

Chii-Ruey Tzeng President

Fertility nowadays is to be perceived as one of the fundamental human rights. We have successfully concluded the 7th Congress of ASPIRE in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 30 March to 2 April 2017. Almost 1,250 participants from 37 countries joined us at the congress. The congress featured 7 plenary lectures, 20 symposia, 10 "How to" sessions, 2 pre-congress workshops, 5 industry-sponsored symposia with 78 invited international speakers as well as 69 oral and 199 poster presentations. The commercial exhibition which ran concurrently over 3 days attracted 42 exhibitors and sponsors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate ASPIRE Past President, Professor Robert Norman, on being selected for the honorary membership of ESHRE in 2017. Professor Norman is among the most sought after opinion leaders in the field of reproductive medicine in Australia and the Asia Pacific region.



ASPIRE is also constantly working on its educational program, such as the upcoming ASPIRE's 3rd masterclass which will be focused on PGS/PGD, to be held in Beijing, China from 11 to 13 October 2017. ASPIRE educational committee chair, Dr. Clare Boothroyd and local committee, Professor Jie Qiao and Rong Li from Peking University Third Hospital have organized an excellent program, you may go to ASPIRE website to find out more details. The biennial ASPIRE-ASRM exchange symposium on ASRM will be held in San Antonio, Texas, US on 30 October 2017. This year's theme will be "Advances in Understanding Oocyte/Embryo Function and Structure". We are working on bringing an excellent session to all attendees. We also met Professor Roy Farquharson, chair-elect of ESHRE at Geneva and achieved the collaboration with ESHRE. We are happy to announced that for ASPIRE 2019, a 90minutes ESHRE Campus Workshop, consisting of 3 speakers, will be embedded in the ASPIRE Congress Program.

The trial of ASPIRE-ISAR (Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction) observership program will be launched with participating centres in Indonesia, Vietnam, Taiwan and Japan from September to October 2017. The objective of this project is to promote education and training in ART and infertility related services with the ultimate goal of bringing quality practices in the Asian Pacific region. The observership program will involve four weeks of intense learning courses which will help the students to be acquainted with infertility management and use of ART.

On behalf of ASPIRE, I also attended several meetings early this year such as Chinese Association of Reproductive Medicine Annual Meeting (Wuhan, China), 22nd Annual Congress of the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction (New Delhi, India), World Congress of Endometriosis (Vancouver, Canada), and 25th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Hong Kong) to maintain relationship with national and international societies and for mutual cooperation.

After the Kuala Lumpur meeting, ASPIRE has finally started its own office. We now have a full time secretary- Ms. Hoa Jing Qi. Thanks for the efforts of Dr. Budi Wiweko, the online membership portal is available now. Under the aegis of Dr. Adrienne Pope and Dr. Jaideep Malhotra, we are trying to develop an accreditation system and a free software has been identified. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of having an ASPIRE journal.

Last but not least, The 8th Congress of ASPIRE will be held in Taipei, Taiwan from 12-15 April 2018. The aim of ASPIRE 2018 is reflected by the conference theme: "Precision Medicine in Human Reproduction". We cordially invite physicians, clinicians, nurses, researchers and academics to join this world-class event to discover and discuss the development of this field. For further congress information please visit ASPIRE 2018 website (www.aspire2018.com).



The 7th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2017) was successfully held from 30th March to 2nd April 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Almost 1,250 participants from over 37 countries including delegates, faculty members, exhibitors, sponsors and accompanying persons attended the conference.

The congress opening ceremony was officiated by Her Royal Highness of Pahang, KDYTM Tengku Puan Pahang Tunku Hajjah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Almarhum Almutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj. Her Royal Highness of Pahang also shared her journey in fertility treatment, amazing the audience with her perseverance and courage.

Delegates from all over the world were given the opportunity to network with

colleagues from the region at the Welcome Reception. Faculty were also invited to fellowship over an appreciation dinner at Marini on 57.

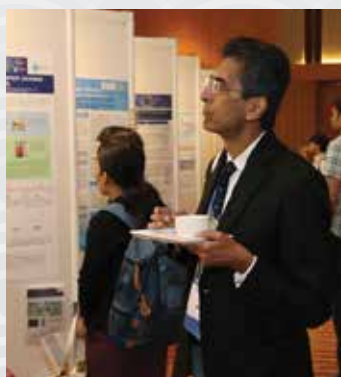
The congress featured a mix of keynote lectures, concurrent sessions, commercial symposia, free communication, debates and how to's, 78 international field expertise attended the congress to uncover the latest research and treatment options in reproductive medicine.

KEYNOTE LECTURES TOPICS

- The Role of Mitochondria in Human Reproduction
- Invitro Activation of Oocytes
- Metabolism and Physiology of Human Embryo
- Recurrent Implantation Failure: New Approach
- Derivation of Gametes from Stem Cells
- Fertility Preservation of Ovarian Tissue from Laboratory Perspective
- Quality Management in ART
- Early Embryo Development and Impact on Implantation

The commercial exhibition which ran concurrently over 3 days attracted 42 industry players such as Ferring, Merck, Abbott, Perkin Elmer, Guerbet, MSD, Vitrolife, Thieme and Beckman.

If you would like to view more photos from the congress, visit our website at www.aspire-reproduction.org.





Aspire

Organiser:

Asia Pacific Initiative
on Reproduction

MSART

Hosts:

The Malaysian Society for
Assisted Reproductive Technology



Obstetrical and Gynaecological
Society of Malaysia (OGSM)

Obstetrical and Gynaecological
Society of Malaysia



Supporters:



Malaysia Convention
& Exhibition Bureau



Malaysia Truly Asia



Professional Event Manager:
Kenes MP Asia Pte Ltd

Louise Hull Associate Professor | Country Representative for Australia

ASPIRE's reputation for high quality education and research in the Asia-Pacific region has led to increasing and enthusiastic participation by Australian fertility practitioners. A strong Australian contingent of speakers and participants was present at ASPIRE's annual conference in Kuala Lumpur this year and realised the benefits of much shorter flight times to a high quality conference to meet great collaborators and colleagues who work in our region.

A highly successful pre-congress workshop on the principles of RTAC accreditation was run by Dr. Adrienne Pope from Brisbane, who also gave a lecture on quality control later in the programme. Fourteen other speakers presented their work which ranged from methods to improve the potential of embryo's through mitochondrial transfer, PGS, optimising metabolism and freezing strategies to improving implantation and ongoing pregnancy rates through clinical innovation and evidence based medicine. The speaker's and session chair's included Clare Boothroyd, Hannah Brown, James Catt, Michael Chapman, Tracey Edgell, David Gardner, Rob Gilcrest, Roger Hart, Louise Hull, Rob Norman, Luk Rhombauts, Bernadette Snopek, Jeremy Thompson and Te Sha Tsai and their time and dedication to furthering the field of IVF in the Asia-Pacific region was seen in the quality of their presentations.



An Australian Dr Evelyn Lee from the university of New South Wales was fortunate enough to win the 3rd prize for the best oral presentation for her talk entitled "Cumulative Live Birth Rates (CLBR) following preimplantation genetic diagnosis for aneuploidy (PGD-A): A cost effectiveness analysis". We all congratulate her for presenting this topical subject so well.

Dr. Clare Boothroyd, Australia's ASPIRE's board representative, has worked very hard to promote the goals and aspirations of ASPIRE. Her roles also include being the Chair of the ASPIRE Education Committee which organises ASPIRE sponsored masterclasses and educational experiences in the Asia Pacific region. She is also the Co-chair of the Scientific Programme Organizing Committee for Taipei 2018 and the Chair for Hong Kong 2019. Many thanks must go to Clare for dedicating so much time, energy and good humour to the ASPIRE organisation which is much appreciated by so many.

Prof. Rob Norman also speaks frequently in the Asia Pacific Region and as a past president of ASPIRE, supports its activities at many levels, including being the chair of the first ASPIRE masterclass on PCOS. His international reputation in the IVF field led to him receiving Honorary Life Membership from ESHRE and we all



congratulate him on such a successful career dedicated to helping others fulfil their wishes to have a family. Fortunately, several of his own family were able to attend his award ceremony and many ASPIRE members such as Dr Lam and Tuong from Vietnam were in Geneva to support and congratulate him.

I have attended several international and national conferences in various regions of the Asia-Pacific this year and am always impressed with the willingness of fellow Australian delegates to participate and support other clinicians, embryologists and IVF support staff in the region in many different ways, which are too varied to be specifically mentioned in this newsletter. Additionally the hospitality of conference organisers and members of the wider Asia Pacific ART community is always incredible and gratefully received, and hopefully reciprocated when visitors come to Australia.

Given the youth and energy in this part of the world and the exciting ideas coming from this region, the future of our collaborative efforts to improve the reproductive health of many couples looks bright, and it is a pleasure to be involved in such a vibrant community. We are all looking forward to sharing ideas and experiences at ASPIRE sponsored events later this year and in 2018.



Dr Clare Boothroyd
Australia's ASPIRE Board Representative

The present conditions for oocyte donation in Japan.

Controversy over rights of children born from oocyte donations. Is full disclosure of identity of donor necessary?

Atsushi Tanaka

We have no laws concerning reproductive medicine with gametes donation. There is only the report of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare in 2003 for egg donation establishing the donor's right to remain anonymous and the rights of children born from oocyte donation to know their origins. As of this date no donors without family or friendly ties to the recipients have appeared.

In 2004 the JISART (Japanese Institution for Standardizing Assisted Reproductive Technology) which consists of 25 prestigious ART clinics established an ethics committee and allowed the oocyte donation from sisters or friends. These guidelines have 3 major conditions, First recipients should be females who have no chance to become pregnant without donation. Second, donors must be married, be less than

40 years old and have more than one child of their own. Lastly, recipients are allowed to pay for donor's costs needed for oocyte pick up including transportation, accommodations and daily allowances. However, the exchange of money is forbidden.



The clinical result of oocyte donation in JISART from the beginning to July 2017 is as follows.

- 75 cases applied for approval, 71 cases were approved and 4 cases were rejected.
- 5 cases are on going.
- So far 37 babies have been born.

Table 1 shows who the donors were and their proportions. A total of 71 women participated in this program, 25 (35.2%) received the donation from an older sister, 34 (47.9%) from a younger sister, 1 (1.4%) from an older sister in law, 3 (4.2%) from a younger sister in law, 5 (7.0%) from a friend, 3 (4.2%) from a cousin. Almost all of the donations were from sisters and very few donations were from non-relatives.

| Table 1. Who were the donors? | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Older sister | 25 |
| Younger sister | 34 |
| Older sister-in-law | 1 |
| Younger sister-in-law | 3 |
| Friend | 5 |
| Cousin | 3 |

Then let's look at the world's current condition about patient privacy and the child's right to know his/her genetic mother in oocyte donation. It is classified into three patterns.

There is Anonymity in France and Germany, non-anonymity in the United Kingdom and Sweden and no regulation in Belgium. It is only in Japan where both the patient's privacy and the child's right to know their personal information are approved when child turns 15. Since sperm donations in Japan

has been performed anonymously since 60 years ago it is difficult to understand how these two completely different views on gametes donation have developed.

On the other hand, the Japanese government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994 which was established by the United Nations in 1990. Article 7 in this convention says that the child shall have the Right to be given a name and be registered immediately after birth acquire a nationality and

as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents. Many people quoting this article have been insisting the children's right to know their origin takes priority over the privacy of the donors. However, it is important to realize that it says "as far as possible", which does not mean mandatory. It does not touch on the disclosure of the donor's information in oocyte donation. Total disclosure is more likely to be a stretched interpretation by people supporting the children's right to know their origin.

This cartoon illustrates the expected situation in Japan.

What happens if a child born from a donated egg from a donor who has not given consent demands the disclosure of the donor's information? The boy has the right to meet his genetic mother, but the mother can also refuse to meet him on the grounds that her privacy is protected. It's a sad story.



The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare report requires anonymity to the donor and disclosure of personal information of donor to the child. These two assurances are incompatible.

In conclusion, oocyte donation in Japan is very difficult because the right to anonymity by the donor and the right to identity disclosure for the child are basically incompatible. We send many

couples who want oocyte donation to Taiwan recently. However, there still remains the controversy over rights of children born from oocyte donations.



Dr. Rashida Begum
Board Member

Infertility is a global social problem for women not only in Bangladesh but all over the world. Wherever she goes she is the victim of circumstances and has to answer to everyone asking her the same "When are you planning to have baby?" Difficult question to answer and that puts lots of mental pressure for her. To provide service to these vulnerable members of our society Fertility and sterility Society of Bangladesh has been hosting CME program for the management of infertility in different parts of the country to train doctors. Awareness program has been arranged to train local general practitioners how to manage infertility in primary and secondary care levels.

To make ASPIRE familiar among the local physicians, ASPIRE board member Dr.

Bangladesh Report

Rashida Begum and country representative Dr. Nusrat Mahmud organizes seminar and awareness program in different parts of the country.

A Symposium on "Current approaches in improving ART outcome" held on Thursday 18 May 2017 at Dhaka Club Limited, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Professor T A Chowdhury, President of Fertility & Sterility Society of Bangladesh (FSSB) inaugurated and chaired the programme. The programme was equipped with three sessions as Today's ART treatments, A state of the art IVF Laboratory & Practical aspects of management protocol.

Professor Fabio Cruz, Professor of Gynecology, University of Valencia, Spain was present as an International faculty with local



Dr. Nusrat Mahmud
Country Representative

speakers. A lively interactive question answer session made the audience clear in their understanding.

CME on Basic Management of Infertility held on Infertility Care & Research Center, Dhaka on 5 May, 2017. Young Gynecologists who has an interest on Basic management of Infertility, attended in that program. Professor Rashida Begum, Board member ASPIRE and Chief Consultant Gynecologist, ICRC organized the program.

ASPIRE is becoming familiar in local doctors. ASPIRE-2017 in Malaysia were attended by a good number of participants. Looking forward to host an ASPIRE meeting here in Bangladesh.

Thailand News

The 21st Thai Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) Annual Scientific Meeting 2017 was held between 14-17 March 2017 at The Millennium Hilton Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. There were about 300 participants including ART specialists, embryologists and paramedical personnels. The theme of this conference was "ART : Update and Practical". This meeting discussed the latest research and most

recent breakthroughs and innovation. Invited speakers from many countries included

International speakers : Prof. Kuang Y (China) / Prof. Morimoto Y (Japan) / Prof. Dr. Christophe Blockeel (Belgium)/ Ass. Prof. Louise Hull (Australia) / Dr. Debra Gook (Australia) / Dr. Amy Winship (Australia) / Dr. Peter Platteau (Belgium) / Dr. Jatin Pankaj Shah (India) / Miss Kelli Louise Sorby (Australia)/Dr. Budi Wiweko (Indonesia)/ Dr.

Chang Woo Choo (Korea)/ Dr. Nayana Patel (India)/ Dr. Giang Huynh Nhu (Vietnam)/ Dr. Don Rieger/ Dr. Kathryn Gebhardt/ Dr. Senthil Natesan/Dr. Lim Ricky.

Local Thai speakers : Prof. Nares Sukcharoen (President TSRM)/ Ass. Prof. Rounsing Choavaratana/ Ass Prof. Wirawit Piyamongkol/ Asst. Prof. Porntip Sirayapiwat/Asst. Prof. Mutchuporn Sukprasert.



TSRM executive board and international speakers



Workshop I : Oocyte cryopreservation workshop | Workshop II : Ovarian tissue freezing

Singapore News

PGS is now allowed in Singapore for the following three categories of patients in the public IVF centres with effect from September 2017:

1. Women above 35 years old undergoing IVF
2. Women with two or more implantation failures
3. Women with two or more miscarriages

A Practical Approach to Reproductive Surgery Meeting



This 2 day meeting will be suitable for clinicians and scientists who have an interest in the role of surgery in the field of reproductive medicine.

The programme will cover a range of topics within the field of reproductive surgery including laparoscopy and tubal assessment tests, hysteroscopy, imaging in infertility, endometriosis, fibroids, uterine septum, intrauterine adhesions, caesarean section niches, ovarian tissue transplant and ovarian cryopreservation. There will be a variety of debates, case based discussions, lectures, and question and answer sessions.

Dates: 28th and 29th November 2017

Venue: Chilworth Manor, Southampton

Please visit the website below for more details on the programme, how to register and submit an abstract:
<http://www.isrsft.org/annual-meeting.html>

All abstracts that are accepted will be published in RBMonline journal

Last date for Abstract submission is 15th of September, 2017

All participants will get three months free access to the RBMonline journal

Hope you can join us we look forward to seeing you.

Mr Kamal Ojha MD FRCOG

Joint Course Organisers

Mr Ertan Saridogan FRCOG

President of ISRFT

Dr Stephan Gordts

Past President of ISRFT

Dr Ying Cheong

Joint Course Organisers



19th World Congress on IVF

in conjunction with

VI Society of Reproductive Medicine and Surgery Congress

October 4 - 8, 2017

Regnum Carya Resort Hotel
Antalya



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Call for Abstracts starts on 1st August!!

Greetings from The 8th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2018)!

It is our great honor to invite you to attend the ASPIRE 2018 which will be held in the Taipei International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan, on April 12-15, 2018.

ASPIRE 2018 is pleased to invite colleagues in the field of human reproduction to share their research and new findings. Do not miss this opportunity to share your insights with other professionals.

IMPORTANT TIMELINE

| | |
|--|------------|
| Paper Submission starts on | 2017/08/01 |
| Paper Submission Deadline | 2017/10/01 |
| Paper Acceptance Notification via E-mail | 2017/11/30 |

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Catherine Racowsky



Prof. JLH (Hans) Evers

For more information, please visit <http://aspire2018.com/>

 **Aspire** 2018

12-15 APRIL 2018
TAIPEI, TAIWAN

The 8th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction – Precision Medicine in Human Reproduction –



www.aspire2018.com

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