



Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 4 May 2019, 4.45pm – 5.20pm

Level 1, Theatre 2, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC)

Present:

ASPIRE Executive Board 2018-2020

Prof. Budi Wiweko	President
Prof. Tin-Chiu Li	President-Elect
Dr. Clare Boothroyd	Vice President
Dr. Ho Manh Tuong	Vice President
Prof. Chii-Ruey Tzeng	Immediate Past-President
Prof. PC Wong	Secretary General
Dr. Virgilio Novero	Treasurer
Prof. Rashida Begum	Board Member
Dr. Haroon Latif	Board Member
Prof. Atsushi Tanaka	Board Member
Dr. Rong Li	Co-opted Board Member
Prof. Nares Sukcharoen	Co-opted Board Member
Prof. Gab Kovacs	Editor-in-Chief
Hoa Jing Qi	Association Manager
Yanny Wu	Association Executive

ASPIRE Country representatives (2018-2020, not indicated above)

Assoc. Prof. Louise Hull	Country Representative, Australia
Dr. Nusrat Mahmud	Country Representative, Bangladesh
Prof. Zijiang Chen	Country Representative, China
Dr. Gita Pratama	Country Representative, Indonesia
Dr. Ivan Sini	Country Representative, Indonesia
Dr. Kyu-Sup Lee	Country Representative, South Korea
Dr. Surinder Singh	Country Representative, Malaysia
Prof. Neil Johnson	Country Representative, New Zealand
Dr. Angela G. Sison-Aguilar	Country Representative, Philippines
Dr. Rajesh Hemashree	Country Representative, Singapore
Prof. Gwo-Jang Wu	Country Representative, Taiwan
Prof. Huang Hong-Yuan	Country Representative, Taiwan
Assoc. Prof. Suphakde Julaviitphong	Country Representative, Thailand
Dr. Quang Vinh Dang	Country Representative, Vietnam

ASPIRE Members (2019)

Yogeshwar Makanji (Australia), Mariam Faruqui (Bangladesh), Kedar Ganla (India), Achmad Kemal Harzif (Indonesia), Eileen Manalo (Philippines), Dianne Manzano (Philippines), Marinella Abat (Philippines), Mailanie Grace De Cadiz-Pulanco (Philippines), Amity Casurao-Trono (Philippines), Leedah Ranola-Nisperos (Philippines), Debby Songco (Philippines), Mary Eleanor Domingo (Philippines), Zhongwei Huang (Singapore), Ming-Jer Chen (Taiwan), Ruey-Sheng Wang (Taiwan), Linh Le Xuan (Viet Nam)

Observers

Nancy, Zhi Nan Cao (China), Shezae Khan (Pakistan), Soon Soo Lee (Malaysia), Rashid Latif Khan (Pakistan)

No.	Agenda Item	Action
	The meeting was called to order by ASPIRE President at 4.45pm on Saturday, 4 May 2019.	
1	Approval of Last AGM Meeting Minutes	
	<p>There were no additional comments made to the minutes from the ASPIRE Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 14 April 2018 in ASPIRE 2018, Taipei, Taiwan.</p> <p>The minutes was proposed to move by Haroon Latif and seconded by Marinella Abat.</p>	
2	Report of Executive Board	
	<p>B Wiweko, the President of ASPIRE, introduced the current Executive Board members and the ASPIRE Country Representatives listed below:</p> <p><u>ASPIRE Executive Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Budi Wiweko President • Prof. Tin-Chiu Li President-Elect • Dr. Clare Boothroyd Vice President • Dr. Ho Manh Tuong Vice President • Prof. Chii-Ruey Tzeng Immediate Past-President • Prof. PC Wong Secretary General • Dr. Virgilio Novero Treasurer • Prof. Rashida Begum Board Member • Dr. Haroon Latif Board Member • Prof. Atsushi Tanaka Board Member • Dr. Rong Li Co-opted Board Member • Prof. Nares Sukcharoen Co-opted Board Member • Prof. Gab Kovacs Editor-in-Chief <p>He highlighted that with the new constitution approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in ASPIRE 2018, Taipei, Taiwan, new positions and members were invited into the executive board.</p> <p><u>ASPIRE Country Representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia - Associate Prof. Louise Hull • Bangladesh - Dr. Nusrat Mahmud and Dr. Maruf Siddiqui • China - Prof. Zi-Jiang Chen • Hong Kong - Prof. Tin-Chiu Li • India - Dr. Duru Shah • Indonesia - Dr. Gita Pratama and Dr. Ivan Sini • Iran- Dr. Maryam Salmani • Japan - Prof. Atsushi Tanaka • Korea - Prof. Kyu Sup Lee • Malaysia - Dr. Surinder Singh • Nepal - Dr. Bholu Rijal • New Zealand - Prof. Neil Johnson • Pakistan - Dr. Mariam Iqbal • Philippines Dr. Virgilio Novero and Dr. Angela Aguilar • Russia - Prof. Vladislav Korsak • Singapore - Dr. Rajesh Hemashree • Sri Lanka - Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa • Taiwan - Dr. Gwo-Jang Wu and Prof. Hong-Yuan Huang • Thailand - Associate Prof. Suphakde Julaviitphong • Vietnam - Dr. Quang Vinh Dang <p>He went through the development of ASPIRE through 2006 to 2018 and the upcoming activities</p>	

in 2019 and 2020. He shared that every year, ASPIRE aims to run an annual congress and two masterclasses. In 2018, ASPIRE initiated 6 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and in 2019, ASPIRE have launched its very own ASPIRE Journal (The Official Journal of ASPIRE – Fertility & Reproduction (F&R)). The ASPIRE 1st Regional meeting will also be run in Lahore, Pakistan in 2019. In 2020, the 8th ASPIRE Masterclass on Ovarian Stimulation will be run in Tokyo, Japan and the 10th ASPIRE Annual Congress in Manila, Philippines. ASPIRE will also be collaborating with ESHRE to run its first ASPIRE Session at ESHRE 2020.

ASPIRE ran its second membership drive in 2019 and the special rates will end on 31st May 2019. B Wiweko shared that since the first membership drive in 2018, ASPIRE saw an increase of 88% in members. Currently, there are 884 active members.

The Executive board have decided to run a third membership drive where the rates will be SGD 20 for 1 year, SGD 60 for 3 years and SGD 100 for 5 years. More information will be provided by the secretariat to everyone.

The 6 Special Interest Groups that were developed were:

1. Endometriosis

CHAIRPERSON: Professor Neil Johnson (New Zealand)

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Professor Chii-Ruey Tzeng (Taiwan) and Professor Yutaka Osuga (Japan)

2. Endometrium and Implantation

CHAIRPERSON: Associate Professor Louise Hull (Australia)

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Professor Nares Sukcharoen (Thailand) and Dr Rong Li (China)

3. Embryology

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Chi Ling (Hong Kong)

CO-CHAIRPERSON: Dr Haroon Latif (Pakistan) and Dr Ho Manh Tuong (Vietnam)

4. Male Infertility

CHAIRPERSON: Professor Gwo-Jang Wu (Taiwan)

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Professor Atsushi Tanaka (Japan) and Dr Virgilio Novero (Philippines)

5. Reproductive Endocrinology

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Duru Shah (India)

CO-CHAIRPERSON: Dr Clare Boothroyd (Australia)

6. Reproductive Surgery

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Herbert Situmorang (Indonesia)

CO-CHAIRPERSON: Dr Angel Regina Tan-Espiritu (Philippines) and Prof. Tin-Chiu Li (Hong Kong)

B Wiweko shared the progress of the ASPIRE masterclasses and the no. of attendees for each of the masterclasses:

Edition	Topic	Hosted in	No. of Attendees
1st	Male Infertility	Siem Reap, Cambodia	36
2nd	PCOS	Hanoi, Vietnam	68
3rd	PGT + Hands-on	Beijing, China	75
4th	Implantation	Bangkok, Thailand	92
5th	IVM	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	84
6th	Male Infertility + Hands-on	Manila, Philippines	98

He highlighted that there are two upcoming masterclasses: Endometriosis in Colombo, Sri Lanka and Ovarian Stimulation and Poor Responders in Tokyo, Japan.

B Wiweko ended his Report of the Executive Board and there were no comments from the audience.

3 Financial Report and Accounts

The financial report for financial year 2018 was presented by V Novero, the treasurer of ASPIRE. He shared that the top expenses for FY 2018 were from the annual congress, masterclass and ASPIRE office. The total expense incurred was USD 629,579 while the total surplus after taxes was USD 283,973 (net surplus)

PC Wong added that it is important to keep the yearly surplus positive and around this figure. He highlighted that in 2019, there will be additional major expenses:

1. Publishing fee for The Official Journal of ASPIRE – Fertility & Reproduction (F&R)
2. 1 additional permanent headcount in the secretariat office
3. Increasing of office space to accommodate the additional headcount

He therefore emphasized the importance of receiving good support and attendance at the annual congress to maintain the running of ASPIRE office and activities.

There were no comments from the audience.

4 Report on ASPIRE 2019

TC Li, the Chairman of ASPIRE 2019 Local Organising Committee shared that although the congress has not yet concluded, he will be presenting the figures as of date.

Under the leadership of Dr Clare Boothroyd, the Scientific Chair of ASPIRE 2019, there were a few initiatives – increased number of pre-congress courses (from 3 in ASPIRE 2018 to 7 in ASPIRE 2019) and new programme sessions (Controversies, ESHRE Session and Chinese Session).

The overview programme structure was presented as follow:

Session Types	No. of sessions
Pre-Congress Workshops	7
Bruno Lunenfeld Honorary Lecture	1
Keynote Lectures	7
Concurrent Sessions	19
Controversies (NEW)	3
How-To Sessions	4
Debates	5
Commercial Symposia	6
Free Communications	35
Affiliated Sessions	5
Korean Session	1
ISAR Session	1
ESHRE Session (NEW)	1
AQFOG Session	1
Chinese Session (NEW)	1

There are 232 Oral Presentations and 129 poster presentations submitted and accepted for the congress.

The statistic of the congress invited faculty is presented as follow. TC Li shared that the number of invited faculty have increase particularly for pre-congress faculty due to the increase in pre-congress courses.

Category	No.
Pre-Congress Faculty	52
Main Congress Faculty	76
Session Chairpersons	88
Affiliated Session Speakers	26
Company Symposium Speakers	16

As of Saturday, 4 May, the main congress and pre-congress registration summary is as follow:

MAIN CONGRESS	
Category	No.
Registrants - Local	86
Registrants - Overseas	1148
Accompanying Person	85
Sponsors and Exhibitors	268
Invited Faculty	126
TOTAL	1713

PRE-CONGRESS COURSES	
Category	No.
Course 1: Psychological Counselling in Reproductive Medicine	42
Course 2: What a Clinician Should Know About Embryology?	51
Course 3: Quality Assurance & Accreditation in ART	42
Course 4: Reproductive Surgery	40
Course 5: Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)	16
Course 6: Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT)	50
Course 7: Research and Cochrane	15
TOTAL	296

TC Li highlighted that there is a high interest in Embryology and PGT as compared to the other courses and therefore, ASPIRE will work to reach out to more Embryologists in terms of our activities in near future.

The registration country breakdown is separated into Asia Pacific and International and presented as follow. He highlighted that the participation from Vietnam is high in consideration of their country population percentage.

ASIA PACIFIC

Australia	72	New Zealand	11
Bangladesh	95	Pakistan	11
Brunei Darussalam	2	Philippines	76
China	233	Russian Federation	16
Hong Kong	128	Singapore	59
India	26	South Korea	27
Indonesia	145	Sri Lanka	4
Japan	63	Taiwan	88
Macao	2	Thailand	83
Malaysia	75	Vietnam	143
Myanmar	9		
Nepal	1		

INTERNATIONAL

Austria	5	Poland	4
Belgium	2	Portugal	1
Canada	4	Saudi Arabia	4
Czech Republic	3	Scotland	1
Denmark	3	South Africa	1
France	3	Spain	1
Germany	8	Switzerland	6
Iran	12	Turkey	2
Israel	2	United Arab Emirates	2
Italy	1	United Kingdom	10
Lebanon	1	United States	15
Macedonia	2	Uzbekistan	3

	<p>TC Li presented the list of sponsors, exhibitors and education grants received for ASPIRE 2019. He also thanked the secretariat office and PC Wong, the Secretary General for maintaining the support from the sponsors and exhibitors and recruiting new exhibitors for ASPIRE 2019.</p> <p>There were no comments from the audience.</p>	
5	Fertility & Reproduction (F&R)	
	<p>G Kovacs, the Editor-in-Chief expressed his pleasure that the 1st issue of the journal have been published and that everyone should have a hardcopy of the issue in their congress bag.</p> <p>He shared that so far, F&R have received 26 submissions, out of which 13 were accepted while 5 were rejected. 10 of the 13 accepted manuscripts were published in the 1st issue while 3 will be set to be published in the 2nd issue. He highlighted that F&R will be published as e-copies except for issues that are set to be launched in-conjunction with the ASPIRE annual congress will be published in printed copies.</p> <p>F&R is now accepting manuscript submission for the 2nd Issue which will be published in June 2019. The submission deadline is on 7 June 2019.</p> <p>G Kovacs shared that the goal of F&R is to be included into PubMed and to increase the rating of F&R, therefore he encouraged the audience who are planning to write papers to cite references from F&R. If the number of submissions increases, F&R will also increase frequency of publication.</p> <p>He also expressed that the 12 Associate Editors will be evaluated based on a KPI set for them (their response time to the papers allocated to them will be recorded). He shared that he wish that in 20 years' time, F&R impact factor should be as good as Human Reproduction.</p> <p>G Kovacs thanked the secretariat office and the executive board for the support in F&R.</p> <p>There were no comments from the audience.</p>	
6	Announcement of ASPIRE 2021 destination	
	<p>B Wiweko announced the host destination of The 11th Congress of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2021) is Yokohama, Japan. The congress will take place in Pacifico Yokohama and the Local Organising Chairmen for ASPIRE 2021 will be Professor Atsushi Tanaka.</p> <p>Comments from the audience:</p> <p>Robert Norman (Australia) congratulated the ASPIRE Executive Board on the achievement and for taking ASPIRE to a higher level. He expressed that it is good to see that ASPIRE is not dependent on overseas speakers and that the scientific programme composed of a good number of Asia Pacific speakers. He further added that India is badly represented (There were 700 Indians participating in ESHRE while only 23 in ASPIRE this year) and therefore hope that the Executive board can solve the gap in Indian representation in the next 12 months.</p> <p>Additionally, Iran has always been included in the community and although there were many political issues pertaining to the nation, there were still representatives from Iran attending the congress. The country map printed in the ASPIRE booth also excluded Iran so it is important to define the countries that are represented in ASPIRE. This applies to Russia as well.</p> <p>B Wiweko acknowledged Robert Norman (Australia)'s concern and expressed that the board is taking this situation as priority and is in discussion on how to engage more Indians to be part of ASPIRE. One thing the board have agreed on is to engage more Indian country representative that are influential locally. ASPIRE also ran an ASPIRE Session at ISAR 2019 just last month but there are still no results from there.</p>	

For Russia, ASPIRE 2019 have invited a Russian Keynote speaker and therefore hope that ASPIRE 2020 in Manila, Philippines will attract more Russians delegates.

Rashid Latif Khan (Pakistan) agreed with Robert Norman (Australia) on ASPIRE’s achievement within a short period and congratulated the ASPIRE Executive Board. He shared that India is a huge country and is divided into various region (N, S, E, W), therefore, having only one country representative for India is not sufficient as he/she cannot represent the whole country. He proposed for ASPIRE to consider dividing India into 4 – 5 regions, engaging 1 country representative for each of the region. This may help to encourage more Indians from each region to attend the congress and become ASPIRE members.

He added that although ESHRE is a big meeting, Asia Pacific is doing more cycles and patients than Europe. Therefore, it is important to engage more industry support for ASPIRE. There needs to be some pressure on the industry partners to provide more support to ASPIRE.

For Iran, it is known to have political issues and is isolated. However, take for example Palestine who is facing the same situation, they have been recognized and accepted by ESHRE as a country member and therefore, hope as a scientific body, everyone should overlook the political issues.

PC Wong reminded the audience that ASPIRE is a society of individuals and not made up of fertility societies, membership can come from any individuals in the world. Hence, for individuals in Iran who wish to join ASPIRE, they will be most welcomed. He agreed that with the realisation that India needs to be treated differently in terms of representation, all these will be taken on board and discussed on how best these suggestions can be applied.

ASPIRE

B Wiweko added that ASPIRE is also trying to discuss full support from the industry partners as well.

Professor Atsushi Tanaka (Japan) thanked the ASPIRE Executive on behalf of the Japanese Societies for appointing Yokohama, Japan as the host destination for ASPIRE 2021. He expressed that the exhibition at ASPIRE 2019 was very well layout with sufficient space.

TC Li shared that the congress success is due to the teamwork. He shared that on Friday, 3 May 2019 during Welcome Reception, B Wiweko, TC Li and PC Wong went around to each of the booth to thank the exhibitors and ask for feedback. He expressed that these are little gestures that help ASPIRE to maintain the relationship with the supporters.

There were no further comments from the audience.

7 Invitation to ASPIRE 2020, Manila, Philippines

V Novero, the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee of ASPIRE 2020 invited the audience to save the date for The 10th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2020) which will be held from 16 – 19 April 2020 at Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC), Manila, Philippines. The meeting will be co-hosted by the Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine (PSRM).

Professor Chii-Ruey Tzeng will be the Scientific Chair of ASPIRE 2020.

He highlighted important dates for the audience to take note:

Call for Abstracts	1 July 2019
Online Early Bird Registration open	15 October 2019
Early Bird Registration Ends	1 February 2020
Abstract Submission Deadline	15 November 2019
Abstract Review Results Notification	1 January 2020

Minutes prepared by:

Hoa Jing Qi
Association Manager
Date: 14.05.2019

Minutes vetted by:

Prof PC Wong
Secretary General
Date: 17.05.2019