

# Annual Scientific Meeting and Annual General Meeting 2013 *Report*

The CSAMM Annual Scientific Meeting made a welcome return to the capital city this year, aided by the spectacular vistas of the Hilton Kuala Lumpur, where it was held, from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013. The broad appeal of the theme, 'Integrating Research, Training and Clinical Service', with the sub-texts of ecologically responsible surgery and work-life balance, was evident from the excellent attendance of 506 participants.



The meeting was heralded by an unprecedented number of pre-conference workshops. These were carefully planned to cater for participants at every level of surgical experience, each addressing a separate aspect of a practitioner's armamentarium: the Inaugural CSAMM Medical Students' Surgical Skills Workshop and Competition, Working Towards Zero Infection aimed at nurse-practitioners, The Complete Laparoscopic Hernia Experience for surgical trainees, the Silent Mentor workshops for advanced trainees and surgeons, and How to Avoid Medico-Legal Problems, essential for anyone in surgical practice. All sessions were very well attended.

The Opening Ceremony set the scene, enhanced by the presence of the Presidents of Overseas Colleges. The symbolic planting of a tree by the Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Chang Keng Wee, and the President of the College, Yip Cheng Har preceded the formal declaration of the commencement. This was followed by a moving tribute to Abdul Majid Ismail, the surgical pioneer who had tragically passed away recently.

The distinguished international faculty was truly global, with representation from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Chris Christophi, from Australia, was the 40<sup>th</sup> AM Ismail Orator, expounding on Surgery for Colorectal Liver Metastases. The RACS Travelling Fellow, Michael Solomon, world-renowned in his field of colorectal surgery, shared his expertise in outcomes research and surgical training.



The local faculty was no less spectacular; for the first time, a significant number of local surgical societies were heavily involved, ensuring that key opinion leaders lent their expertise to the scientific programme. Innovations such as the Meet-the-Experts sessions, debates on controversial issues, and the inclusion of non-surgical faculty to address issues relevant to surgeons, would not have been possible without their contribution.

There was more participation than ever by surgical trainees, reflective of a programme that was relevant to them, assisted by the greater use of electronic media. The Ethicon Prize and poster competitions were keenly contested, and the finalists were of a very high standard.

In keeping with the 'Green' and 'Work-Life Balance' subtexts, this year's Gala dinner incorporated a dress theme of 'Formal with a Dash of Green'; additionally, entertainment for the evening was by talented surgeons and surgical trainees. A number of prize winners was announced: the Ethicon Prize was awarded to Hoh Siew Yep from UMMC, the Best Poster winner was Tan Kok Neang from Kluang Hospital, the Medical Students' Surgical Skills Competition was won by Khoo Hau Wei from UKM, and the SMA Alhady Prize was conferred on Putera Mas Pian from HUKM



The evening ended with a bang, with an innovative performance by No Noise Percussion, utilizing traffic cones, choppers and even the audiences hands!

All in all, the CSAMM 2013 was well-received by both local and international participants, and it is hoped the energy and enthusiasm generated in the surgical community will continue to grow and lead to better surgical standards in the country. e