

Vol.: 5  
Issue: 1

# NEWSLETTER

January 2020

# Aspire



**Professor Budi Wiweko**  
President of ASPIRE

## Onward ASPIRE!

As part of our continuous effort to improve, ASPIRE is very pleased to have launched our first regional meeting that was hosted in Lahore, Pakistan, from 29th November – 1st December 2019. This event is a big milestone for ASPIRE as it has garnered much support from fellow colleagues especially from the Indian

Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), which have made many contributions to improve the fertility and reproductive industry around the world. Some of our plans include strengthening the activities of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), where we hope to curate higher quality scientific programme for the ASPIRE Masterclasses and annual Congresses through the inputs and

PubMed in the near future.

Come 2020, ASPIRE will be having our 8th Masterclass on Ovarian Stimulation & Poor Responders in Tokyo, Japan, on 31st January 2020 to 1st February 2020 followed by the 10th Congress of Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2020) from 16th – 19th April 2020 at Manila, Philippines. These are amongst the many plans that ASPIRE has in store for you in the near future. On behalf of ASPIRE, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone to participate in ASPIRE activities and we look forward to improve the fertility and reproduction industry around the world with you.



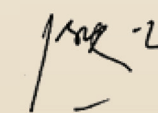
Subcontinent.

Moving forward, ASPIRE plans to continue striving to catch up to societies such as the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) and American

suggestions by our SIGs members; Fertility & Reproduction editorial team's is also putting a lot of effort to produce high quality journals quarterly and working towards publishing our articles on

### Happy New Year 2020

Warmest regards,



Professor Budi Wiweko  
President of ASPIRE



**SAVE THE DATE**

## THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC INITIATIVE ON REPRODUCTION

16-19 APRIL 2020

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)

**BRIDGING THE GAP: FERTILITY AND REPRODUCTION**



For inquiries, please contact  
ASPIRE 2020 Congress Secretariat  
GIS Group Global Co., Ltd.  
Email: [info@aspire2020.org](mailto:info@aspire2020.org)

Organized by : **Aspire**

Hosted by : 

[www.aspire2020.org](http://www.aspire2020.org)





## Important Dates

- Call for Abstract ► **1 July 2019**  
 Online Registration Start ► **15 October 2019**  
 Abstract Submission Deadline ► **15 November 2019**  
 Abstract Review Results Notification ► **2 January 2020**  
 Early Bird Registration End ► **1 February 2020**

## Bruno Lunenfeld Honorary Lecture Speaker



Professor Catherine Racowsky  
Harvard Medical School (USA)

## Keynote Speakers



Professor Jacques Donnez  
Société de Recherche pour  
l'infertilité (Belgium)



Dr. Mario Festin  
World Health Organisation  
(Philippines)



Professor Paul Hofman  
University of Auckland  
(New Zealand)



Professor Peter Schlegel  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
(USA)



Professor le-Ming Shih  
Johns Hopkins University  
(USA)



Professor Carlos Simón  
University of Valencia  
(Spain)



Dr. Thi Ngoc Lan Vuong  
University of Medicine and  
Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh  
City (Vietnam)

## Registration Fees

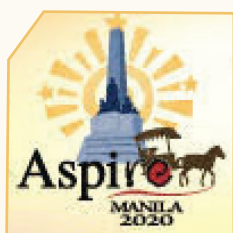
Registration Category	Early Bird On or before 1 February 2020	Regular From 2 February to 6 April 2020	On-site After 6 April 2020
ASPIRE Member*	<b>USD 450</b>	<b>USD 500</b>	<b>USD 550</b>
Non-ASPIRE Member	<b>USD 600</b>	<b>USD 650</b>	<b>USD 700</b>
Full-time Student/Trainee**	<b>USD 150</b>	<b>USD 200</b>	<b>USD 250</b>
Accompanying Persons	<b>USD 100</b>		

\* The membership will be confirmed by the ASPIRE. To become a member or renew your membership, please visit the ASPIRE website. For enquiries, please contact [jghoa@aspire-reproduction.org](mailto:jghoa@aspire-reproduction.org).

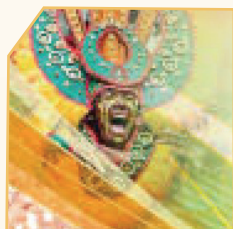
\*\*Verification letter from your Department of the hospital or your Institution is required to qualify for the full-time student / trainee fee.

## ASPIRE 2020

### 10 Reasons Why you must Attend the ASPIRE 2020 Congress in Manila



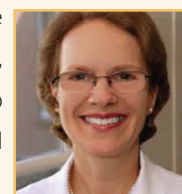
The 10th ASPIRE Congress scheduled in Manila is fast approaching. It seemed that it was only yesterday when the honor to host the next congress was awarded to the Philippines. Today, the registration buttons are ready and many have promised to come to this next exciting ASPIRE congress for their own reasons.



However, we sense that many are waiting at the fringes and are undecided if would come to Manila in April 2020. So I have come up with a list of reasons why, whoever and wherever you are, there should be a good reason to attend the coming ASPIRE Congress. Here are 10 of them...

#### 1. Excellent speakers and scientific program

The scientific program that has been put together by Prof. Chii Ruey Tzeng and his scientific program committee is fantastic! With plenary speakers Catherine Racowsky (US), Carlos Simon (Spain), Jacques Donnez (Belgium), Peter Schlegel (US), Paul Hofman (New Zealand), Le-Ming Shih (US), Vong Ngi Loc Lan (Vietnam), and Mario Festin (Philippines) delivering their expertise, everyone is already assured of fantastic state-of-the-art talks in all relevant and controversial topics in reproductive medicine.



Furthermore, the variety of sessions (plenary, concurrent, debates, how-to, free communications and posters will surely cater to the type of teaching/learning required in an international congress. The free communications and poster sessions by themselves are exciting, with the record-breaking number of abstracts submitted ever in an ASPIRE Congress. Truly, ASPIRE is fast becoming up to world standard!

#### 2. Experience Philippine hospitality and culture

ASPIRE 2020 is the first international Reproductive Medicine event of this magnitude in the Philippines. So all members of the local organizing team are just more than happy to showcase Filipino culture. Expect the Philippine brand of being friendly and hospitable, whether within the halls of the congress, in streets or malls of Metro Manila, or in tourist destinations. Something all Filipinos are known for worldwide.

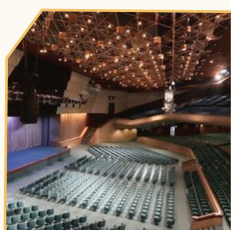




Aspire

## ASPIRE 2020

### 3. Historic Congress Venue



The Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) was the first world-class international convention center in Asia and was the venue of the World Bank-International Monetary Bank meeting in the late 1970's. Since then, it has been the venue of many historic congresses and meetings and continues to gather praises for its design and facilities despite the rise of more modern facilities. The Philippines proudly welcomes ASPIRE through the PICC!

### 4. It's a great time to network and/or catch up with friends

ASPIRE Congresses present as the perfect occasion either to network with possible business or collegial partners or to catch up with friends not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also from around the world. With the Asia-Pacific region showing the fastest growth in ART in the entire world, professional and pharmaceutical people are converging in this part of the world. Can't think of a better way to enhance your practice and cultivate growing friendships!

### 5. Hotels According to your Needs



The choices of hotels around the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) area range from top-caliber 5-star hotels to budget hotels. So the full range of participants from the discriminating specialist to the up-and-coming consultant/scientist to the RM trainee may select from diverse array of accommodations to suit their needs. And like the congress venue, nearly all hotels are quite accessible

### 6. The best Filipino, Asian and International cuisine are minutes away



The congress area is located along the world-famous Roxas boulevard strip lining Manila Bay. Close by are restaurants, hotels, and multiple malls which attract both local and international food aficionados. There is a wide selection of international cuisine in the area and the local organizing team will bring out a guide where you can indulge to your heart's content.

## ASPIRE 2020

### 7. An Excellent Social Program has been prepared



Integrated between the four days of scientific sessions are simple but excellent slices of local cultural numbers that will make ASPIRE 2020 unique from other ASPIRE congresses. From the opening ceremonies to the welcome reception to the Faculty dinner, participants will witness glimpses of lively Philippine cultural dance and music, from the lively tinikling bamboo dance to festival dances as 'Ati-atihan' and 'Higantes'. Of course you must expect a lot of contemporary singing and dancing as a lot of world-class entertainers come from the Philippines!

### 8. Shopping!

Manila has its share of excellent shopping destinations, from high-end branded to budget shopping, a lot of them close to the congress area as the SM Mall of Asia. There are some other excellent areas to shop depending on your needs.

Efforts are being made make some of them available at the exhibit area. Included among them are the highest quality South Sea pearls at the most inexpensive price in the world! The local organizing committee will also provide a guide for the discriminating and/or budget shopper!





Aspire

**ASPIRE  
2020****9. Local Tourism**

Many are gearing to attend ASPIRE 2020 for the variety of exciting, exotic tourist destinations and another local guide will be provided specially for this purpose. For those with limited time, the tour of Old Manila or day trips to nearby destinations as Tagaytay and Taal or Bataan are in order.

But more are excited to see the premiere Philippine tourist destinations that require more time to enjoy--- Boracay, El Nido, Coron, Cebu/Bohol, Donsol (diving with the whale sharks), etc. Whatever your choice, we shall make sure your dream destination becomes a reality.

**10. Let us all help the ASPIRE brand to grow**

The ASPIRE brand has shown tremendous growth during the past half-decade and continues to grow rapidly. As it expands its relevance with master classes, special interest groups (SIGs), pre-congress courses and regional meetings, let us all help ASPIRE's growth and regularly attend its annual congresses, the core program of the ASPIRE. Join us this year in Manila, Philippines, the Pearl of the Orient and continue to grow with us.

## ASPIRE 8TH MASTERCLASS



The ASPIRE 8th Masterclass on Ovarian Stimulation & Poor Responders will be taking place from 31st January 2020 to 1st February 2020 at Keio Plaza Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.

We are excited to bring to you the most informative session by the largest faculty ASPIRE has put together in a masterclass. With 13 local and 6 international speakers, we hope that you managed to secure yourself a seat at this highly demanded masterclass!

Registration might be over, but do keep a look out at our ASPIRE masterclass page so that you don't miss out on what went on at the masterclass.

**For more details about the 8th masterclass: <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/aspire-masterclass/>**

## UPCOMING MASTERCLASS

### **Challenges and Controversies in Embryology**

Date: Thursday - Saturday, 19th - 21st November 2020 (TBC)

Venue: Busan, South Korea

**Registration will open soon. Please stay tune to our website.**

### **ASPIRE MASTERCLASSES**

ASPIRE has formed our very own Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to provide platforms for professionals to discuss and exchange perspectives and experiences to address common challenges in the focused areas.

ASPIRE has plans to organize masterclasses that combines the thoughts and suggestions of our SIG members, with hopes to present more comprehensive range of educational masterclasses to you.





## FERTILITY & REPRODUCTION



**Professor Gab Kovacs, AM**

ASPIRE Board Member  
Editor-in-Chief

Dear Colleagues,

With three editions of our journal having been published, comprising of 24 published articles, we are now working on the fourth and final issue for Volume 1, in 2019. By the time this newsletter is published, ASPIRE would have published our final issue for the year, proudly completing Volume 1, with many more to come. We already have six papers accepted for this edition, with nine papers being "Work-in-progress" undergoing the "review, revise, reassess" process. We have had 50 submitted papers so far this year, with a current acceptance rate of 48%. Thirteen articles (26%) have been withdrawn or rejected.

In our first three editions, we have published ten reviews, on topics from Zika virus infection, IVF, Blastocyst fluid biopsy for PGD, pros and cons of PGD, Vitamin D deficiency, the fate of embryos with less than 2 pronuclei, the health of children after ART, to a look into the future – Cutting Edge of Reproductive Medicine, by our President, Professor Budi Wiweko.

Original research published included a trial of lipiodol, automatic embryo grading, comparison of outcome of FET with natural cycle and HRT, the relationship between blastomere symmetry and outcome, the effect of micronutrients on DNA integrity of sperm, and the incidence of PCOS by self-reporting.

With such a wide range of publications, there is something of interest for everybody to read. As you probably know, our journal is available free to read online at <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscinet/fandr>.

We hope that you may be able to quote some of our articles in your own scientific writings, as this is what "impact factor" is all about. Once we have published 50 papers, we will be able to apply for consideration to be included in PubMed, which is essential for our long-term existence.

I would like to thank all the associate editors and the large number of referees who have been part of the journey during our first year, and a special thanks to Wu Yanny and Hoa Jing Qi in the ASPIRE secretariat office, without whom the journal could not have functioned.

Thank you also to our Publisher, World Scientific for their support.

Finally, I suggest that if you have a research or have written a review that you would like published in the Asia Pacific, think of "Fertility & Reproduction". Remember, our publications include the abstract in your own national language for distribution to your colleagues who may not read English.



## OPEN: Manuscript submission for Fertility & Reproduction Vol.2 Issue 1

**Fertility & Reproduction (F&R)**  
*The Official Journal of Aspire*



Now accepting manuscripts for  
**Fertility & Reproduction Vol. 2 Issue #1**

**Deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

We look forward to receiving your manuscript for hopeful publication!

### We are calling for manuscript submissions for Fertility & Reproduction Vol. 2 Issue #1!

ASPIRE will be distributing Vol. 2 Issue #1 in hard copies at ASPIRE 2020! With more than 1500 participants in attendance, grab hold of this opportunity\* to showcase your ground-breaking research!

**How to submit:** If you have any unpublished work that you would like to submit, please head over to our website <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/how-to-submit/>

**For more information:** For more information about our journal, head over to our website <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/journal>

\*As we have a deadline to meet, kindly note that only manuscripts that have passed our reviewing process and authors who managed to respond to our publisher with the necessary information in time will be published in F&R Vol. 2 Issue #1. We seek your kind understanding and the cooperation of the authors in this matter.



## COUNTRY REPORT JAPAN



**Professor Atsushi Tanaka**

ASPIRE Board Member  
Country Representative

The 37th annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Fertilization and Implantation (JSFI) was held in Keio Plaza in Tokyo, Japan on 1st and 2nd August 2019. Prof. Osamu Ishihara of the Saitama Medical College served as the chairperson for the meeting themed: Reproductive Diversity. The total number of participants was approximately 1,800, there were 262 oral presentations and 61 poster presentations.

Prof. P.C. Wong, Secretary General of ASPIRE, from the National University Hospital Women's Centre in Singapore, was invited to the international symposium to give a presentation titled: "How can we support infertile couples without health insurance?". He discussed this issue from the perspective of Singapore. Other invited speakers were Chia-Ling Wu from the Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences of the National Taiwan University in Taiwan, and Eri Maeda of the Department of Environmental Medicine & Public Health, Akita University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan.

Dr. Ho Manh Tuong, who is the Vice President of ASPIRE, and from IVFMD Group - HOPE Research Center, My Duc Hospital in Vietnam, was also invited to speak and present a lecture on the issue of fresh and frozen-thawed embryo transfer. This is the first time board members of ASPIRE were invited to Japan and they gave us a great opportunity to recognize the importance of Reproductive Diversity.

I hope this interaction between Japan and ASPIRE will open doors to future collaborations with other Asia Pacific countries. An ASPIRE Exchange session will be run in the next JSFI 2020 to promote and expand the mutual exchange.



## COUNTRY REPORT JAPAN

### Pictures from the Welcome Dinner



### Pictures after Presentations







## COUNTRY REPORT PAKISTAN



**Dr. Mariam Iqbal**

Country Representative



**Dr. Haroon Latif Khan**

ASPIRE Board Member

The 1st ASPIRE Regional Conference was successfully held in Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan on 29th November to 1st December, 2019. Over 1,500 participants were registered for the conference coming from Pakistan as well as internationally. The three day conference featured thought provoking plenary lectures, scientific sessions, panel discussions, morning sessions for budding specialists and even students, company symposia, debates and 7 pre-congress workshops from experts in the field of Gynecology highlighting the theme "Reproductive Health in the Changing World". The conference also witnessed oral and E-poster presentations with a total of 171 faculty members, including 72 national and 9 international speakers (from Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, UAE, USA). This provided attendees with a comprehensive overview on the latest research in sub-fertility, developments in the field of Assisted reproductive techniques and innovations in Gynecological endoscopy. The hands-on workshops inclusive of live surgery sessions and training in stimulation lab was another icing on the cake.

This conference was an opportunity for young specialists to get an exposure to new techniques and skills and for consultants to update their knowledge and skills in the field of their interest under the guidance of local and international facilitators. To further encourage the young gynaecologists, we offered cash prizes for the first three best E-poster presentations and for the best speaker in oral presentations in morning sessions.

The numbers of abstracts received were 51 while 32 E-posters were displayed. The rich cultural program on evening of day 1 of conference and the musical banquet on day 2 were also the highlights of the conference. The conference was endorsed by many local and international societies including IVF Society of Pakistan, South Asian Federation of Obstetrician & Gynecologists (SAFOG) Society of Obstetrician & Gynecologists Pakistan (SOGP), Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery Unit (MIGSU), Naya Qadam (a project by pathfinder) and IPAS.

### Pre-Conference Workshops

**Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) in reproduction health**

**Violence Against Women (VAW)**

**Clinical Research Methodology**

**Hands-on workshop on diagnostic Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy**

**Long acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)**

**Workshop on Clinical ART**

**Hands-on workshop on operative Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy**





## COUNTRY REPORT HONG KONG



**Professor Tin-Chiu Li**

ASPIRE Board Member

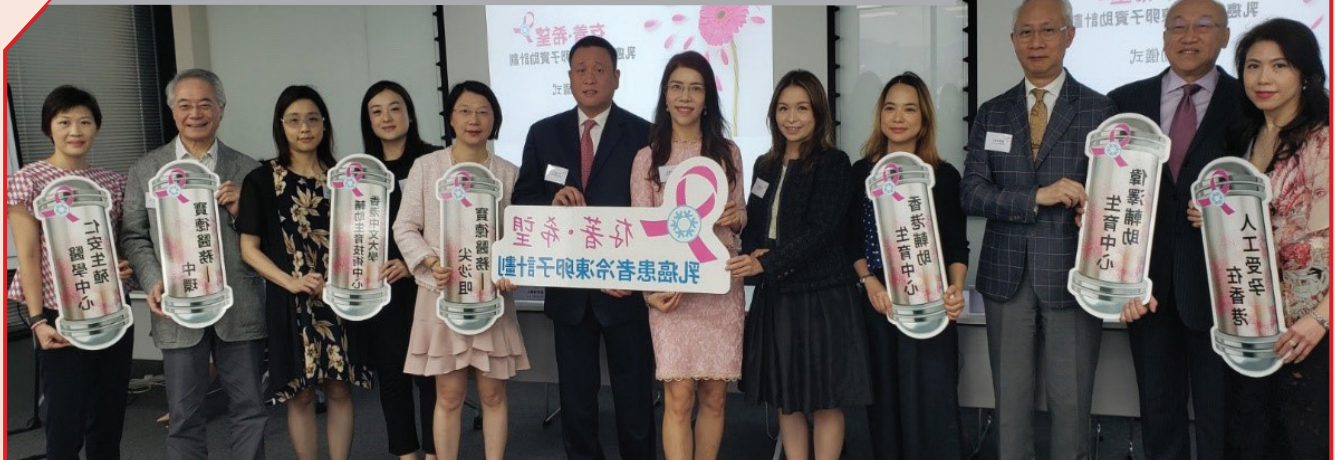
Country Representative

### The Hong Kong Society for Reproductive Medicine (HKSRM)

Our Medical Egg Freezing Campaign was officially launched in September. With referrals from breast surgeons and oncologists, there are 6 breast cancer patients already committed to cryopreserve their eggs in our collaborating IVF units. Our goal is to subsidize 20 eligible patients (up to 30 controlled ovarian stimulation cycles) on their medical consultation, ovarian stimulation, oocyte vitrification, and 5 years of cryo-storage. Through fertility preservation, we long to give patients hope and courage during their recovery and remission.



#### Fertility Preservation for Breast Cancer Patients



### World Embryologists Day Photo Contest

IVF laboratories are busy all year round. The HKSRM held our first Photo Contest at this year's Annual General Meeting to recognize our hardworking embryologists by asking them to show their celebrated photos on the World Embryologists Day. The laboratory with the best photo, as voted by HKSRM members, was awarded one cash prize. Here is our winning photo from Union Reproductive Medicine Centre:





## COUNTRY REPORT BANGLADESH



**Dr. Nusrat Mahmud**  
Country Representative



**Professor Rashida Begum**  
ASPIRE Board Member  
Country Representative



**Dr. Maruf Siddiqui**  
Country Representative

The 5th International conference of Fertility and Sterility Society of Bangladesh (FSSB) was held on 8th and 9th November at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Around 450 local and international delegates attended the two days conference. Invited international faculty members included ASPIRE's Country representative, Dr. Surinder Singh (who was also the ASPIRE local

organizing committee chair for ASPIRE 2017), Dr. Prashant Nadkarni, (scientific committee chair of ASPIRE 2017), Dr. Hrishikesh Pai (Past President of ISAR), Dr. Ameet Patki (Vice President of ISAR), Dr. T Ramani Devi (Vice President of Indian Endometriosis Society), Dr. Suneeta Mittal (Former Head of ObGyn at AIMS), Dr. Gautum Khastogir, Dr. Pakhee Agarwal and Dr. Suresh Katara. Country Representatives of Bangladesh

from ASPIRE, Dr. Maruf Siddiqui (Joint Secretary FSSB) and Dr. Nusrat Mahmud (International Secretary FSSB), were the main organizers as well as faculty members

Numerous young Gynecologists from all over Bangladesh actively participated and interacted during the sessions. A one-day pre-congress masterclass



on Endometriosis was also held on 7th November 2019 at Dhaka Club which was also attracted 250 delegates. Eminent notable speakers from Bangladesh and South-East Asia presented their papers in conference. There were also 3 different panel dis-

cussions on Endometriosis, PCOS and infertility management problem in secondary level. The inaugural session was also followed by an attractive cultural show and dinner. of the conference. Other organizers and faculties included Prof. T. A. Chowdhury (President FSSB), Prof. Parveen Fatima (Secretary General FSSB), Prof. Rowshan Ara Begum (Vice President FSSB), Prof. Rashida Begum (Board member of ASPIRE), Prof. Firoza Begum (Scientific Secretary FSSB), and Prof. Laila Banu (Treasurer FSSB), among many others.

The conference was appreciated very much by the audience for its scientific content.

## COUNTRY REPORT INDONESIA

LIFE Meeting held from 20th – 21st July 2019 at Sheraton Grand Ballroom, Jakarta, focused on discussion about ART 4.0: “Optimizing Outcome through Personalization and Technology Innovation”, collaborated with Indonesian Association for In Vitro Fertilization (IA-IVF/PERFITRI). The aims of this meeting are to discuss how to optimize success through treatment personalization and assisted reproductive technology (ART) innovation that will lead us into the future.



**Dr. Ivan Sini**  
Country Representative



**Dr. Gita Pratama**  
Country Representative



ART Visitation team from the Ministry of Health, IA-IVF and Indonesia Society of Human Embryologist (ISHE) came to several ART clinics related to extension of Clinics' permit and accreditation. Accreditation is mandatory as an effort to improve the quality of services as the Clinics are legally responsible for all services undertaken by healthcare personnel. This visitation aims to cross check the clinical feasibility both in terms of its administrative, physical, pharmacy and its health.

Some of the ART's Clinics being visited were Aster Fertility Clinic of Dr. Hasan Sadikin Hospital, Bandung; Smart IVF Murni Teguh of Murni Teguh Memorial Hospital, Medan and Morula IVF of Bunda Hospital, Jakarta.





## COUNTRY REPORT NEW ZEALAND

**Professor Neil Johnson**  
Country Representative

### What's Happening Under the Long White Cloud?

Last month, on 7th - 8th November 2019, the Asia-Pacific Masterclass on Hysterosalpingography (HSG) with the Oil-Soluble Contrast Medium (OSCM) Lipiodol concluded successfully in Auckland, New Zealand. This event was led by an experienced REI/Radiology multi-disciplinary faculty with in-depth knowledge and experience on the topic, chaired by Professor Neil Johnson (REI Subspecialist) and included expert clinical view-point presentations Professor Paul Hofman (Paediatric Endocrinologist), Dr Robert Sim and Dr Jane Peart (Specialist Radiologists with over 750 HSGs with Lipiodol performed between them).

Interest for this Masterclass resonated from across Asia-Pacific, and with this round of training, attendees included four specialist physicians from China (one Obstetrician-Gynaecologist and three Interventional Radiologists) and a further two Obstetrician-Gynaecologists from Taiwan, all of whom have a keen interest in learning more on the topic of enhanced fertility outcomes for patients with unexplained subfertility and endometriosis.



#### Back-row (left to right)

- Professor Neil Johnson – Obstetrics & Gynaecologist/REI Subspecialist, Repromed, Auckland, New Zealand (Chair)
- Mr Robert Huang – Regional Product Manager, Guerbet Asia-Pacific, Hong Kong (Observer)
- Dr Robert Sim – Radiologist, Auckland Radiology Group, Auckland, New Zealand (Faculty)
- Dr Guofu Zhang – Interventional Radiologist, Fudan University Hospital, China (Trainee)
- Mr Faizz Fattah – Senior Medical Science Liaison, Guerbet Australia & New Zealand, Sydney, Australia (Facilitator)

#### Front-row (left to right)

- Dr Chen-Yu Huang – Obstetrics & Gynaecologist/Fertility Specialist, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan
- Dr Yanli-Wang – Interventional Radiologist, Zhengzhou University Hospital, China (Presenter/Trainee)
- Dr Fei Xia – Obstetrics & Gynaecologist/Fertility Specialist, Suzhou University Hospital, China (Trainee)
- Dr Jane Peart – Radiologist, Auckland Radiology Group, Auckland, New Zealand (Faculty)
- Dr Mei-Jou Chen – Obstetrics & Gynaecologist/Fertility Specialist, National Taiwan University Hospital, Taiwan
- Dr Can Mu – Interventional Radiologist, Chongqing Hospital, China (Trainee)
- Mrs Bella Liu – Regional Product Manager, Guerbet Asia-Pacific, Hong Kong (Observer)

### The objectives of this 2-day course involved;

- a) presentation of current data surrounding utility of OSCM versus water-soluble contrast medium (WSCM) for the purpose of improved fertility HSG;
- b) an in-depth discussion on any supporting evidence with group surrounding application of Lipiodol HSG technique for improved fertility pre- and post-assisted reproductive treatments (ARTs); and
- c) a detailed overview of the modern HSG procedure with OSCM and any clinical/practical considerations.



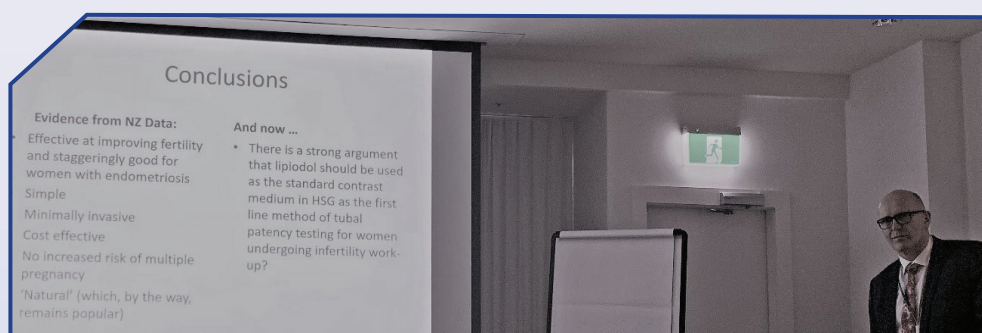
## COUNTRY REPORT NEW ZEALAND

An important element to an HSG with Lipiodol procedure is the monitoring and minimisation of the total volume of Lipiodol flushed through the fimbriae into the peritoneum. As a result, the role of thyroid monitoring for patients undergoing such a procedure is critical, both pre- and post-Lipiodol (data presented by Professor Paul Hofman from the University of Auckland, New Zealand – pictured right).



Professor Paul Hofman

Overall, this Masterclass provided a platform for an Asia-Pacific clinical exchange and best-practice sharing on the topic of HSG with Lipiodol for improving fertility outcomes in women with unexplained infertility and endometriosis<sup>1-6</sup>, which was both educational and insightful to all involved.



### Reference:

1. Johnson NP, Farquhar CM, Hadden WE, Suckling J, Yu Y, Sadler L. The FLUSH Trial – Flushing with Lipiodol for Unexplained (and endometriosis-related) Subfertility by Hysterosalpingography: a randomised trial. *Hum Reprod* 2004; 19: 2043-51.
2. Johnson NP, Bhattu S, Wagner A, Blake DA, Chamley LW. Lipiodol alters murine uterine dendritic cell populations: a potential mechanism for the fertility-enhancing effect of lipiodol. *Fertil Steril* 2005; 83: 1814-21.
3. Johnson NP, Kwok R, Stewart AW, 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;22:2857-62.
4. Johnson NP. A review of lipiodol treatment for infertility – an innovative treatment for endometriosis-related infertility? *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol* 2014; 54: 9-12
5. Mohiyiddeen L, Hardiman A, Fitzgerald C, Hughes E, Mol BWJ, Johnson N, Watson A. Tubal flushing for subfertility. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD003718. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003718.pub4
6. Dreyer K, van Rijswijk J, Mijatovic V, Goddijn M, Verhoeve HR, van Rooij IAJ, Hoek A, Bourdrez P, Nap AW, Rijnsaardt-Lukas sen HGM, Timmerman CCM, Kaplan M, Hooker AB, Gijsen AP, van Golde R, van Heteren CF, Sluijmer AV, de Bruin JP, Smeenk MJ, de Boer JAM, Scheenjes E, Duijn AEJ, Mozes A, Pelinck MJ, Traas MAF, van Hooff MHA, van Unnik GA, de Koning CH, van Geloven N, Twisk JWR, Hompes PGA, Mol BWJ. Oil-Based or Water-Based Contrast for Hysterosalpingography in Infertile Women. *N Engl J Med*. 2017; 376: 2043-52.



## COUNTRY REPORT VIETNAM

**Dr. Quang Vinh Dang**

Country Representative

### Number of ART cycles increases

The Year of Pig, 2019, is a remarkable year of ART in Vietnam. The number of IVF centers continues to increase, up to 35 centers. The number of IVF cycles is expected to be new record as 35,000 oocyte pick-ups and about 40,000 frozen embryo transfers by the end of this year.

### Local Annual IVF Experts Meeting reached record number of participants



The Year of Pig, 2019, is a remarkable year of ART in Vietnam. The number of IVF centers continues to increase, up to 35 centers. The number of IVF cycles is expected to be new record as 35,000 oocyte pick-ups and about 40,000 frozen embryo transfers by the end of this year.

## COUNTRY REPORT VIETNAM

### Delegates from Vietnam have actively participated in ASPIRE 2019

At ASPIRE 2019, Vietnam was among the top 5 countries with the most significant number of participants and number of abstracts presented. The studies covered both clinical and laboratory aspects.



Remarkably, Vietnam scientists have received two types of awards, one "Best Oral Presentations" and two awards for "Young Investigator Awards" at ASPIRE 2019.

### A focus of attention to Quality Management

There has been 5 IVF centers in Vietnam fulfilled for RTAC accreditation. Two more IVF centers has been prepared for RTAC audit by the end of the year. Experts from HOSREM (Ho Chi Minh Society for Reproductive Medicine) has also developed the VN-ARQA Code of Practice (Viet Nam Assisted Reproductive Quality Accreditation). Several IVF centers in Viet Nam have successfully adopted this Code of Practice to improve the quality of their service.



In June 2019, a quality management workshop organized by HOSREM in collaboration with Abbott and IVFMD has been taken place at My Duc Hospital (Ho Chi Minh City). There were 40 participants from Asian countries joined the workshop.

### Publications and Presentations at other international congress in 2019

The year 2019 so far is a remarkable year for the Vietnamese researchers, with more than 20 publications, related to Reproductive Medicine, in international journals, including Human Reproduction, BJOG, Reproductive Biomedicine Online, Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics, Andrology, Journal of Ovarian Research, Fertility and Reproduction.

A Vietnamese research team from IVFMD, My Duc Hospital had an abstract selected for presentation in the Late Breaking Abstract Session of ASRM this year. The objective of this RCT is to compare IVM versus IVF/ICSI in women with high AFC.

Also, two IVF experts from Vietnam was invited to speak at IFFS meeting 2019 in Shanghai.





## COUNTRY REPORT AUSTRALIA



**Associate Prof. Louise Hull**

Country Representative

July through October is a busy time for local fertility meetings in Australia. The Fertility Society of Australia held their Annual meeting in Tasmania in October. Increasingly research from the Asia Pacific region is being presented at local meeting and speakers such as Profs Tetsunori Mukaida and Masahida Shiotani from Japan, featured in the program. The meeting dinner was held in the world-famous MOMA art gallery after a short boat trip across Hobarts scenic harbour at sunset. We welcome ASPIRE members to these meetings, both to showcase Australian and international research, but also to enjoy our food and wine and unique sights of Australia.

Fertility and Reproduction (F&R) is increasingly seen as a journal to report and disseminate research findings in Australia and Professor Gab Kovacs has been doing an excellent job promoting the ASPIRE journal and gaining participation from the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Australian ASPIRE members have also supported new ASPIRE initiatives. Professor Gab Kovacs and Dr Clare Boothroyd travelled to Lahore in Pakistan for the first regional meeting in Lahore from 29th November – 1st December 2019.

Professor Kovacs delivered a plenary lecture on the history of IVF and Australia's pivotal role. Dr Boothroyd delivered a plenary lecture on Ethics in Reproductive Medicine. Both speakers contributed to concurrent sessions and debates. The meeting attracted over 1100 delegates and Australia was proud to contribute to such a successful meeting. Both speakers shared that the hospitality of the local organizing committee was amazing and that the experience of Lahore, its culture and history are unforgettable



Many Australians are now looking forward to participating in the 8th ASPIRE masterclass on ovarian stimulation in Tokyo, Japan and the annual conference and its associated pre-congress workshops in Manila, Philippines 2020.

COUNTRY REPORT  
RUSSIA

Professor Vladislav Korsak

Country Representative

## An Annual Report of the Russian Association of Human Reproduction 2019

The beginning of 2019 was marked by the release of three National Guidelines prepared with the participation of Russian Association of Human Reproduction (RAHR) and approved by the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation: "Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Artificial Insemination", "Female Infertility" and "Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome".



**Photo 1. Title pages of the Russian National Guidelines: "Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Artificial Insemination", "Female Infertility" and "Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome".**

The main event of 2019 was the XXIX annual RAHR conference held on 4th – 7th September in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. The conference brought together about 1100 specialists from 19 countries and 112 cities in Russia. The workshops were attended by 719 doctors and embryologists.

## COUNTRY REPORT RUSSIA

**Photo 2. Opening Ceremony of the RAHR XXIX annual international conference, Aug.5, 2019**

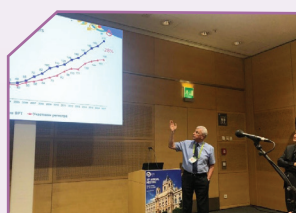
On 6th September, the RAHR reporting and re-election conference was held and the new composition of the RAHR Board was elected. Professor Vladislav Korsak was re-elected as President of the RAHR.



In summer 2019, under the auspices of the RAHR, the 7th informal meeting of reproductive medicine specialists while rafting down the Katun River (Altai, Russia) took place.

**Photo 3. Participants of the 7th informal meeting of reproductive medicine specialists and rafting down the Katun River (Altai, Russia)**

**Photo 4. Anna Smirnova- the RAHR Vice President with colleagues at the IFFS World Congress, Apr. 12, 2019, Shanghai, China**



**Photo 5. Vladislav Korsak, the RAHR President, presenting the Russian ART Register's report 2017 to the Consortium EIM ESHRE, Jun. 25, 2019, Vienna- Austria**

**Photo 6. A group of Russian specialists at 75 annual ASRM Scientific Congress, Oct. 14, 2019 – Philadelphia, PA**



We continued our activities at the IFFS, EIM ESHRE and ICMART, and traditionally kept holding conferences in Siberia. In August, the conference of the regional branch of the RAHR of the Buryat Republic was held in Ulan Ude (Lake Baikal/Russia).

**Photo 7. Participants of the RAHR regional branch conference, Aug 9, 2019, Ulan Ude, Buryat Republic, Russia**

The RAHR representatives participated as VIPs at the ISAR's 24th Annual Congress of Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction in Mumbai, India and Merck Foundation 6th Annual Conference in Accra, Ghana.





## COUNTRY REPORT RUSSIA

After Louise Brown had expressed her consent, the FIGO, IFFS and ICMART approved July 25 as “World ART Day”

**July 25**

**Message from Louise Brown**

**To: Professor V.S. Korsak,  
RAHR President (Russian Association of Human Reproduction).**

Dear Professor Korsak

My best wishes to you and all who work in the field of Human Reproduction in Russia, you are all doing a wonderful job to help people.

In the last few years I have met people working in the fields of IVF and other Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in many countries. My mother, Lesley Brown, would be amazed see the methods that are used today and how sophisticated ART has become in 40 years. In means so many more infertile couples can now receive help and enjoy the joy of parenthood.

It was my mother, my father John Brown, Robert Edwards, Patrick Steptoe and Jean Purdy who deserve all the praise and credit for their pioneering attitude. I did very little except arrive happily and healthily 40 years ago!

World ART Day sounds like a fantastic idea. Through the internet I notice every year those people working in ART celebrating my birthday with cakes, dressing in green scrubs like those used by the pioneers and having open days at having open days at clinics.

If people believe that July 25, my birthday, is the most appropriate date mark and celebrate the wonderful work of all in the fields of ART I am happy to support the idea.

But the credit must always go to parents, the pioneering team, and all those who work in ART worldwide. There are millions of people in the world grateful for the work you all do.

Best wishes,  
Louise Brown.

**World ART Day**

**FIGO**  
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

**ICMART**  
International Committee of Medical Assisted Reproductive Technology

Photo 8. The poster “World ART Day” and Louise Brown letter to Prof. Vladislav Korsak the RAHR President

by  
Ina S. Irabon, MD

## COUNTRY REPORT PHILIPPINES

The Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG) recently held its 26th congress in Manila, Philippines. The successful 3-day international convention ran from 12th – 14th November 2019, at the Philippine International Convention Center, attended by at least 5,000 delegates, mostly from Asian.

The Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine (PSRM) hosted a very well-attended AOFOG pre-congress session (November 11, 2019), entitled 'Managing Infertility: bridging evidence and practice', with an impressive line-up of international speakers, who are renowned experts in the field of Reproductive Medicine. The speakers included the following: Professor Gilda G. Martinez, MD, who spoke about "Periconceptional Health: Relearning the do's and don'ts"; Professor Budi Wiweko, MD, who lectured about "Insulin Resistance in PCOS: What does evidence and international guidelines tell us"; Professor Ben W. Mol, MD, who went all-out, and delivered 2 lectures: "Strategies in Ovulation Induction in ART", and "Tubal Flushing for infertility: What is the evidence?"; Professor Virgilio M. Novero, MD who spoke about "Recent advances in male subfertility"; Professor Sun Wei Guo, MD, who gave an interesting talk about "Treating adenomyosis in infertile women: is there any promising approach in sight?"; and Professor Yutaka Osuga, MD, who lectured about "ART in endometriosis patients".

Attendees of this PSRM pre-congress event took full advantage of the presence of all these exemplary speakers in one rare session and eagerly asked all their challenging questions and clinical dilemmas, for which the speakers graciously answered. The PSRM hopes to carry on the tradition of bringing in outstanding international speakers to improve the practice of reproductive medicine both locally and in the region.









## ASPIRE Membership Drive is BACK!!!



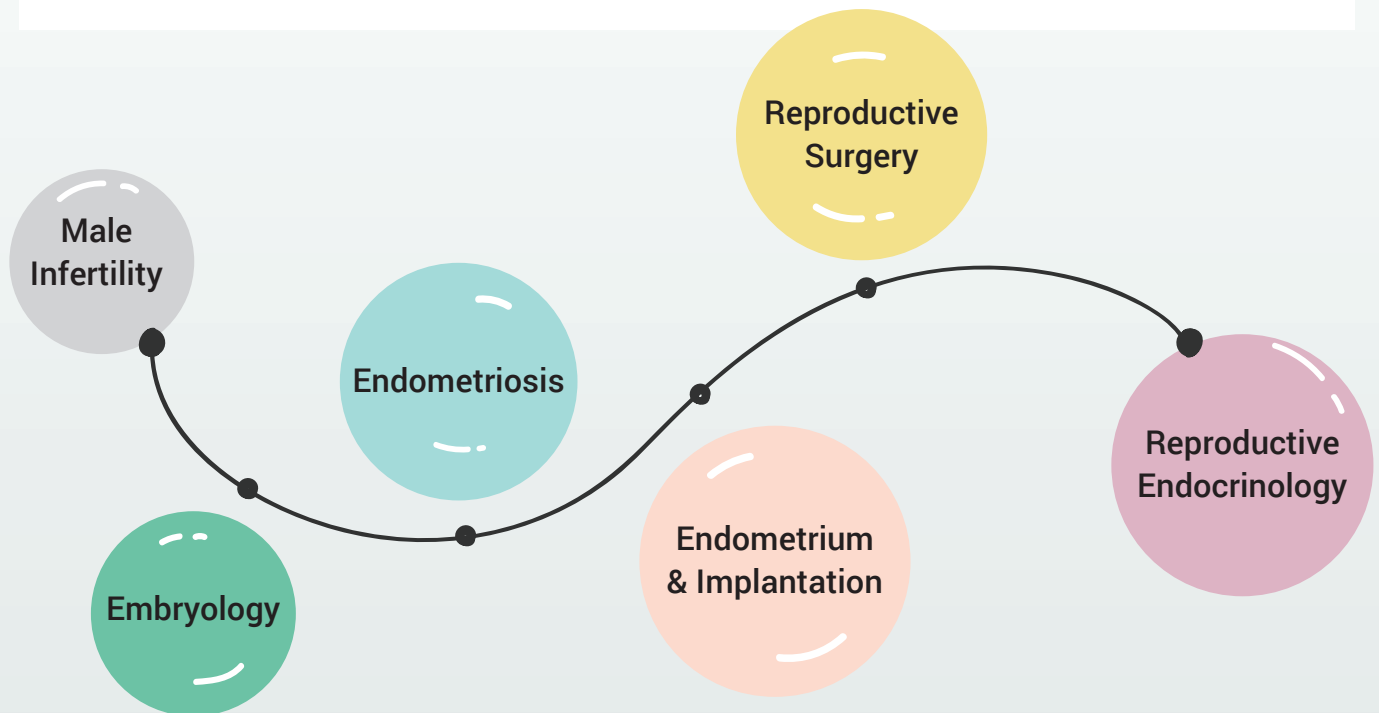
***Membership Drive Reduced Rates ***	
1 Year (2020)	<del>SGD 90</del> SGD 20
2 Years (2020 – 2021)	<del>SGD 180</del> SGD 40
3 Years (2020 – 2022)	<del>SGD 270</del> SGD 60
4 Years (2020 – 2023)	<del>SGD 360</del> SGD 80
5 Years (2020 – 2024)	<del>SGD 450</del> SGD 100

Back for a limited period of time only, ASPIRE has brought back our membership drive which we have received so many requests for! For memberships that have ended in 2019, this is the perfect opportunity for you to renew your ASPIRE membership! Grab hold of your fellow colleagues and sign up together to be part of the ASPIRE Community

### Benefits of the ASPIRE Membership:

- Access to the online ART Directory
- Access to ASPIRE Educational Portal
- Reduced registration fee to ASPIRE Congress and ASPIRE Masterclasses
- The opportunity to participate in the “Call for Bids” to host ASPIRE congresses
- 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)
- Access to ASPIRE SIG Forum **\*NEW\***

# Aspire SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



ASPIRE has 6 Special Interest Groups (SIG) founded with an aim to improve knowledge and awareness of ART and infertility-related services and, ultimately improving the quality of patient care.

These SIGs are only open to ASPIRE members, so while we are having our membership drive, do take this opportunity to sign up and register as a SIG member!

## How to join SIG:

1. Register as an ASPIRE member
2. Fill up the SIG form <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/aspire-special-interest-groups-sigs/>

## NEW

## We have recently launched our ASPIRE SIG Forum!

Do join us at this platform where you get to create your own discussion topic under each SIG! and watch this space for SIG updates and also messages from our SIG leaders to you!

See you there!

**Sign up to join the forum:** <http://www.aspire-reproduction.org/forums/>