

Issue: IV
Vol.: 01

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 | Issue 1 | January 2018

Aspire

Professor Budi Wiweko



President of ASPIRE

Engaging more people and societies in the world for the coming years

Dear Colleagues,

2018 has been another great year for Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE).

The 8th Congress of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2018) held in Taipei, Taiwan was concluded successfully, achieving a new high on attendance. Building on our educational platforms, two masterclasses on Implantation and In-Vitro Maturation (IVM) were held in Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam respectively and both were fruitfully concluded.

areas of popular interest by collaborating and sharing cutting edge knowledge, technology and experiences while addressing common challenges. We encourage all ASPIRE members to express your interest in the respective groups and be involved. To spread information on research and clinical practices time in reproductive medicine, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, ASPIRE is also preparing the launch of our very first scientific journal – Fertility and Reproduction (F&R) – The Official Journal of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction. We are calling for paper submissions now and would like to welcome you to share your research with

programme not only includes lectures and panel discussions but also runs two concurrent programmes that targets clinicians and embryologists.

We are also constantly empowering all our stakeholders in fertility services. Therefore, in ASPIRE 2019, pre-congress courses will be organised to target nurses, counsellors, fertility clinic managers, embryologists and clinicians.

The 9th Congress of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2019) will be held from 2 to 5 May, 2019 in Hong Kong running on the theme "Cutting Edge in Reproductive Technology". We encourage and are hopeful to see all of you there.

Last but not least, we'd like to say Happy New Year to all of you, wishing you a prosperous year ahead. See you in Hong Kong.



Working towards our goal to increase engagement with the community, ASPIRE has developed Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that helps to gather like-minded colleagues in exploring

us. Our inaugural issue will be launched in ASPIRE 2019 at Hong Kong.

The 6th Masterclass on Male Infertility will be held from 28 February to 1 March 2019 in Manila, Philippines. The pro-

Professor Budi Wiweko
President of ASPIRE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Budi Wiweko'. The signature is stylized and is placed below the printed name and title.

Professor Rashida Begum

Dr. Nusrat Mahmud

Dr. Maruf Siddiqui



ASPIRE Board Member



Country Representative



Country Representative

BANGLADESH

It was exciting to hear that a high percentage of the ASPIRE members come from Bangladesh. We strive to continue growing the Bangladeshi community within ASPIRE.

In collaboration with Kiel University, Germany, a Masterclass on Hysteroscopy was organised from 29 to 30 October at BIRDEM General Hospital, Dhaka. The masterclass was organised by Professor Liselotte Mettler (Emeritus Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University Hospitals Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany) together with Dr. Minu Agarwal (National Director for Clinical Board Morpheus IVF and Chairperson of Imaging Science Federation of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of India). The lectures presented were very informative and interactive and included topics such as Preoperative assess-

ment of the cavity – Anatomical basis-uterine factors of infertility – diagnostic hysteroscopy, Recent advances in diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy, Hysteroscopic electro-surgical ablation and newer technologies, Distension media equipment for hysteroscopy, Tips and tricks of hysteroscopy and complications in hysteroscopy and challenges.

The masterclass also included hands-on sessions conducted using simulators and live surgery. 30 participants received their diploma certificate after this masterclass and 20 participants received a certificate of attendance.



ASPIRE – Bangladesh chapter is moving forward in full force and is planning to host an ASPIRE Regional Meeting in Bangladesh in the near future.

Aspire

HONG KONG

Professor Tin-Chiu Li

ASPIRE President-Elect
and Country Representative

The Hong Kong Society for Reproductive Medicine (HKSRM)

Since its establishment in the year 2000, the aim of the HKSRM has always been to promote sharing and bonding among Physician, scientists, nurses and related workers in this Reproductive Medicine in Hong Kong. We propagate the upholding of standards of practice, and encourage education and research, so as to maintain top-level service to our patients. Throughout the years, our principal activities have focused on organizing lectures for our members, which have covered different areas of interest in our field, by speakers both from Hong Kong and abroad. Our mission has always been to advance knowledge in all aspects of reproductive medicine and biology.



Year 2018 has been a busy year for the HKSRM. Early in the year, we produced a microfilm and held a press conference to bring public awareness to infertility and advocate patient education. Around mid-April, we co-organized a certificate course on Infertility Counselling. In addition to organizing various seminars and the annual general meeting, we are also organizing two international conferences in Hong Kong: The Ovarian Club XII was held on 15-16 December 2018, and ASPIRE 2019 to be held in May.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite and welcome you to join both of our exciting conference events in Hong Kong, and at the same time enjoy the vibrance of our city.



OVARIAN CLUB XII

15 – 16 December 2018
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Has Conventional IVF
Reached Its Limits?

Dr. Gita Pratama



Country Representative

Aspire

INDONESIA

IA-IVF 2017 RESULT

In early 2018, PERFITRI has compiled all 2017 ART data which had been reported by 32 ART units. It is noted that there are 9.122 ART cycles out of all ART fresh frozen and In Vitro Maturation (IVM) cycles. With 6.159 cycles, IVF with ICSI (Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection) was used the most in 2017, while at the same time there were 2,467 pregnancy cycles.

The three ART units which had the highest number of cycles in 2017 were Morula IVF Jakarta (3,214 cycles), RSIA Ferina

Surabaya (1,094 cycles), and Halim Fertility Center Medan (669 cycles). State owned hospital which had the highest number of cycles was Clinic Yasmin (RSUPN Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo) (552 cycles).

Most women using ART services are those who are under 35 years old in 49.36% of the total ART cycles which had been reported. ART treatment on patients with azoospermia in 2017 are divided into 2 groups: PESA Percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration) with 215 patients and

MESA/TESE (Microepididymal sperm aspiration/testicular sperm extraction) with 186 patients. The three highest percentage of diagnosis indication on patients using ART service in 2017 are male factor (2,268 patients), multiple factors (female and male) (1,483 patients) and tubal factor (1,183 patients). It was reported that there are two negative effects suffered by the patients using ART service such as OHSS (Ovarian Hyper Stimulation Syndrome) (115 patients) and infection/bleeding (26 patients).

Directorate general of health care service held an ART workshop

The workshop was held in Hotel Inna Malioboro, Yogyakarta 5-7 April, 2017 and was opened by Director General of Health Care Service.

The workshop discussed the rules and regulations which will be applied in ART services. It was attended by the Directorate staff, and the members of PERFITRI (Perhimpunan Fertilisasi In Vitro Indonesia), IDI (Ikatan Dokter Indonesia), IAUI (Ikatan Ahli Urologi Indonesia), and PERSANDI (Persatuan Dokter Spesialis Andrologi Indonesia). Ideas and suggestions regarding some changes in PERMENKES No. 43 Year 2015 were proposed to the Directorate General of Health Care Service. We hope that our proposal will be accepted as it would benefit ART services in Indonesia.

3rd Perfitri Periodic Meeting

To start the year of 2018, Perhimpunan Fertilisation in In-Vitro Indonesia (PERFITRI) held its 3rd Periodic Meeting in The Alana Hotel & Convention Center, Jogjakarta from 28 April to 1 May 2018. The main topic of interest was "Improving Quality and ART Services in Indonesia" and consisted of 7 Pre-Congress Workshops and Symposium. Participants from all over Indonesia joined this periodic meeting with a total of 328 participants from various backgrounds where they got the chance to discuss and provide update about current issues in improving quality of ART

services, especially in Indonesia.

Six international speakers were invited; Mulyoto Pangestu, PhD (Indonesia), Liow Swee Lian, PhD (Singapore), Prof. Karin Hammarberg, PhD (Australia), Robert Fischer, PhD (Germany), Prof. Debra Gook (Australia), Giang Huynh Nhu, PhD (Vietnam), Prof. Kazuhiro Kawamura (Japan) They shared their experience and latest research to broaden the horizon of Indonesian ART services.



Dr Duru Shah



Country Representative

Aspire

INDIA

ISAR (Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction) has dedicated the year 2017- 2018 as "ISAR's Year of Empowerment: Through "Education, Ethics and Empathy".

A series of webinars on "Infertility Management Simplified" was conducted for 3 hours every month for a period of 6 months and have touched over 4500 participants, with twice the number on-line, compared to live audiences in over 9 cities. The program was made to live by the fertility experts of ISAR and experts in different disciplines of medicine, through the auditorium of the Breach Candy Hospital.

"Fertility Enhancing Surgery" trained our post graduates on "What to do and what not to do, when to operate and when not to, when fertility was to be preserved". This was done through a hands-on 2-day course on simulators and live tissue, in the labs of Johnson & Johnson Ethicon Institute of Surgical Education, in both Mumbai and Chennai. With 16 post graduate students and young practitioners in each course, we conducted 10 courses through the year, educating a total of over 300 delegates at no cost through the year! Our endoscopy experts Dr. Krishna Kumar and Dr. Sanket Pisat led the team in Mumbai while Dr. Parul Kotdawala and Dr. Mala Raj led the team in Chennai.

The Travelling Seminars on "Stimulating Minds, Stimulating Ovaries" a CME on "Ovulation Induction", travelled to all 19 States Chapters of ISAR, including the youngest one ie. the

Andhra Pradesh Chapter. Led by Dr. Sujata Kar and Kedar Ganla and their teams, through the length and breadth of our country, a team of Fertility specialists discussed the "Art of ovulation induction" with gynaecologists.

An Ethics Working group was developed at ISAR and was ready with the first 4 sets of Ethics Opinions from ISAR. All four opinions have been published in the ISAR Journal.

Lastly, while Infertile couples in India got bombarded with information from various ART clinics with a "How to manage their infertility", I felt there was a need to speak about "how to prevent infertility". The plan was to make videos for You Tube and circulate them. We made 3 videos of 2 -3 minutes each on:

1. Prevent Infertility – Freeze your Eggs
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBaR7UCQ6rQ>)
2. Prevent Infertility – Prevent RTI's
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJBI5C7pd_w)
3. Say 'No' to Smoking and Obesity
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pR9no4XJHK>)

These videos have been already seen by millions of young people, making them aware on what they should do to prevent infertility in future. We have had more than 4 hundred thousand hits as of now on these videos and we hope that many more will see them in order to reduce the burden of infertility in our country.



Aspire

JAPAN

Professor Atsushi Tanaka



ASPIRE Board Member

"Legal change pondered to clarify parentage of babies born from donated sperm, eggs"

September 29, 2018 (The Mainichi Daily, Japan)

TOKYO -- Babies born through egg or sperm donations would legally be the children of the birth mother and, in the latter case, a mother's male partner who agreed to the use of donated sperm, under changes to the Civil Code being considered by the government, the Mainichi Shimbun has learned. The government intends to introduce relevant revisions to the Civil Code to an ordinary session of the Diet as early as 2020, based on discussions at a Justice Ministry panel to be launched in October and at the ministry's Legislative Council. The code, first promulgated in 1896, does not have provisions defining the parentage of children born through assisted reproduction medicine. The government considers the legal change necessary as more than 10,000 babies have been born in Japan using sperm provided by a third party. Still, no legal basis specifically defining parentage in such cases exists, and there have been multiple lawsuits fought over such relationships. Moves to amend the law to address this issue of reproductive medicine have been made in the past. In December 2000, a panel of experts under the then

Ministry of Health and Welfare published a report recommending approval of assisted reproduction using sperm, eggs and inseminated eggs provided by third persons, provided that a legal framework defining parent-child relationships in such cases was established.

In response, the Justice Ministry's Legislative Council put together an interim draft to add special provisions to the Civil Code, but there was no follow up. Similar provisions were drafted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito in May 2016, but they were never submitted to the Diet. Past legal reviews have defined "the mother" as the woman who gave birth to the child even if the egg was provided by another woman. They have also stated that when the baby is born using sperm from a third person, the mother's male partner who agreed to the sperm's use is the legal father. A parent-child relationship is not recognized when both the egg and sperm come from third parties because no genetic relationship exists between the couple and the child. The government believes it will be relatively

easy to obtain a consensus on the parent-child relationship issue, as past discussions have moved in an agreeable direction. The LDP also plans to restart its project team on assisted reproduction, which has been dormant since 2016. As efforts to establish a legal framework for babies born through assisted reproduction and their parents proceed, some confusion has emerged. In August, Keio University Hospital stopped accepting new patients seeking infertility treatment using donated sperm. The hospital says it made the move after a drop in donors, after the facility began informing them of the global trend to recognize children's right to know their genetic parents. The decline appeared to be caused by potential donors' concerns that they could be contacted by their genetic children in the future. Besides setting the legal parent-child relationship for children born using reproductive medicine, introducing rules for the children's right to know their genetic parents is necessary. Whether or not to recognize surrogate motherhood is another issue that needs to be discussed and settled.

(Japanese original by Ai Yokota and Ryosuke Abe, Medical Welfare News Department of Mainichi Shimbun)"

This article is a very interesting and accurate take on a critical problem Japan is facing. I add that the data shows a large and increasing number of Japanese nationals receiving oocyte donations in Taiwan. However, the children's right to know their genetic parents is not recognized in Taiwan, which is complicating the issue. It is time for the Japanese government to make its position clear. I personally believe the children's right to know their biological origin should be above anything else.



**Register
NOW!**

The 9th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2019)

2 – 5 May 2019

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cutting Edge of Reproductive Medicine

**Extended Early-Bird Registration
Deadline: 1 March 2019**

SPEAKERS

Bruno Lunenfeld Honorary Lecture Speaker

Prof. Dennis LO
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
Shedding Light on Human Reproduction Through Plasma Nucleic Acids

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Christopher BARRATT
University of Dundee
*Male Infertility – A Global Perspective in
Different Resource Settings*

Dr. Luca GIANAROLI
SISMeR - Italian Society for the Study
of Reproductive Medicine
Blastocoele Fluid Biopsy

Prof. Shoukhrat MITALIPOV
Oregon Health & Science University
*Gene Therapy for Preventing Heritable
Diseases*

Prof. Yutaka OSUGA
The University of Tokyo
*Modern Treatment in Endometriosis and
Adenomyosis*

Prof. Jie QIAO
Peking 3rd Hospital University
Embryomics

Prof. Mark HORNSTEIN
Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's
Hospital
Lifestyle and IVF Outcomes

Prof. Lesley REGAN
Imperial College London
Recurrent Miscarriage – Guidelines in 2019

Information on other invited experts
can be found on our website!

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Category	Early-Bird Rate	Regular Rate	Late / Onsite Rate
	On or before 1 March 2019	From 2 March to 25 April 2019	After 25 April 2019
ASPIRE Member	USD 450 (HK\$ 3,600)	USD 500 (HK\$ 4,000)	USD 550 (HK\$ 4,400)
HKSRM Member	USD 375 (HK\$ 3,000)	USD 425 (HK\$ 3,400)	USD 475 (HK\$ 3,800)
ASPIRE Member and HKSRM Member	USD 225 (HK\$ 1,800)	USD 275 (HK\$ 2,200)	USD 325 (HK\$ 2,600)
Non-ASPIRE Member	USD 600 (HK\$ 4,800)	USD 650 (HK\$ 5,200)	USD 700 (HK\$ 5,600)
Full-time Student / Trainee	USD 150 (HK\$ 1,200)	USD 200 (HK\$ 1,600)	USD 250 (HK\$ 2,000)
HKSRM Member - Full-time Student / Trainee	USD 75 (HK\$ 600)	USD 125 (HK\$ 1,000)	USD 175 (HK\$ 1,400)
Accompanying Person	USD 100 (HK\$ 800)		
Pre-Congress Course	For Pre-Congress Courses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 USD 150 (HK\$ 1,200) per course		
	For Pre-Congress Course 6 USD 200 (HK\$ 1,600)		

For enquiries, please contact
ASPIRE 2019 Congress Secretariat
International Conference Consultants Ltd.
Tel: (852) 2559 9973
Fax: (852) 2547 9528
Email: info@aspire2019.com



Host:

Aspire

Local Host:



www.aspire2019.com

Professor Neil Johnson



Country Representative

Aspire

NEW ZEALAND

Latest genetic screening technology with FET could be the future of IVF

A recent publication (Weissman, 2017) presented results of a survey across fertility clinics in 70 countries about Pre-Implantation Genetic Testing for Aneuploidy (PGT-A), formerly known as Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS). The survey which gathered information in 2015 from 386 clinics that provide 342,600 IVF cycles annually, showed that 16% of clinics utilised Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), the latest technology in testing embryos. It concludes:

"...the technical

landscape of PGT-A is currently undergoing a dramatic change. It is highly likely that most PGT-A cases are now being carried out by NGS rather than aCGH" (the previous technology for PGT-A).

Global research is indicating that PGT-A with NGS technology will be a game changer and could be the new norm for IVF treatment. In October 2017, the American Society of Reproductive Medicine conference presented research that showed that IVF with PGT-A with NGS technology could improve the chance of

pregnancy by up to 25% in women aged 35 – 40 years with normal embryos for transfer. (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02268786>)

For those taking part in genetic screening, once the cells are taken, the embryos

(<https://www.repromed.co.nz/English/Success+Rates.html>)

In addition to reducing the miscarriage rate, selecting the best embryo for transfer decreases the time to pregnancy. This helps reduce the emotional

toll following a negative pregnancy test and is beneficial for the overall wellbeing of the women undergoing fertility treatment. The latest study by Friedenthal J et al. (2018), shows PGT-A with NGS has



need freezing whilst awaiting the results on embryos. It is believed that freezing embryos and transferring in a frozen thaw cycle provides a more favourable uterine environment for the embryo. NZ has the third highest frozen embryo transfer rate in the world (www.ivf-worldwide.com/survey/frozen-thawed-embryo-transfer/results-frozen-thawed-embryo-transfer.html). Moreover, NZ and Australian data shows that the live birth rate is actually higher for over 35 year olds with a frozen embryo transfer versus fresh embryo.

the ability to identify and screen for embryos with reduced viability (such as mosaic embryos and those with partial aneuploidies or triploidy). This deselection of abnormal embryos thus further improves the pregnancy outcome. Collins et al (2017) concluded that PGT-A is a cost-effective strategy for women older than 37 undergoing IVF. More studies on cost-effectiveness of PGT-A will help the case to make this technology part of government IVF funding in countries like UK, Australia and NZ.

Aspire

THAILAND

Professor Nares Sukcharoen



Country Representative

The annual meeting of Thai Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) 2018 was held on 16 November 2018 at The Landmark Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Content of the meeting

- "Fertility 4.0"
Moderator: Prof. Nares Sukcharoen (President of TSRM)
- "Current Fertility Status in Thailand"
by Dr. Boonrit Sukrat (Ministry of Health)
- "Thailand Fertility Awareness: From Lack of Knowledge to Delayed Child Bearing and Infertility" by Dr. Pawun Limworapitak (Nawamintarathiraj University)
- "AMH and PCOS" by Prof. Nares Sukcharoen (Chulalongkorn University)
- "Dual Triggering from Basic to Clinical Application"

Moderator: Dr. Jakrapun Supadech

- "Triggering of Ovulation and Oocyte Maturation: Basic Science" by Assist. Prof. Isarin Thanaboonyawut (Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University)
- "Dual triggering: Clinical Evidence and Clinical Application" by Assist. Prof. Porntip (Nawamintarathiraj University)

The academic activities will be organized regularly. The next scientific meeting will be the 23rd Thai Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 between 27-29 March 2019 at The Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Thailand.

Pre-congress workshop: 27 March 2019

- Workshop 1: TQM for IVF lab
- Workshop 2: Time-lapse embryoscopy
- Workshop 3: IVF nurse counseling
- Workshop 4: Fertility preservation
- Hands-on: Ovarian tissue vitrification

Main congress: 28-29 March 2019

Invited speakers: Prof. Nao Suzuki, Dr. Seido Takae, Dr. Yodo Sugishita from Japan / Prof. David Frankfurter from USA / Dr. Cristina Hickman from UK / Dr. Reidun Kuhlmann from Denmark / Prof. Robert Gilchrist, Dr. Steven Flemming, Dr. Jemma Evans from Australia / Dr. Virgilio Jr Novero from Philippines / Prof. Sun Wei Guo, Dr. Fangzhen SUN from China

Onsite registration will be available after 20 January 2019 (Registration fee: 300 USD for main congress).

Further information can be accessed from <http://www.tsrm2019.thaisrm.com/>

Contact E-mail: tsrm.info@gmail.com



Executive board members of TSRM and speakers in the Annual meeting of Thai Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) 2018

Dr Vinh Dang Quang



Country Representative

Aspire

VIETNAM

ASPIRE 5th Masterclass on "State of the Art in IVM 2018"



The ASPIRE 5th Masterclass on "State of the Art in IVM 2018" was successfully held from 27 – 28 September 2018 at Novotel Saigon Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; followed by a live IVM Workshop at IVFMD, My Duc Hospital on 29 September 2018.

IVM was successfully applied in Vietnam in 2006. Since then, it has become the first-line treatment for patients with high antral follicle count and having an indication for ART. There are 300 – 500 cycles of IVM performed every year in Vietnam. In IVM, FSH is not used at all or only used for 2-3 days as ovarian priming; therefore, the risk of OHSS will be totally eliminated. Although there have been some concerns about the effectiveness of IVM and the potential for genetic abnormalities in the resulting infants, there is now growing evidence that pregnancy outcomes after IVM are similar to those after conventional IVF.

This ASPIRE 5th Masterclass was involved with 84 participants and a faculty of 6 experts from various countries (Australia, Belgium, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, The Netherlands, USA and Vietnam). All participants had a chance

to share their expertise and to discuss on the practice of IVM.

On the first 2 days, participants had discussion with the world's leading IVM experts such as Professor Dr. Johan Smits, Professor Robert B. Gilchrist, Dr. Sergio Romero, Dr. Vuong Thi Ngoc Lan, Ms. Le Hoang Anh about diverse aspects of IVM, such as the definition of IVM, patient selection to the current clinical practice and laboratory improvement techniques. The key message that "IVM is the safe, effective and patient-friendly treatment option", especially with the culture media improvements over the last few years, has been successfully delivered to the participants.

On the last day, a group of attendees visited the IVFMD, the leading IVM center in Vietnam. In these, 16 participants had the chance to learn from live demonstrations of oocyte pick-up and handling immature oocytes and practice lab preparations for IVM, to discuss with the local team about clinical and technical aspects, case by case. Not only sharing expertise, experts from Vietnam also shared their experience in set-up and management of an IVM program to colleagues at the final discussion.



ASPIRE Special Interest Groups

The Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) was founded with an aim to improve knowledge and awareness of ART and infertility-related services ultimately improving the quality of patient care. With this in mind, ASPIRE has decided to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to develop platforms for professionals to discuss perspectives and experiences to address common challenges in the focus areas. It is a good opportunity to reach out to the community and grow the society. 6 SIGs were formed; "Male Infertility", "Reproductive Endocrinology (includes PCOS)", "Endometrium and Implantation", "Reproductive Surgery (includes Minimal Invasive Surgery)", "Endometriosis" and "Embryology".

Professor Gwo-Jang Wu

Dr Virgilio Novero

Professor Atsushi Tanaka

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR MALE INFERTILITY



Chairperson



Co-Chairperson



Co-Chairperson

Dear Friends,

On behalf of ASPIRE, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all colleagues joining this Special Interest Group (SIG) for Male Infertility. Your presence in this group not only signifies your interest to improve your knowledge in the subject matter but also suggests your willingness to lead in the advancement of male infertility management in the region. Although male infertility affects nearly 15 % of men, the knowledge about the infertile male lags far behind the knowledge involving female infertility. Its etiology is unexplained or idiopathic in approximately half of all cases. Current investigation is usually undertaken by the history, physical examination, and the routine semen analysis. However, recent reports suggest that other modes of diagnosis and management can help contribute to its understanding. The use of advanced reproductive and micromanipulation techniques associated with in-vitro fertilization, preimplantation genetic test (PGT), and the updated molecular approach, may achieve some of these goals. It is interesting to note that significant growth in male infertility has been achieved with genetic evaluation through next generation sequencing (NGS) in the management and counselling of these couples. With novel consensus and improved communication in this SIG, we may help in updating clinical and laboratory guidelines of male infertility management. We have assembled truly world-class experts in certain topics related to male infertility. We recognized the worldwide nature of reproductive research and the importance of sharing data for the advancement of the field. Our vision is to bring together the brightest minds in male reproduction and to provide a platform for exchanging invaluable clinical experiences to extend the

boundaries of reproductive medicine internationally. An example of an innovative technique currently being developed within the ASPIRE boundaries is the Round Cell Sperm Injection (ROSI) as a treatment for a certain type of male infertility. The group of Professor Atsushi Tanaka has been working on the topic for over 20 years. So far, more than 500 healthy children have been born as a result. However, challenges still lie ahead and their work is far from complete. Additional experimentation to find the optimal conditions to improve the clinical outcomes is required. The male infertility SIG may now become an avenue to advance the knowledge about ROSI. Advancement of male infertility through the SIG may be accomplished, not only in ROSI and the genetic aspects of male infertility, but also in other aspects of the field. It is our intent to share all of our findings and potentially collaborate in order to enhance the understanding about male infertility. We therefore encourage all those with interest in Male Infertility to actively participate in the SIG for the rapid progress of our group. Membership is open to all doctors, embryologists and scientists who want to join so we can learn and work together to bring the benefits to patients all over the world struggling with male infertility.

See you all soon!

Professor Gwo-Jang Wu

Dr Virgilio Novero

Professor Atsushi Tanaka

PRECISION FOR IVF SUCCESS, ONE INCREMENT AT A TIME



WITH OUR IMPROVED GONAL-*f*® PREFILLED PEN

During ovarian stimulation at the beginning of a woman's IVF cycle, it is critical that she receives just the right treatment dose tailored to her needs. Every precise detail counts, so our continuous innovation now includes an improved GONAL-*f*® prefilled pen.¹ Its enlarged dosage window combined with 12.5 IU minimum dose increments help to reassure your patients while providing you with high precision and flexibility for individualized dosing. So achieve the precision needed for successful ovarian stimulation, one increment at a time - with the improved GONAL-*f*® pen.

1. Gonal-f Singapore IFU, December 2015



Dedicated to the details that matter

MERCK

Aspire

SIGs

Dr Duru Shah



Chairperson

Dr Clare Boothroyd



Co-Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY

Dear Colleagues

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Reproductive Endocrinology and PCOS of the Asia Pacific Initiative in Reproduction (ASPIRE). It is our vision that this SIG, crossing many countries and ethnicities, will contribute to education, knowledge and collaborative research in the area of reproductive endocrinology and PCOS.

It is planned that there will be a meeting at the annual conference of ASPIRE where we will discuss our and your ideas on potential strategy. In addition, the SIG will propose international speakers for sessions at the many ASPIRE events - the annual conference, regional meetings, masterclasses and webinars. Providing a platform for networking and collaborative research will be another role for the SIG.

We are excited to hear your suggestions for the future of Reproductive Endocrinology and PCOS in the Asia Pacific!!

We invite you to join the SIG. Looking forward to meeting with you

Dr Duru Shah

Dr Clare Boothroyd

Associate Professor Louise Hull



Chairperson

Professor Nares Sukcharoen



Co-Chairperson

Aspire

SIGs

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR ENDOMETRIUM AND IMPLANTATION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to ASPIRE members interested in participating in the Endometrium and Implantation Special interest Group (EI-SIG). Our vision is to exchange ideas, stimulate research and promote collaboration between endometrial biologists, implantation experts and clinicians responsible for patient care in the many countries that make up the ASPIRE region.

Implantation is increasingly the biggest barrier to overcome in many couple's quest for fertility. It is an exciting and growing field that is changing rapidly as novel ways of enhancing implantation and placentation are being explored. We wish to provide a platform for ASPIRE members to learn new techniques, share ideas, present their work and form collaborative networks that can advance the world's knowledge in this field.

We also intend to showcase the good work that is already being performed in the Asia-Pacific region by proposing speakers for national and international conferences and increasingly teleconferences and webinars. We plan to share the new technological advances that are improving our understanding of receptivity and placentation to make a difference for the many couples that struggle with recurrent implantation failure and miscarriage after ART.

We are planning a meeting of the EI-SIG at the 9th Congress of ASPIRE in Hong Kong so interested members can share ideas about how to develop and grow this society. We would love to hear your thoughts on ways of advancing this field and how ASPIRE can support EI-SIG members in doing this. Please join us in Hong Kong to help make the difference for couples that struggle with endometrial disorders and implantation problems.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Louise Hull.

Associate Professor Louise Hull

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nares Sukcharoen".

Professor Nares Sukcharoen

Aspire

SIGs

Dr Herbert Situmorang



Chairperson

Dr Angel Regina Tan



Co-Chairperson

Professor Tin-Chiu Li



Co-Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR REPRODUCTIVE SURGERY

Welcome to the Reproductive Surgery SIG.

The practice of Reproductive Surgery is evolving in the era of ART but it remains an important aspect of reproductive medicine. Today's reproductive specialist is challenged to discern the appropriate and effective utilization of reproductive surgery in the management of clinical reproductive conditions and as adjunct to ART. This SIG aims to deepen the members' knowledge and widen their experience in Consisting in Reproductive Surgery, with the ultimate goal of helping them reach their potential as professionals who are able to offer the best possible care for their patients.

Reproductive Surgery is one that gives rather than takes away. It restores the normal female anatomy. Unlike IVF, it reinstates the natural reproductive potential of the subfertile couple leading to several conceptions after one successful intervention. This SIG hopes to offer up-to-date evidence-based information through seminars, pocket meetings and research, and provide a platform for exchange of ideas among practitioners from various ASPIRE member countries.

Knowledge knows no boundaries. Whether a member practices in a low-resource setting or utilizes cutting-edge technology, I believe we can learn from one another in terms of advancements, innovation, as well as, improvisation in Reproductive Surgery. Let us transcend barriers and broaden our perspectives as we interact with one another.

United by a common interest, we work towards a common goal: to promote the safe and efficacious practice of Reproductive Surgery. Thank you for joining us in this endeavour.

Dr Herbert Situmorang

Dr Angel Regina Tan

Professor Tin-Chiu Li



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR EMBRYOLOGY

Congratulations on the formation of ASPIRE SIG Embryology! I am honored to be its first Chairperson, with Dr. Haroon Latif as Co-chairperson. The ASPIRE SIG Embryology is a much needed platform for the professionals working in Clinical Embryology across the Asia Pacific region.

Our vision for SIG Embryology is to focus on areas of concern in ART in the Asia Pacific region such as the quality services and the lack of accessible training courses available to young embryologists. We hope to organise panel sessions, talks and collaborations to bridge these gaps. Moreover, we aim to arrange training courses with the help of internationally renowned experts in the field. Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. We urge all scientists, embryologists, and clinicians to join us on this venture and help build this platform to reach its full potential. We hope this platform, at a time of rapid advances in science and technology, will be a great place to learn, discuss, share, and connect. A diversity of perspectives that members will bring to this group will help us achieve our goals and remain current as new techniques and legislation emerge in the ever changing world of ART.

See you at ASPIRE 2019!

Dr Chi Ling

Dr Haroon Latif

Aspire

SIGs

Professor Neil Johnson



Chairperson

Professor Yutaka Osuga



Co-Chairperson

Professor Chii-Ruey Tzeng



Co-Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS OF SIG FOR ENDOMETRIOSIS

Management strategies of endometriosis have dramatically changed in the last decade. In the past, it was thought that advanced laparoscopic surgery was once-and-for-all and a kind of panacea, but the reality was different. Endometriosis is an intractable disease. In addition, it has been revealed that endometriosis is associated not only with pain, infertility, and chocolate cysts, but also with obstetric complications, ovarian cancer, and cardiovascular problems. Now, it is widely recognized that a life-long and holistic approach is needed in the management of endometriosis.

Meanwhile, endometriosis hampers women's empowerment, which is a driving force of the development of ASPIRE member countries, by significantly lowering quality of life. Around half of all the women in the world with endometriosis live in our Asia-Pacific Region. That's close to 100 million women. We have a big problem while we also have an opportunity to make a real difference.

ASPIRE members, this is your special interest group and your chance to make an impact. We are committed to improving standards, to evidence-based care, to innovations for awareness and understanding among girls and women, their families and their medical caregivers, to collaboration in research, to development of networks of expertise in all settings around Asia-Pacific to optimise the care that women receive, and above all to work in partnership with women with endometriosis to make a real difference in their lives.

Tackling endometriosis is an urgent issue. Be part of the SIG for Endometriosis, exchange thoughts and ideas, learn and collaborate together for improvement of reproductive health and welfare of women. Please join us to make a difference.

Professor Neil Johnson

Professor Yutaka Osuga

Professor Chii-Ruey Tzeng

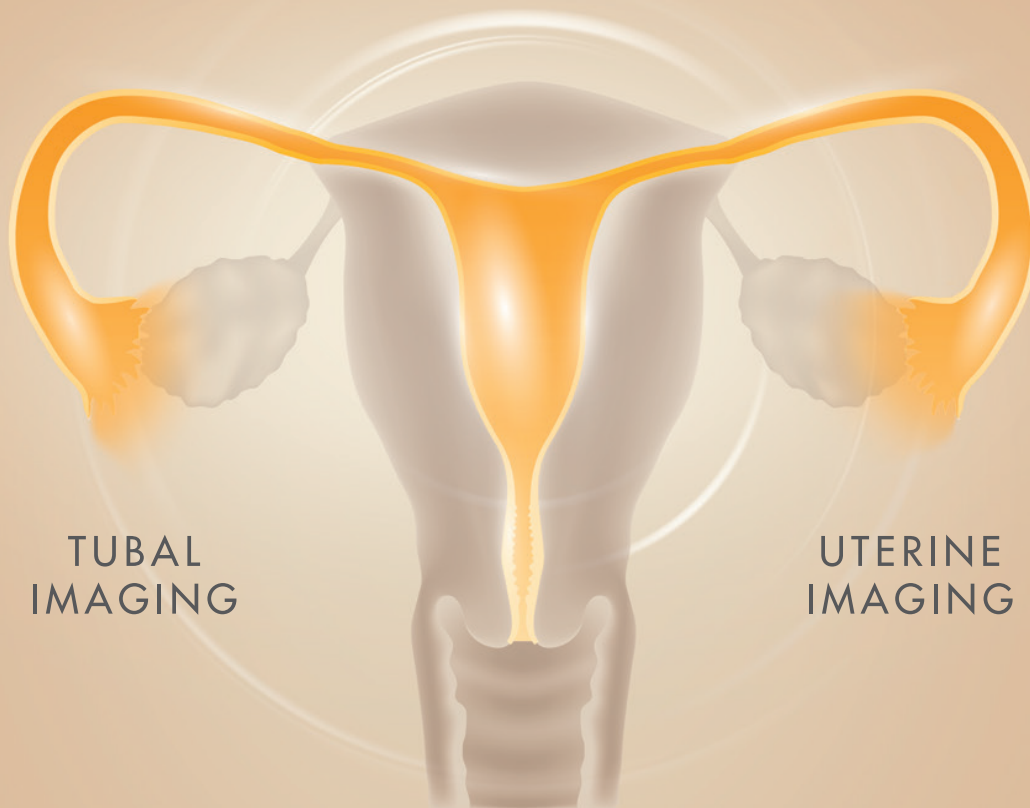
ASPIRE members who are keen to gather with like-minded colleagues in exploring an area of interest, with a goal of collaborating and sharing expertise and experiences to address common challenges are encouraged to indicate their interest via our website: <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/aspire-special-interest-groups-sigs/>

LIPIODOL® ULTRA FLUID

Ethyl ester of iodized fatty acids of poppy seed oil

The only oil-based contrast agent indicated for HSG¹⁻⁹

INFERTILITY
EVALUATION



TUBAL
IMAGING

UTERINE
IMAGING

Guerbet | 
Contrast for Life

Indications and dosage may vary from country to country.

Countries in which HSG indication is registered: USA, Canada, Argentina, UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Turkey, South-Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia & New Zealand.

For complete information, please refer to country's local SPC.

For a copy of the SPC, please contact a member of Guerbet.

1. Lindequist S et al. Diagnostic quality and complications of hysterosalpingography: oil- versus water-soluble contrast media-a randomized prospective study. *Radiology*. 1991 Apr;179(1):69-74. **2.** Nunley WC Jr et al. Intravasation during hysterosalpingography using oil-base contrast medium—a second look. *Obstet Gynecol*. 1987 Sep;70(3 Pt 1):309-12. **3.** Johnson NP et al. The FLUSH trial-flushing with lipiodol for unexplained (and endometriosis-related) subfertility by hysterosalpingography: a randomized trial. *Hum Reprod*. 2004 Sep;19(9):2043-51. **4.** Johnson NP et al. Lipiodol fertility enhancement: two-year follow-up of a randomized trial suggests a transient benefit in endometriosis, but a sustained benefit in unexplained infertility. *Hum Reprod*. 2007 Nov;22(11):2857-62. **5.** Brent K et al. After the FLUSH trial: A prospective observational study of lipiodol flushing as an innovative treatment for unexplained and endometriosis-related infertility. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2006 Aug;46(4):293-7. **6.** Mahiyiddeen L et al. Tubal flushing for subfertility. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2015 May 1;5(5):CD003718. **7.** Dreyer K et al. Oil-based or water-based contrast for hysterosalpingography in infertile women. *N Engl J Med*. 2017 May 25;376(21):2043-52. **8.** Izumi G et al. Oil-Soluble Contrast Medium (OSCM) for hysterosalpingography modulates dendritic cell and regulatory T cell profiles in the peritoneal cavity: a possible mechanism by which OSCM enhances fertility. *J Immunol*. 2017 Jun 1;198(11):4277-84. **9.** Decision Resources Group. AMR Imaging database. 2017.

Professor Gab Kovacs



Editor-in-Chief

Aspire

Fertility and Reproduction

The Official Journal of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE)

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that ASPIRE is launching our own Journal – Fertility and Reproduction (The Official Journal of ASPIRE). The aim of this journal is to disseminate research and clinical information in all areas of reproduction, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

Fertility and Reproduction (FandR) is now ready to accept submissions on any topic concerned with human fertility and reproduction. Please visit www.aspire-reproduction.org/journal for more information.

A unique feature of FandR is that whilst the papers will be published in English, the abstract will also be reproduced in the author's natural language.

The Volume 1, Issue 1 will be available for distribution at ASPIRE 2019 which will be held from 2 – 5 May 2019 in Hong Kong.

The closing date submissions to be considered for the first issue is 31 January 2019 and we look forward to welcome your papers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G T Kovacs'.

Professor Gab Kovacs
Editor-in-Chief
Fertility and Reproduction (The Official Journal of ASPIRE)

Aspire

ASPIRE 2019



Aspire HONG KONG 2019
The 9th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2019)
2 – 5 May 2019
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

MEET OUR EXPERTS

Bruno Lunenfeld
Honorary Lecture Speaker

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Christopher BARRATT
Dr. Luca GIANAROLI
Prof. Mark HORNSTEIN
Prof. Shoukhrat MITALPOV
Prof. Yutaka OSUGA
Prof. Jie QIAO
Prof. Lesley REGAN

The 9th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2019) will be held on 2 – 5 May 2019 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This annual congress is jointly organized by the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) and the Hong Kong Society for Reproductive Medicine (HKS RM).

ASPIRE 2019 will offer an excellent experience and networking opportunity to discuss the current topics in reproductive medicine. Now is the time to register

We are running our early bird rates till 1 March 2019! Register now and save as much as 18% off the onsite registration rate! If you are an ASPIRE member, your savings can even go up to as much as 35% (visit www.aspire2019.com for more information)!

The scientific committee worked very hard and put together an exciting and provocative programme which includes 7 Pre-congress workshops, 1 Bruno Lunenfeld Honorary Lecture, 7 Keynote lectures and many cutting-edge concurrent sessions. ASPIRE 2019 continues to grow in strength and we aim to bring you the latest advances in the field of infertility and reproduction and to trigger discussion on hot topics such as "We are Doing Too Much ICSI" and "Women over Age of 45 Should be Declined ART".

The outline for our Pre-Congress Courses are out. Get the most out of the congress by registering for these one-day courses where you will be able to focus on being trained in a particular topic and have the chance to interact closely with our expert faculty. It's time to start spreading the word: ASPIRE 2019 in Hong Kong! We hope to see you all there!

Visit our congress website www.aspire2019.com for more information



Traditionally in many Asian countries, infertility management has been generally directed at the female partner. Furthermore, even though fertility treatment providers are aware that Male Factor Infertility accounts for over 50% of couples, the approach and management of male infertility has remained either unattended, fragmented or much to be desired. Hence, there is a Master Class in Male Infertility aimed at all sectors providing for its care: urologists, gynecologists, fertility specialists, and embryologists.

The Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) takes great pride in bringing together renowned experts from the USA, Japan, Australia, Spain, and the Philippines and welcomes you to the 6th ASPIRE Master Class on Male Infertility which will be conducted in cooperation with St. Luke's Medical Center Global City in Metro Manila. The 2-day course will discuss every aspect of the diagnosis and management of Male Infertility and with a good amount of interaction.

This course has been divided into workshops and lectures. The clinical workshops on micro-TESE and microsurgical varicocelectomy will involve video reviews and live surgeries where participating clinicians can directly interact with the expert surgeons. The laboratory workshops on round cell sperm injection (ROSI), new sperm/testicular tissue freezing techniques, and oocyte activation are hands-on, designed for embryologists who wish to learn the latest innovations in the field. The lecture topics will cover every relevant angle in the management of male infertility from initial diagnosis, to medical/ surgical management, plus laboratory tests/ treatment to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART). At the end of the sessions, panel discussions about common and complex cases will cap the learnings that include updates, innovations and standards of care.

On behalf of ASPIRE, we welcome you all to Manila on 28 February to 1 March, 2019 at the Henry Sy Sr. auditorium of the St. Luke's Medical Center Global City!

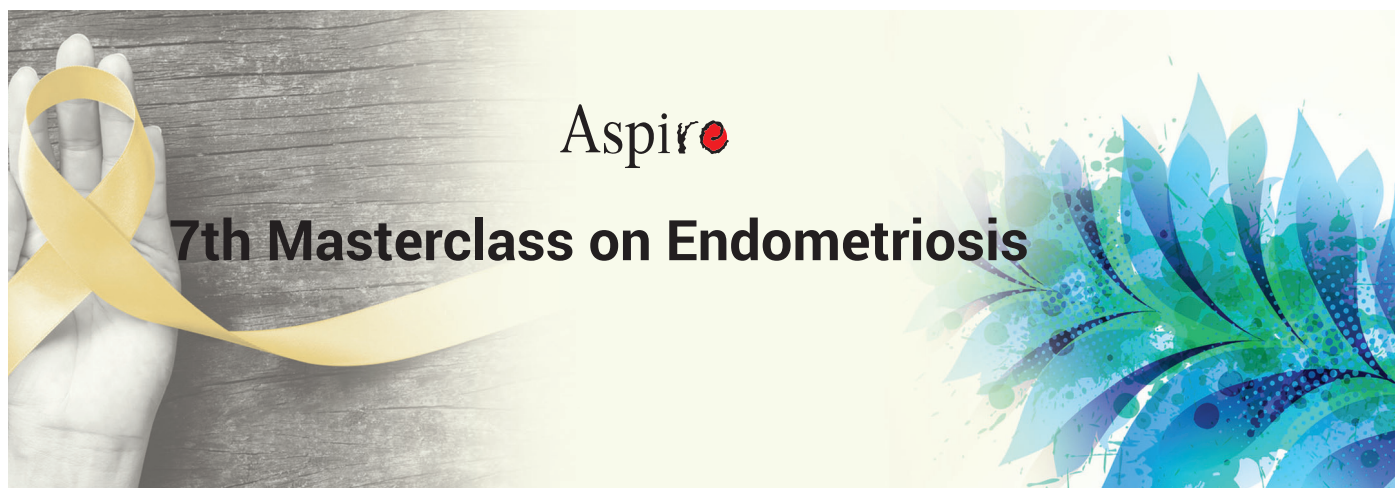
This venue is located at the Bonifacio Global City, a new modern community in Metro Manila near the airport and the Makati business district. This is a modern hub for shopping and dining and serves as a good springboard to visit nearby or distant local tourist destinations to enjoy Philippine culture and its world-famous beaches.

Registration Fees:

FULL Masterclass (Clinical Workshop) – ASPIRE Member Rate	USD 400.00
FULL Masterclass (Clinical Workshop) – Non-Member Rate	USD 460.00
HALF Masterclass – ASPIRE Member Rate	USD 300.00
HALF Masterclass – Non-Member Rate	USD 350.00

Registrations open till 31 January 2019. Join us!

Visit <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/aspire-masterclass/> for more information



Professor Neil Johnson (New Zealand), in conjunction with Professor Tzeng Chii-Ruey (Taiwan), Professor Yutaka Osuga (Japan) and Dr Rohana Haththotuwa (Sri Lanka) would like to welcome you to the ASPIRE 7th Masterclass on Endometriosis to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Saturday – Sunday, 14 - 15 December 2019.

Endometriosis is a huge health problem, affecting almost 200 million women of reproductive age worldwide with substantial impact through pelvic pain on their quality of life. It is the most prevalent disease affecting women who attend fertility clinics – many estimate that 50% or more women attending fertility clinics will have endometriosis.

The World Endometriosis Society is forging a consensus around networks of expertise, as the optimal structure of care for women with endometriosis. This workshop will not only examine the latest advances in endometriosis, but will give attendees the basic tools to develop a network of expertise for managing endometriosis in their setting.

We have world leading experts in endometriosis to share their own experience, expertise and, most importantly, data with you.

Come join us in Colombo, the cosmopolitan city and gateway to the wonder of Sri Lanka - rich colonial heritage, melting pot of races, religions and cultures. December is also the best time to visit with beach weather and sunshine on one side of the island, at the same time you will get to learn about the latest advances and receive the tools to develop a network of expertise in your setting to manage this most important disease in our field which will benefit all women with endometriosis.

More information will be available soon.



ASPIRE EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

With an aim to grow the ASPIRE community and engage our fellow colleagues in the Asia Pacific region, ASPIRE is happy to be running our exclusive membership drive again!

If you missed the opportunity to subscribe as an ASPIRE member during the 2018 membership drive, here is your perfect chance to join the community at a very reduced subscription rate.

***EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION PLANS**

1-Year Membership: SGD 15 (usual rate: SGD 90)

3-Years Membership: SGD 45 (usual rate: SGD 270)

5-Years Membership: SGD 75 (usual rate: SGD 450)

***Membership validity period:**

1 Year Membership - 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

3 Years Membership - 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021

5 Years Membership - 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023

Hassle having to renew your membership every year?

We offer subscription plans that allow auto-renewal of your membership for the next 3 - 5 years!

As an ASPIRE member, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- Access to the online ART Directory
- Access to ASPIRE Educational Portal
- Reduced registration fee to ASPIRE Congress and ASPIRE Masterclasses
- Newsletters and regular updates on ASPIRE's activities
- The chance to participate in ASPIRE's projects and host regional events
- The right to attend and vote at General meetings of the Society
- Be part of an ASPIRE Special Interest Group (SIGs) (There are 6 SIGs to choose from!)



ASPIRE PLANNER



Events Calender

ASPIRE 6th Masterclass – Male Infertility

28 February – 1 March 2019

Manila, Philippines

Find out more information on <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/aspire-masterclass/>

9th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2019)

2 – 5 May 2019

Hong Kong

Find out more information on www.aspire2019.com

The 10th International DIP Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome & Pregnancy

29 May - 1 June 2019

Florence, Italy

For more information: www.comtecmed.com/dip/2019/

The 1st World Congress on Women's Health Innovations and Inventions (WHII)

9 – 11 July 2019

Tel Aviv, Israel

For more information: <http://whii.comtecmed.com/>

ASPIRE Regional Meeting in Pakistan

28 November – 1 December 2019

Lahore, Pakistan

More Information coming soon. Save the date.

ASPIRE 7th Masterclass – Endometriosis

14 –15 December 2019

Colombo, Sri Lanka

More Information coming soon. Save the date.

ASPIRE 8th Masterclass – Ovarian Stimulation

30 – 31 January 2020 (TBA)

Tokyo, Japan

More Information coming soon. Save the date.

10th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2020)

16 – 19 April 2020

Manila, Philippines

More Information coming soon. Save the date.

14th World Congress on Endometriosis (WCE2020)

8 – 11 May 2020

Shanghai, China

For more information: <http://endometriosis.ca/world-congress/wce2020>



Menopur®
menotrophin

FSH and hCG-driven LH bioactivity in a single treatment¹

Full prescribing information is available on request.

MENOPUR, FERRING and the FERRING Logo are trademarks of Ferring B.V. 2018

References:

1. MENOPUR Approved Product Information



Ferring Private Ltd.
168 Robinson Road, #13-01
Capital Tower, Singapore 068912
www.ferring.com

OG/023/0318/SG