azlina Firzah Abdul Aziz,
Associate Professor Dr Farrah Hani-Imran, Associate Professor Dr See Mee Hoong,
Dr Harjit Kaur Perdamen Singh & Dr Margaret Leow Poh Gaik**

INTRODUCTION

The Chapter of Women Surgeons, founded in 2018, was established to inspire, encourage and enable women in surgery to realize their professional and personal goals. This publication represents two of our goals: *advancing the highest standards of competence and promoting professional growth and development.*

Although the first Malaysian female doctor, Tan Sri Dr Salma Ismail, qualified in 1949, Malaysian women surgeons only made an appearance in the 1970s. Pioneers included Dato' Dr Suseela Nair, the first woman surgeon to qualify in 1971, who went on to become Malaysia's only female national head of general surgical services thus far in 1988; Emeritus Professor Dr Freda Meah, who qualified in 1976, and went on to become the nation's first Endocrine surgeon, as well as first female Academic Surgical Head of Department, also in 1988; Madam Leela Mala Perumal, and Madam Sunitha Camilla Vethavanam.

Over the next two decades, the number of women surgeons remained small, and many female trainees found it difficult to identify appropriate role models and advisors to facilitate their surgical education, particularly while trying to balance life beyond the work environment. Pioneer academic surgeons, such as Professor Emeritus Dr Freda Meah and Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har (the first female CSAMM President, from 2010 - 2013), helped to demonstrate the feasibility of academic surgery as a career for women in the 1980s, through their roles in undergraduate and then-nascent Master of Surgery programmes.

Changes in societal roles and expectations, for both men and women, meant that obstacles and challenges that were hitherto predominantly faced by women, such as managing childcare, are now increasingly impacting men. Non-technical skills are increasingly recognized as significantly influencing patient outcomes, yet had not previously been emphasized in training. It is hoped that the wisdom and wealth of experience that we and our predecessors have gained, distilled in this publication, will be useful for both male and female trainees.

Report on CSAMM ASC 2016: Inaugural Event Women In Surgery Symposium, Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur

The 2016 AGM/Annual Scientific Meeting/Congress of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia took place from the 13th to 15th May 2016 in the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

As per the Program book: The theme, taken from the Greek mythology "*Between Scylla and Charybdis*", describes the dilemma of today's surgeons when they face critical moments in "*Navigating the Treacherous Waters of Modern Surgery*" whereby patients' lives are at risk. This ASM covers several areas of interests. A symposium is dedicated specifically to "*Women in Surgery*". Issues regarding the dearth of women in surgery will be addressed in an inaugural half-day symposium.

The first event was a surgical debate in the Sarawak Room on 14th May 2016, entitled "We need more women in surgery". Proposers: Reena Priya Ramasamy, Dina Syazana Ho, April Camilla Roslani. Opposers: Joshua Ling En Sheng, Ismail Sagap.

The inaugural Symposium was entitled Reversing The Numbers, on Sunday 15th May 2016, from 0730 to 1300 at the Johor Room.

CONVENOR : April Camilla Roslani

FACULTY : Freda Meah, Yip Cheng Har, Tunku Sara Tunku Ahmad Yahya, Monica Millan, Melissa Teoh, Farrah Hani Imran, Judy Evans

RESEARCHERS : Sarinah Low, Anthonia Uzoigwe

The College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting in 2016 (concurrent with the Academy of Medicine's Golden Jubilee) organised a half-day symposium looking at the current status, obstacles and issues, as well as developments in future, with regards to redressing the balance of women in surgery. A distinguished panel of speakers and mentors were assembled, to share their experiences coming through the ranks, to help generate discussion from students, trainees and junior surgeons on strategies and tips for success. It was hoped that this would culminate in the establishment of a Women's Chapter within the College, to help mentor trainees to achieve success. This has since been successfully achieved.

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani started the morning exploring "Why do we need this symposium?", followed by career pathways in surgery:



- Breast: Yip Cheng Har
- Colorectal: Monica Millan, April Camilla Roslani
- Endocrine: Freda Meah
- Orthopaedics / Hand & Microsurgery: Tunku Sara Tunku Ahmad Yahya
- Plastic Surgery: Judy Evans, Farrah Hani Imran
- Surgical Oncology: Melissa Teoh

The second half of the symposium consisted of panels on implicit and explicit gender bias, obstacles to a career in surgery, work-life balance, support groups, networks and women's chapters. The event ended at 1300 in time for lunch.

Two global incidents went hand-in-hand with the above: the RACS Report and the RCS Edinburgh Report. This resulted in a Special Interest Group formed in 2016 during the College ASC Special Interest Programme. #Ilooklikeasurgeon

Report on CSAMM ASC 2017 #mentoringwithpurpose

The Chapter of Women Surgeons was involved in the 2017 CSAMM Annual Scientific Conference which was held in Pullman Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak on 19th - 21st May 2017 with the theme of "Dum Spiro Spero - Building a Foundation for Next Generation ". Despite the early start at 7.00am on 20/5/2017 (Saturday), the symposium was well attended. The attendees comprised not only of female medical students, medical officers and specialists, there were also attendees composed of senior male surgeons who wished to understand the current environment in making a success of training and mentoring for younger trainees, comprising of both genders. The speakers were Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani, Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har, Dr Reynu Rajan, Dr Lenny Suryani Safri, Dr Farrah Hani Imran and Dr See Mee Hoong. Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani shared the updated survey and results on the latest female surgeon numbers across different surgical fields in Malaysia and the social impact of training conditions from postgraduate surgical trainees. All the speakers shared their experiences in their training journey. This was inspirational and offered guidance to those in the audience who wished to embark in the same career in future.

Report on CSAMM ASC 2018 #leadership

The 2018 CSAMM Annual Scientific Congress with a theme of "Primum Non Nocere" was well organised. It was held at the Aman Jaya Convention Centre in Ipoh, Perak from the 11th to the 13th May. That year, the Women's Chapter hosted a symposium entitled 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling'. We had three eminent international speakers ie Professor Dr Barbara Bass, the President of the American College of Surgeons, Professor Dr Hillary Sanfey, Past President of

Association of Women Surgeons and Professor Dr Judy Evans, the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England sharing their experience taking leadership roles as women surgeons. The attendees had opportunities to learn from these distinguished speakers on the pertinent topics of how to prepare oneself for a leadership role as well as how to stand your ground when in the minority. Guidance on financial planning and Social Media Navigation for the surgeon were two other important subjects in the session "Cultural Obstacles to Success - Myth or Reality". Time was set aside for career networking for the junior audience which proved to be a wonderful support session for medical doctors wishing to join the surgical workforce in the future. The session concluded with a complementary professional grooming workshop supported by "Body Shop" Team, providing an opportunity to learn the importance of a professional image.

Report CSAMM ASC 2019 #surgicalprofessionalism

2nd to 4th August 2019 was the annual meeting organised by the College of Surgeons (CSAMM) with Asian College of Surgeons in Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. With the theme of Unlocking of the secrets of Asian Surgery, Women in Surgery chapter has hosted the symposium 19 on 3rd August 2019 (Saturday). This year we have invited international speakers Associate Professor Dr Rhea Liang (General and Breast Surgeon, Gold Coast Hospital, Australia), Dr Richard Perry (General and Colorectal Surgeon, New Zealand), Professor Dr Mike Lavelle Jones (Past President of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh 2015-2018), Dr Judy Evans (Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) and Professor Dr Andrew Hill (University of Auckland) to share their experiences with us. The theme of the symposium was surgical professionalism on "Oppressive In the Workplace". Topics that was highlighted by the speakers with lengthy discussion were as below:

Panel of Speakers and the topics of the talk:

- Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani
"Is It A Real Problem In Malaysia"
- Associate Professor Dr Rhea Liang
"Perpetrator Or Victim: Why Oppressive Behaviours Happened?"
- Professor Dr Mike Lavelle Jones
"Impact - Civility Save Life"
- Professor Dr Richard Pelly
"What Can We Do?"
- Dr Judy Evans
"Reverse Bullying"

The hall was filled with good attendance during this session with a diverse panel and the session was moderated by Dr Azlina Firzah and Professor Dr Azlina



Abbas. Active participation by the audience and panel in the symposium became the peak of the session. It has been a memorable and fruitful session to the junior surgeons and trainees.

Activities:

2020

Women in Surgery - Defying the Odds, Women in Surgery - Defying the Odds, IMU Surgical Society

On the 8th March 2020 the Surgical Society of IMU organized a forum "Women in Surgery - Defying the odds". It was held the IMU campus at Bukit Jalil. A few senior women surgeons were invited to address the crowd that made up of predominantly medical students and young doctors.

Through a series of presentations and interactive discussions, the aim was to inspire young students and doctors to take up surgery as their profession.

The session was kicked off with a welcoming address was given by Organising Chairperson Yong Kha Ern and Dean of IMU Professor Dr Nafeeza.

This was followed by an introductory speech by Professor Dato' Dr P Kandasami who is the mentor of the Surgical Society and Honorary Surgeon of IMU. He spoke about "Surgery as a career for women."

The other invited speakers were:

Professor Emeritus Dr Freda Andrea Meah

- Consultant Endocrine Surgeon, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre

Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har

- Consultant Breast Surgeon, Sime Darby Medical Centre

Professor Dr April Roslani

- Consultant and Head of Surgery, University of Malaya

Professor Dr Nafeeza bt Hj Mohd Ismail

- Dean of Medicine, International Medical University

Dr Farah Hani Imran

- Head of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre

Dr Shona A Edmonds

- Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Sunway Medical Centre and Sime Darby Medical Centre

Dr Harjit Kaur Perdamen

- Consultant Breast & Endocrine Surgeon, Prince Court Medical Centre and Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur

Each speaker spoke of their various fields of surgery and their experiences and journey that led them to where they are today.

Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har started off with a keynote address 'Is there a Glass Ceiling for Women in Academic Surgery?' This was followed by Dr Shona A



Edmonds with her presentation entitled 'Paediatrics Surgery: The Path Less Travelled'.

Dr Farrah Hani Imran spoke about 'Stereotypes in the Medical Field'. The morning session was concluded with Dr Harjit Kaur with her presentation 'The Wife, The Mother and The Accidental Surgeon'.

The afternoon session involved a Sharing Session involving Professor Dr April, Professor Dr Meah and Professor Dr Yip with Ethan Lim as the moderator. The Q&A session was very well participated by the 80 registered attendees. Many questions pertaining to the journey involved in getting into the training programs and the prerequisites involved were discussed.

This was followed by a dialogue session involving Dr Harjit, Dr Shona and Dr Farrah Hani with Dr Felicity Ng as the moderator. The topics discussed during session were: Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination, Social Media & Stress Management for Health Care Professionals, and How do we manage our



relationships with partners? Students asked questions through Slido and the speakers answered the relevant questions accordingly. The event ended at 3.00pm after a very fruitful day of presentations and discussions. The feedback received on the event was very good.

A poster presentation was created at the entrance and a group photo was taken to end the event.

Women in Surgery Series by IMU Surgical Society 2021

Facebook (FB/IG) Video 15th March 2021: "Greetings from Malaysian Surgical Leadership & Empowerment 101" (Report by Associate Professor Dr Farrah Hani Imran)

Facebook (FB) LIVE Friday 19th March 2021: Conversations with Women Surgeons - International Women's Day

Every 8th March is the International Women's Day.

This day is celebrated to acknowledge the economic, political, social and cultural achievements of women from all walks of life and is commemorated globally, highlighting the struggles and achievements of women.

As part of International Medical University's Surgical Society's effort to continue promoting Women in Surgery since its first forum held last year, in conjunction with International Women's Day 2021, IMU Surgical Society organised Women in Surgery Series.

The society featured the event in three parts. Part 1 was a video montage launch on 8th March 2021 for this year's Women in Surgery Series featuring a welcoming address by Professor Dato' Dr Kandasami Palayan as the Surgical Society Advisor in International Medical University; (noting that there are only 25% women surgeons in Malaysia hence the event hopes to encourage more women medical students to pursue the field of surgery).

Part 2 was a 36 minute video clip in five segments, in conjunction with Women's History Month 2021, "Greetings from Malaysian Surgical Leadership & Empowerment 101", specially curated by Associate Professor Dr Farrah-Hani Imran (Head of Plastic Surgery & Burns Unit, Senior Lecturer & Consultant Plastic Surgeon in UKM). A video featuring surgeons & health leaders, selected & invited from all walks of life,

bringing us the message of leadership and empowerment. An assemblage made possible by Associate Professor Dr Farrah with a masterclass on leadership & empowerment by Associate Professor Dr Farrah at the end. The IMU Surgical Society were thankful to all the remarkable figures who took time to grace this programme and celebrate leadership and empowerment, a perfect epitome of inclusivity and shows the power of being supportive and united.

The five segments & hashtags were:

Segment 1: Pioneers of Malaysian Surgery;

Segment 2: Global forces of Malaysian Medicine;

Segment 3: Greetings from women surgeons;

Segment 4: Greetings from male surgeons;

Segment 5: Closing: Leadership and empowerment by Professor Dr Madya Farrah

#WomenInLeadership #IWD2021 #WomenInSurgery #DareToChallenge #WomensHistoryMonth2021

Part 3 was a FB Live event on Friday 19th March 2021: *Conversations with Women Surgeons*. The three women surgeons invited for the FB Live Event were Dato' Dr Suseela Nair (Senior Consultant Breast Surgeon in Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur), Dr Azlina Firzah Abdul Aziz (Consultant Breast Surgeon in Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur) and Dr Lenny Suryani Safri (Vascular Surgeon, Head of the Vascular Unit in Department of Surgery in Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia). The surgeons began training in different decades - from the 60's, 90's and from 2004, respectively. To start with, they spoke on the differences and challenges in training, role models and the influences in their career.

For the medical students who are interested, they shared advice on preparations during housemanship, including getting involved in research and networking. They spoke on the assistance and encouragement they had received over the years from their family, colleagues and superiors; about trying to keep a work/life balance, coping strategies and keeping mental health in check.

The final segment featured "golden advice" to future surgical trainees.

Facebook links:

1. Greetings (Part 1): <https://fb.watch/67fbprWFNA/>

2. Greetings from Malaysian Surgical Leadership & Empowerment 101 (Part 2): <https://fb.watch/67f7GzvTq1/>

3. Conversation with Women Surgeons (Part 3): https://fb.watch/67e_VEJq6w/

