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Welcome to APAO 2023!

Kuala Lumpur hosts the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology congress for the third time **by Brooke Herron**

After a long COVID-imposed hiatus, the 38th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress (APAO 2023) is back in-person at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, with the apt theme Reconnect and Collaborate.

This congress was originally planned for 2021 but was postponed thanks to the pandemic — making this a four-year work-in-progress (and labor of love!), according to APAO 2023 Congress President Dr. Kenneth Fong.



Media MICE filmed an introductory congress video yesterday at KL Tower for MICE TV. Prior to being harnessed in for a filmed Tower Walk, the Media MICE film crew signed waivers, risking it all to cover eye care in a dynamic new way for the region and world.

Check it out on www.youtube.com/mediamice



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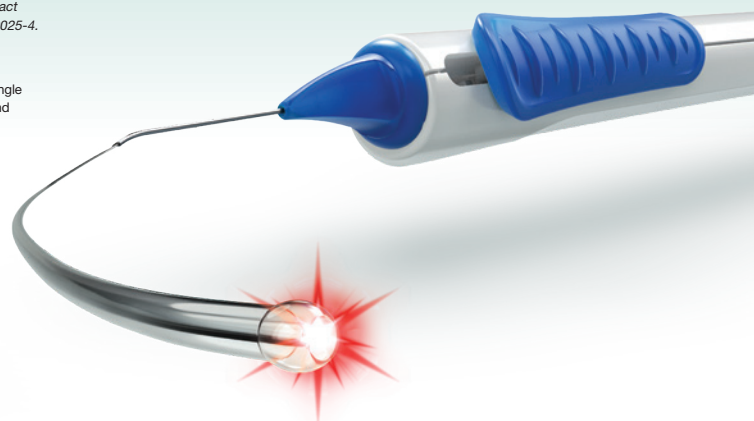
1. Gallardo MJ. 36-month effectiveness of ab-interno canaloplasty standalone versus combined with cataract surgery for the treatment of open-angle glaucoma. *Ophthalmol Glaucoma*. 2022 Feb 17:S2589-4196(22)00025-4.

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ADVANCE



Cont. from Page 1 >>

“Every conference serves to reconnect us with colleagues from around the world, and this APAO Congress will be the first physical meeting in four years,” noted Dr. Fong. “It is long overdue and I hope that the delegates who made the effort to travel to Kuala Lumpur will make full use of it. The APAO has been waiting eagerly for this as we are all tired of virtual meetings!”

“Every conference serves to reconnect us with colleagues from around the world, and this APAO Congress will be the first physical meeting in four years.”

Dr. Kenneth Fong

as one of Malaysia's leading vitreoretinal experts. He credits the local ophthalmology community as “strong,” noting that they’ve had all the

subspecialty services available for many years now. At APAO 2023, Dr. Fong is speaking during several sessions on new therapies for posterior segment disease — so naturally, we

asked him for a quick preview...

Thousands of delegates from around the world are expected to attend APAO 2023 on February 23 to 26 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia — a city that’s no stranger to hosting ophthalmology conferences. In fact, this is the third APAO hosted in Kuala Lumpur (with previous iterations in 1987 and 2005).

“Malaysians are extremely hospitable and proud of our beautiful country,” shared Dr. Fong. “We are really an undiscovered and often overlooked gem, and many visitors are pleasantly surprised by what we have to offer. I do hope our overseas delegates will have time to explore the sights beyond Kuala Lumpur, as well as our wonderful multiracial culture and variety of foods.”

Fast forward to the future of care

Many attendees will already know Dr. Fong by name and reputation

A valuable alternative to PDT

On the morning of February 25, attend the special instruction course *Subthreshold Laser for Macular Diseases* led by experts from the Subthreshold Ophthalmic Laser Society (SOLS). According to Dr. Fong, subthreshold laser remains an important treatment modality for central serous chorioretinopathy (CSRS) and diabetic macular edema (DME).

“We are facing a worldwide shortage of Visudyne for PDT (photodynamic therapy) laser,” he explained. “Subthreshold laser is a valuable alternative for our patients with CSR that require treatment in the absence of PDT laser.”

Where would we be without anti-VEGF?

On February 26, leading experts share

their insights into new screening and treatment modalities during the *Neovascular AMD Including Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy (PVC)* session. This can’t be missed — thanks to all the important updates, but also because Dr. Fong will introduce the latest anti-VEGF agent, Vabysmo (faricimab) for the first time in the APAO meeting. “The anti-VEGF revolution continues ... I will be sharing the two-year data from the TENAYA and LUCERNE studies for neovascular AMD,” he said.

The impact of AI and big data

Dr. Fong also said that there are several sessions on artificial intelligence (AI) and big data — and these are notable highlights of the meeting: “The future is in AI and all of us have to be aware of it and how it could impact patient care.” *[Editor’s Note: Housed under the theme Applying Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Telemedicine in Ophthalmology, check the scientific program for these symposiums.]*

Teamwork makes the dream work

Other highlights pointed out by Dr. Fong are the joint APAO-AAO symposiums on topics including glaucoma, pediatric retina, and research. “We have all the key opinion leaders from Asia-Pacific and the United States in Kuala Lumpur to discuss and dissect all the exciting new data and research in these areas,” he said.

During the *APAO-AAO Joint Symposium: Glaucoma (2023-02-23)*, experts from the Asia-Pacific and North America will share their different (or perhaps, similar!) perspectives on some controversial topics, including the roles of epidemiology, implants, trabeculectomy, and screening.

Attend the *APAO-AAO-NEI Joint Symposium: Strategic Priorities and Opportunities for Collaboration With the Asia-Pacific Community* (February 24) to learn more about the NEI’s priorities in Asia — and what this means for doctors and patients in the region.



Providing vital sight-saving care to the littlest patients is another key focus of these partnered symposiums, like the *APAO-AAO Joint Session: Pediatric Retina (February 25)*. During this symposium, expect to take away new knowledge on all things retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). Some of the topics covered include “Reactivation After Anti-VEGF Treatment for ROP” and “Real World Implementation of Technology for ROP Care.”

All that, and a cherry on top

To top off an already impressive line-up of speakers and topics, attendees will also be treated to some of the usual fan favorites via the award lectures and social program.

And the award goes to...

Each year, the best and brightest are recognized for their contributions to elevating ophthalmic practice. This year, the award presentation will be held during the APAO Congress Opening Ceremony on February 23, with the respective award lectures presented during the Plenary Sessions on February 23 and February 24.

During *Plenary Session I: 2023 APAO Named Awards Lectures* chaired by Dr. Ava Hossain (February 23), there will be two lectures — the Nakajima Award Lecture: “Tele-Ophthalmology and Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries” by Dr. Sanyam Bajimaya, and the Holmes Lecture: “The Third Epidemic of ROP” by Dr. Muhammad Moin.

The following day (February 24) will host the remaining three lectures during *Plenary Session II: 2023 APAO and MSO Named Awards Lectures*, chaired by Dr. Kenneth Fong. These are the Jose Rizal Medal Lecture: “Pathologic Myopia” by Kyoko Ohno-Matsui, the ICO Golden Apple Award Lecture: “Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Vision: Incorporating Social Determinants of Health in Medical Education in Bangladesh” by Prof. A.h.m. Enayet Hussain, and the Dato Dr. S. Selvarajah Lecture: “Understanding the Unmet Needs of Patients With Glaucoma: Lifestyle, Psychological and Genetics” by Dr. Ahmad Tajudin Liza- Sharmini.

The always popular social program

A huge aspect of these ophthalmology meetings is the face-to-face interactions with friends and colleagues — and as such, the social program always proves a popular outlet for fun and networking after attending (or speaking) during the day’s scientific program.

Nobody wants to have FOMO (fear of missing out) — so, add these events to your calendar today ... and don’t miss out!!!

- *Opening Ceremony* (open to all delegates) on February 23 from 11:40–13:00 at Plenary Hall, Level 1, KL Convention Centre

- *Presidential Dinner* (by invitation only) on February 23 from 19:00–21:30 at the Grand Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur
- *Women in Ophthalmology Lunch* (by invitation only) on February 24 from 12:45–14:15 at Meeting Room 301, Level 3, KL Convention Centre
- *Young Ophthalmologists’ Night* (for young ophthalmologists only) on February 24 from 18:30–20:30 at Cedar on 15, Level 15, Impiana KLCC Hotel
- *Cultural Party cum APAO Award Ceremony* (open to all delegates) on February 25 from 18:30–21:30 at Grand Ballroom, Level 3, KL Convention Centre (Fee: US\$75)
- *Leadership Development Program Alumni Reception* (for APAO-LDP alumni) on February 25 from 13:00–14:00 at Hospitality Suite 7M, Level 3M, KL Convention Centre

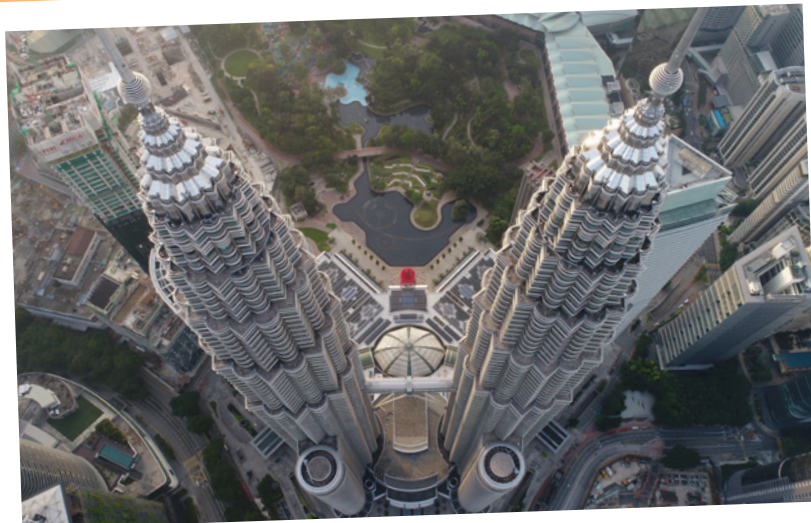
Take in a sight or two

Of course — and as mentioned by Dr. Fong — overseas attendees should try to take in some of Kuala Lumpur’s most famous sights and attractions. An easy one to do, and an iconic photo to take, is the Petronas Twin Towers. Visitors can take photos from outside, or take a guided tour. In addition, the Sky Bridge KLCC is located on the 86th floor and allows visitors to stand “among the clouds” and take in the full surrounding landscape; this is available via a 45-minute tour.

Further, the Twin Towers also house an Art Gallery, the Philharmonic Hall, and the Petrosains Discovery Centre — and at the foot of these two towers is the Suria KLCC shopping center.

And finally, for an attraction that is literally housed in the same building as the convention, check out Aquaria KLCC, a state-of-the-art oceanarium with more than 5,000 aquatic and land-bound creatures within a sprawling 60,000 square-foot space.

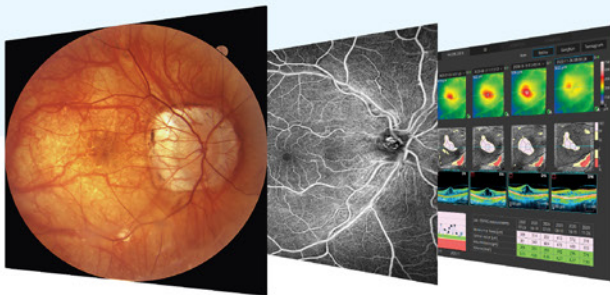
Stay tuned to the Show Daily to stay current with the latest congress news — and welcome to APAO 2023! 🐟



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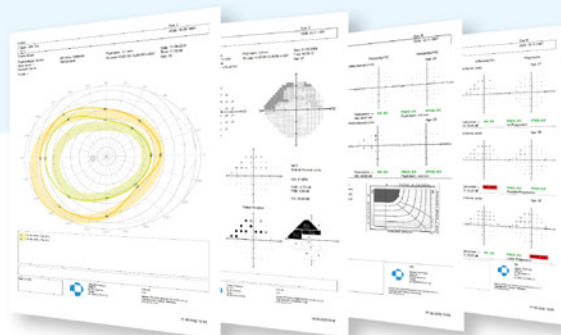
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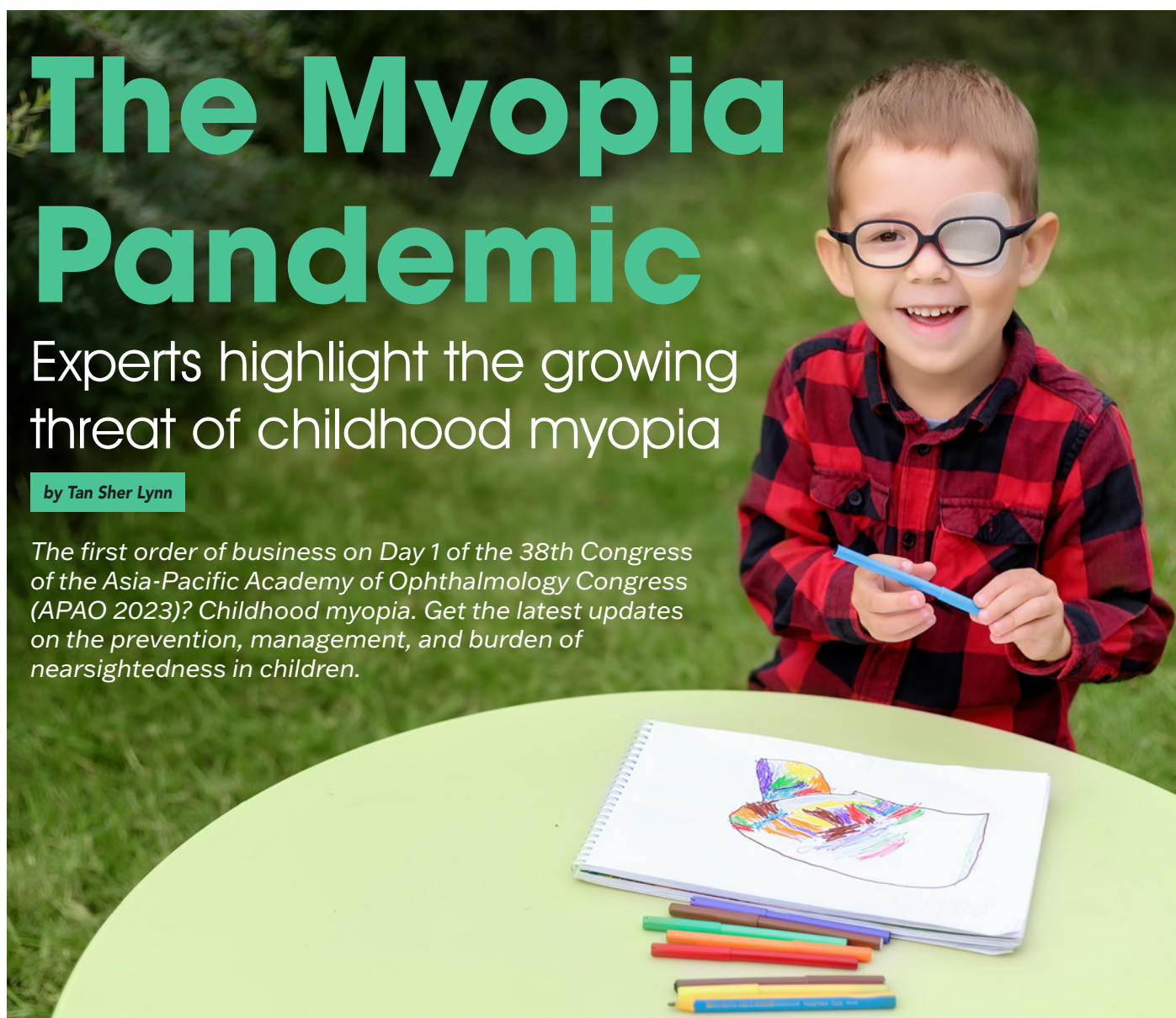


The Myopia Pandemic

Experts highlight the growing threat of childhood myopia

by Tan Sher Lynn

The first order of business on Day 1 of the 38th Congress of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress (APAO 2023)? Childhood myopia. Get the latest updates on the prevention, management, and burden of nearsightedness in children.



While the world is gradually coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are certainly not out of the myopia pandemic yet. In fact, myopia is a rising health concern affecting children in the modern world. It is a major public health issue in parts of East and Southeast Asia, including mainland China, where around 80% of students completing 12 years of education are now myopic, with 10% to 20% having high myopia in excess of -6 D.¹

Myopia and the great outdoors

We now know from epidemiological evidence that children who spend more time outdoors are less likely to become myopic, regardless of how much near work they do, or whether their parents

are myopic.² It has been suggested that spending time outdoors causes the release of dopamine from the retina due to exposure to light, and the increase in dopamine release appears to inhibit increased axial elongation.²

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected children's health in many ways, and the eyes are not spared. With home quarantine and online schooling, kids are spending much less time outdoors and more time using electronic devices. These are important risk factors that contribute to or worsen myopia. In her presentation, *The COVID-19 Pandemic and Effects on Myopia in Children*, Dr. Kathryn Rose will go in-depth into the issue and discuss what can be done to alleviate the problem.

In another talk entitled *Different Mechanistic Effects of Outdoor on Emmetropization*, Prof. Ian Morgan will delve into the details of how being outdoors affects children's eyes. Meanwhile, Dr. Pei-chang Wu will suggest ways that we, as a community, can do to prevent the worsening of childhood myopia in her talk *Effective Community Outdoor Interventions for Childhood Myopia*.

On the other hand, in the symposium *Prevention, Management and Burden of Childhood Myopia – 2023 Updates*, happening today, February 23, Dr. Weizhong Lan will talk about the Current and Future Epidemic of Childhood Myopia in China, where the audience can get first-hand insights into the real situation of myopia in the Land of the Red Dragon.

The complexities of high myopia

One thing that is worse than having myopia is getting high myopia, defined as a condition that occurs when a person's myopia progresses until they need -5 dioptres (D) or more of spherical correction.³

It has been predicted that, by the year 2050, high myopia will affect 9.8% of the global population, which equals to a total of 938 million people.⁴ The scary thing about high myopia is its association with significant increased risks for retinal degeneration and detachment, open-angle glaucoma, and cataracts at a young age, leading to a high possibility of severe visual impairment including blindness.

Learn more about the complexities of high myopia from Dr. Quan Hoang's talk, *Long-term Complications of Childhood High Myopia*, as well as Dr. Seang Mei Saw's presentation, *Childhood Predictive Factors of High Myopia*.

Hopeful about the future

There is much to be learned about the development and progression of myopia. Hopefully, with continuous research and discovery, we shall be

in a better position in preventing and stopping its progression. And perhaps, we may even reverse it one day.

Don't miss this important symposium on everything about myopia today! 🐦

The Prevention, Management and Burden of Childhood Myopia

Date: 23 Feb 2022

Time: 16:30 to 18:00

Venue: Plenary Theatre (Level 3), KLCC

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A Closer Look at Canaloplasty

Working with ocular physiology, not against it

by Tan Sher Lynn

By maintaining the natural pathway of aqueous outflow, canaloplasty lets you work with patient physiology, not against it.

Canaloplasty was first introduced by Prof. Robert Stegmann in 2004 as an alternative to trabeculectomy in the treatment of late-stage glaucoma due to high rates of complications. While trabeculectomy seeks to create a fistula that allows the aqueous to be diverted from the anterior chamber (AC) into the subconjunctival space, bypassing the natural outflow system, canaloplasty is a minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) that promotes outflow of aqueous via the natural outflow pathway through the trabecular meshwork (TM), Schlemm's canal (SC), and the collector channels (CC).

It should also be noted that, since its initial introduction nearly 20 years ago, surgeons have adapted their utilization of canaloplasty to include an ab-interno surgical technique, for earlier intervention in the treatment of mild-moderate glaucoma.

How does canaloplasty work?

"During ab-interno canaloplasty, a microcatheter is intubated throughout the full 360 degrees of SC to remove blockages and herniations," said renowned glaucoma specialist Dr. I. Paul Singh, president of The Eye Centers of Racine and Kenosha and

clinical professor at The Chicago Medical School in the US.

"Once the microcatheter has intubated the full 360 degrees of the canal, it is slowly withdrawn while the surgeon delivers precise micro-boluses of ophthalmic viscosurgical devices (OVD) via a process of pressurized viscodilation, which dilates the canal and collector channels. It also creates micro-perforations of the TM," he added.

"A kitchen sink analogy works well here. Rather than removing a pipe (i.e., tissue-destructive procedures), or adding a new pipe to bypass the



points of blockage (i.e., trabecular micro-bypass stenting procedures), canaloplasty acts to get the drainage system working again by cleaning the pipes,” he continued. It is thought that the renewal of aqueous flow throughout the “cleaned” kitchen sink, stimulated by the canaloplasty procedure, keeps the kitchen sink clean over the long-term.

“Importantly, canaloplasty works with ocular physiology, rather than against it, to improve outflow facility. It aims to re-establish natural aqueous flow throughout the entire conventional outflow pathway. This is in contrast to other MIGS, which are focal in their approach. It is always preferable to restore natural anatomy, wherever possible, including preservation of the TM,” he stated.

“Of note, canaloplasty does not require placement of a permanent implant, nor does it require the removal or stripping of trabecular meshwork tissue,” Dr. Singh added.

Canaloplasty at APAO 2023

For over a decade, Nova Eye’s proprietary iTrack™ canaloplasty microcatheter has been used across the globe to effectively treat more than 100,000 glaucoma patients. At the APAO 2023, Nova Eye will showcase

the new generation of iTrack™ — the iTrack™ Advance.

The iTrack™ Advance combines the iTrack™ 200-micron illuminated canaloplasty microcatheter with an easy-to-use handheld injector and custom-designed cannula.

Visit Nova Eye at Exhibit #6041 to hear Dr. I Paul Singh and his peers share their early clinical experience with iTrack™ Advance. For more information, visit <https://itrack-advance.com>.

How does canaloplasty impact each of the anatomic targets of the conventional outflow pathway? Dr. Singh explains.

Trabecular Meshwork

In eyes with primary open-angle glaucoma, we know that up to 75% of outflow resistance occurs at the TM, with the juxtacanalicular portion of the TM immediately adjacent to the SC, accounting for the majority of reduced outflow facility. During canaloplasty, herniations are mechanically disrupted, and any pigment that is present is pushed back into the TM. Further, pressurized viscodilation causes the trabecular beams to

become stretched and thus more porous to improve outflow facility. Importantly, this is accomplished by leaving the trabecular tissue in place, rather than via removal.

Schlemm’s Canal

Up to 50% of decreased outflow resistance is due to blockages within the SC. During canaloplasty, pressurized viscodilation dilates the diameter of the canal by up to three times. Video from the case highlighted in this article shows dilation of the canal after the microcatheter has been removed, thus confirming that it is not only the mechanical effect of intubation/catheterization that dilates the canal, but also viscodilation itself.

Collector Channels

Gong et al. have shown that blockages of CC result in increased outflow resistance. In the live anterior-segment OCT, we can see dilation of the CC, not only at the junction with the canal, but along the full length of the CC. ↗

iTrack™ Advance has been cleared for the indication of fluid infusion or aspiration during surgery, and for catheterization and viscodilation of SC for the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in adult patients with open-angle glaucoma. iTrack™ Advance has a CE Mark (Conformité Européenne) for the treatment of open-angle glaucoma. iTrack™ Advance is not available for use or sale in the U.S.

Visit the Nova Eye Exhibit #6041 (Hall 6, Level 1) to hear Dr. Paul Singh to discuss his A-OCT imaging during the following peer-to-peer sessions:

Friday, 24 February

2:00 – 2:30pm
4:00 – 4:30pm

Saturday, 25 February

4:00 – 4:30pm

“Imaging captured on intraoperative OCT adds proof of the intended mechanism of canaloplasty, showing us that, indeed, the SC is being dilated, that the collector channels are expanding, and that the trabecular tissues are being stretched.”

— Dr. I. Paul Singh



Contributing Doctor

Dr. I. Paul Singh is the president of The Eye Centers of Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA. He is also a clinical professor at The Chicago Medical School. He has been extensively involved with clinical research and has published papers as principal author in several ophthalmology journals, such as the Journal of Glaucoma, AAO (eye health), Ophthalmology Times, and more. Dr. Singh is a member of several societies and groups. He sits on the Board of Directors for The Glaucoma Forum and is also on the editorial boards of the journals Glaucoma Today and Glaucoma Physician.

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Side Trip Kuala Lumpur

APAO 2023 invites delegates to explore KL, a city of contrast and diversity

by Tan Sher Lynn

The Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) delegates this year certainly have much to look forward to. Besides being finally able to meet up with each other physically after a few years of hiatus, they will be setting foot in one of the most interesting and intriguing cities in the Asia-Pacific — Kuala Lumpur (KL)!

With the theme *Reconnect and Collaborate*, the 38th APAO Congress returns in full swing with the latest updates in ophthalmology and more. Held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) — at least 3000 delegates from all over the region are expected to turn out at the event, offering

excellent opportunities for sharing and networking.

During the four-day conference, presentations will be held in sessions according to various themes in 14 session rooms at levels 1, 3, and 4 of KLCC. Participants can access the sessions of their choice with

the delegate QR Code on the APAO Smartphone App or the printed delegate name badge.

As of 2023, Malaysia is essentially open for tourism to both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers without COVID-specific documentation or testing. Indeed, what a great time it is to check out what the city of KL has to offer.

A melting pot of cultures

The harmonic symbiotic relationship among the residents in KL, which consist predominantly of Malay, Chinese, and Indian ethnicities, has conferred upon the city a unique identity.

Mosques dot the city, harmoniously intermingling with temples and pagodas, thus creating a colorful religious scene — truly a city of contrast and diversity! To fully immerse in the cultural aspect of KL, we recommend checking out Little India at Brickfields for its colorful maze of textile shops and jewelry stores, plus low-key restaurants serving *dosa* pancakes and banana-leaf curries; or KL's Chinatown for its bustling markets, street kitchens, old architecture, and quaint cafes.

While KL is rich in heritage, it does not lack in modern attractions. There is the gleaming Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest twin skyscrapers in the world with its sky bridge; as well as the world's second tallest tower Merdeka 118. Modern shopping malls also abound, such as the Suria KLCC, Pavilion KL, Mid Valley Megamall, and The Starhill.

Those looking for nature within the city should definitely check out the KL Bird Park, which is home to more than 3000 birds; KL Forest Eco Park, a 10.5-hectare forest reserve with hanging bridges; or Kuala Lumpur Butterfly Park, which houses 6,000 butterflies from more than 120 species. Or they can climb the 272 colorful steps up to the iconic Batu Caves if they want more adventure.

In addition, the River of Life, a 0.4-mile trail following the Klang River, is worth a visit as it brings you to notable colonial-era landmarks, such as the Jamek Mosque (one of the oldest mosques in KL), High Court Building, Sultan Samad Building with its distinctive clock tower, National Textile Museum, Kuala Lumpur City Gallery, Freedom Square (where Malaysia independence declaration took place in 1957), and the attractive Tudor-style Royal Selangor Club.

A real treat for the palate

Malaysian cuisine is an experience in



Malaysia China town old market street

itself. Being a multicultural country, its cuisine is an amalgamation of multi-ethnic local flavors, offering a host of selections — ranging from halal food and traditional cuisine to international dishes.

We recommend sinking your teeth into the gooey goodness of toasted bread with *kaya* and butter, paired with a cup of aromatic hot brewed coffee at a local *kopitiam* (Chinese coffee shop); or drenching your fingers in *roti canai* with *dhal* perfectly paired with frothed *teh tarik* (pulled tea) at a local *mamak* stall. Don't forget to enjoy the world-famous Malaysia national dish, *nasi lemak*, at its authentic best at one of

the many Malay restaurants.

Besides, there are also street foods at day and night markets that you should definitely check out. Try *char kuey teow* (fried flat noodles), an assortment of *kuih-muih* (sweet or savory traditional cakes), *satay* (grilled chicken, beef, or mutton skewers), *taufu fa* (soybean dessert), curry noodles, *ikan bakar* (grilled fish), *pisang goreng* (banana fritters), and so many more!

Some of the best locations for street food are Jalan Alor, Petaling Street, and ICC Pudu.

Getting to KLCC

KLCC, where the APAO 38th Congress is being held, is located at the heart of the city, which serves as the ideal place to start exploring what the city has to offer.

From the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) or Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA2), you can travel by KLIA Express, Skybus, taxi, or private car transfer — which takes about 35 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes, depending on the route, transportation choices, and traffic conditions.

Welcome to Kuala Lumpur! Here's to wishing you a wonderful and fruitful time at APAO, as well as an amazing experience exploring this vibrant city! 🐼



Char kuey teow is liked by many in Southeast Asian countries

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What a long, awesome trip it's been...

It's hard to believe that the last in-person APAO congress was in 2019 — now that we're finally back on the congress floor, let's take a look back at the last time APAO and Media MICE got the chance to catch up...



Bausch + Lomb's Legacy of Innovation Shines at APAO 2023

by Matt Herman



Bausch + Lomb is unloading the full force of their optical tech prowess on the Asia Pacific market for APAO 2023. Eye care in the region will never be the same again.

It's show time here in Kuala Lumpur, and though the 38th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress (APAO 2023) is not the first (postpandemic), there's just something special about it. Maybe it's the fact that over half of the world's ophthalmologists now live in the Asia-Pacific region. Maybe it's due to the buzz over thousands of delegates and speakers from dozens of nations flocking to one of Asia's premier cultural and culinary melting pots. It could be the impending release of pent-up ophthalmic energy after the conference's two-yearlong hiatus from in-person meetings.

Whether it's one, or all, of the above, this APAO 2023 has a World Cup feel to it. From researchers to industry, attendees have brought their A-game to the lecture rooms and exhibitions halls of the renowned Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). The theme of the conference may be *Reconnect and Collaborate*, but out on the show floor clinicians and eye care industry stalwarts jockey to show off the world's latest and greatest in vision research and technology. And while it's too early to see who remains after the dust settles, Bausch + Lomb (New York, USA) is making its case to the Asia-Pacific region as one of the most innovative forces in vision.

Stellaris Elite® and the spirit of Asian innovation

Like APAO 2023's host organization, this isn't Bausch + Lomb's first rodeo. And while the first APAO congress was in 1960, Bausch + Lomb's legacy of innovation extends all the way back to 1853 to their days as a small optical shop in New York. Since then, they've been one-upping themselves and the competition year after year. And nothing embodies the Bausch + Lomb optical revolution like Bausch + Lomb surgical's disruptive Stellaris Elite® vision enhancement system.

The Stellaris Elite® captures the zeitgeist of Asian innovation by blowing through stop signs about what one device can do. Clinicians in the Asia-Pacific region want cutting edge tech



Stellaris Elite®

in slim packages without a sacrifice in performance, and that's what the Stellaris Elite® is all about. With a full suite capable of both cataract and retina procedures, the Stellaris Elite® replaces multiple machines in cluttered operating rooms for ultimate cost and space savings.

Flexibility doesn't have to mean sacrificing performance. Bausch + Lomb has thrown the combined might of their 170 years in the industry into perfecting the little things that successful surgeons need. Like Adaptive Fluidics™, an intelligent pressurized infusion system that melds with the surgeon during lens extraction, providing unparalleled chamber stability — so surgeons can focus on the surgery, not the system.

The right tools

As popular as the Stellaris Elite® section of Bausch + Lomb's APAO 2023 booth has been here on the show

floor, their range of Storz® Ophthalmic Instruments, developed over 120 years hand-in-hand with surgeons, is also not to be missed.

Bausch + Lomb has packed a host of invaluable features into their instruments. Their CapsuleGuard® I/A Handpieces can be used safely in all phases of irrigation and aspiration, with a design that reduces sharp edges and thus the risk of capsule rupture. Their full line of Synergetics® vitreoretinal instruments is also fully compatible with any surgeon, regardless of surgical platform.

The instruments creating the most noise, however, were the ultrastable, highly efficient Bi-Blade® vitrectomy cutters. The dual-port design offers consistent flow and a 100%-open duty cycle, delivering up to an astonishing 15,000 CPM — a faster flow rate that makes short work of tricky tasks but also allows control and confidence during surgery.

New approaches to the IOL conundrum

It's tough out there in ophthalmic optics — especially in the Asia-Pacific region, where new intraocular lens (IOL) designs of every shape, size and optical tech are popping up like mushrooms after a rain. But quantity does not mean quality, and Bausch + Lomb made their case on the APAO 2023 show floor as to why they are still among the best in IOL tech.

It starts with the LuxSmart™ premium IOL with elongated focus. And it couldn't be more timely, as an aging population across the Asia-Pacific region¹ means an exploding population of presbyopic patients. The preloaded, one-piece, daily range of vision hydrophobic LuxSmart™ IOL aims to fill this gap with its fully refractive

lens design, courtesy of PRO (pro refractive optics) Technology, which extends range of vision to intermediate and distance without the usual dysphotopsia gotchas.

Bausch + Lomb's optical wizardry and unrivaled craftsmanship continues with the groundbreaking enVista® IOL. Like the LuxSmart, this lens is all about squeezing the last drops of optical juice out of the optical lemon with its aberration-neutral, aspheric design. And it's not all talk — research² has shown that the toric lens design performs, with the aberration-neutral design equating to a significant reduction in the postoperative refractive effects of corneal astigmatism. The research also shows² that the AccuSet™ haptics and two fenestration holes keep the lens in place, with better-than-your-average-bear rotational stability and centration, long after surgery.

Bausch + Lomb is touting their emmetropia verifying optical (EVO) toric IOL calculator as the bow that ties it all together — coupled with the enVista® Toric IOL A study³ by Pantanelli et. al. demonstrated that the new and improved EVO far outpaces its legacy counterpart, holding its own (and more) with the legendary Barrett Toric Calculator (BTC) when used with the enVista® Toric IOL. All in all, the company's IOL offerings echo the theme for Bausch + Lomb at APAO 2023. They innovate. They push beyond conventionally held limits about what is possible in eye care for next-gen results. The biggest payoff, of course, is when surgeons take advantage of the synergistic advantages gained when using their product lines together. But with their proven track record for craftsmanship and innovation over almost two centuries, they are making a strong case to the Asia Pacific for doing so. 🐼

References

1. Research Nester. Asia-Pacific Presbyopia Treatment Market Segmentation by Age Group (less than 40, 40-60-year-old, above 60) and by Treatment Type (corrective eyeglasses, contact lenses, refractive surgery, lens implants, and pharmacological treatment) - Demand Analysis & Opportunity Outlook 2028. Available at: <https://www.researchnester.com/reports/asia-pacific-presbyopia-treatment-market/2824>. Accessed on 20 January 2023.
2. Buckhurst PJ, Lau G, Williams JI, Packer M. Efficacy of a One-Piece Aberration Neutral Hydrophobic Acrylic Toric Intraocular Lens. Clin Ophthalmol. 2022;16:3763-3774.
3. Pantanelli SM, Sun A, Kansara N, Smits G. Comparison of Barrett and Emmetropia Verifying Optical Toric Calculators. Clin Ophthalmol. 2022;16:177-182.

What's Cracking in IK?

From antimicrobial-resistant to herpes simplex, get the latest in infectious keratitis

by Sam McCommon

There have been some significant changes in the infectious keratitis world recently (and unfortunately), so keeping up to date with just what's going on is simply a responsibility.

We always look forward to the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress (APAO). It's in our neck of the woods, and we are pleased to find ourselves in Kuala Lumpur once again. Do you know who's not pleased, though? Patients who suffer from infectious keratitis (IK). The past few years have made people in general a bit knee-jerk jumpy when it comes to anything infectious, including IK, so a bit of extra scrutiny is called for.

All the ways to IK

There are a lot of things that can cause IK. You probably know that — but the *Updates on Infectious Keratitis* symposium (February 23) will cover just what's cracking in keratitis.

We're looking at picking up some lessons from the Asia Cornea Society (ACS) study on infective keratitis. Spoiler alert: More men than women are getting IK in Asia, and it's often related to trauma. Corneal transplant is at a high failure rate. We're looking forward to Dr. Donald Tan sharing his insights.

Fungal infections, herpes simplex,

cytomegalovirus endotheliitis, atypical keratitis, and antimicrobial drug resistance are all on the menu. Not that those are appetizing concepts — but hey, eye doctors are famously un-squeamish.

On that last note — antimicrobial drug resistance — we had the pleasure of catching up with Dr. Prashant Garg, who'll lead the discussion. There have been some concerning developments in this arena, so it's worth tuning in. Here's what Dr. Garg had to say.

Antimicrobial-resistant IK: Not new, but also not better

Antibiotic research has been lagging for some time. This is cause for concern, says Dr. Garg, and it's a well-established problem. "Practically every

antibiotic has suffered this setback within a few years of introduction in the market," explained Dr. Garg. "The heightened concern is because we are lagging behind in introducing new molecules to work against infections caused by organisms resistant to currently available antimicrobials."

There's more, too. Dr. Garg continued: "Further, there has been a rapid increase in infections caused by the organisms resistant to multiple classes of antibiotics. Because of these facts, we are running out of options for treating infectious diseases, especially the most difficult ones caused by drug-resistant organisms."

So what can be done? Dr. Garg sees two paths forward. The first is repurposing existing antimicrobials to achieve higher concentration or efficacy. The second is identifying non-antibiotic antimicrobial molecules.

Dr. Garg noted that his group has developed several formulations that achieve higher concentrations at the site of infection, including mucoadhesive formulations, continuous delivery systems, and microneedle patches. His team is working on both antifungal and antibacterial agents that have shown good promise.

Another option is to look to additives that enhance the potency of existing antimicrobials, which have been effective in both in-vitro and in-vivo studies. And while there's much to be explored, the possibility of synthetic antimicrobial peptides is also on the table.

We're really excited to hear all this in great detail, since antimicrobial treatments are something that should concern everyone. We'll be sure to have the scoop for you as soon as it drops. 📖

Updates on Infectious Keratitis

Date: 23 Feb 2023

Time: 9.00 to 10.30

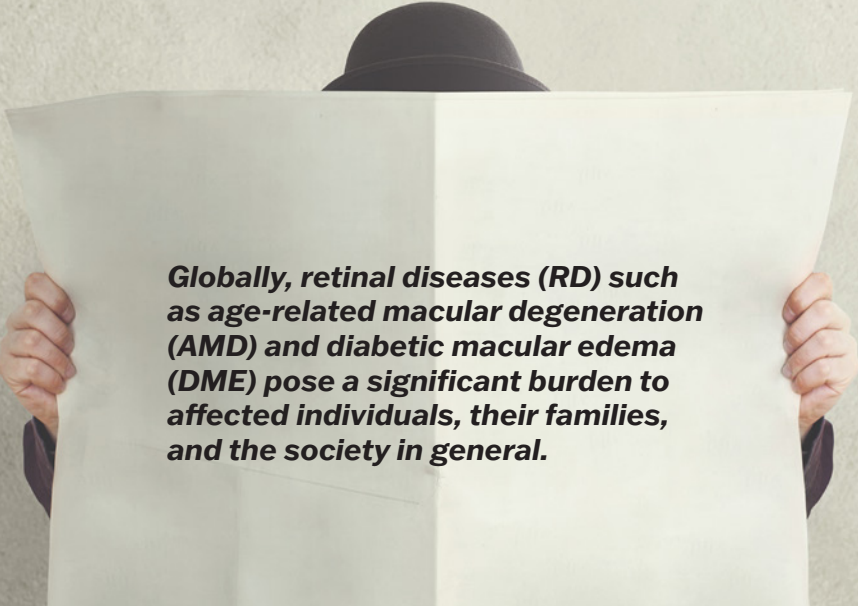
Venue: Conference Hall 3 (Level 3), KLCC



The Scoop on RD

APAO 2023 opens with a lowdown on the latest in retinal diseases

by Tan Sher Lynn



Globally, retinal diseases (RD) such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME) pose a significant burden to affected individuals, their families, and the society in general.

A systematic review and meta-analysis published in *Lancet Global Health* in 2014 projected that the number of people with AMD in 2020 would reach 196 million, increasing to 288 million in 2040.¹

Meanwhile, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company, the diagnosed prevalent cases of DME are projected to increase from 1.7 million cases in 2021 to 2 million in 2031 across seven major markets (US, Germany, Japan, UK, Spain, Italy, and France), equating to an annual growth rate of 1.66%.²

An understanding of the real-world condition is crucial towards designing effective eye-care strategies and

health services that will benefit people around the world.

For more in-depth analysis, catch Dr. Mingguang He with his talk “Growing Global Burden of Retinal Diseases.”

Biosimilars — a better option?

Biosimilars are products that are highly similar but not identical to the originator biologic (a US Food and Drug Administration [FDA]-approved product). Nevertheless, they hold the potential to reduce the financial burden of highly efficacious biologic therapy in retinal pathologies while being safe and effective.

To date, more and more biosimilars are being developed due to a shorter development time and lower development costs compared to an original drug.

Get the latest updates on biosimilars from Dr. Susan Bressler’s talk entitled “Biosimilars for Retinal Disease.”

Anti-VEGF choices for RVO

Retinal vein occlusion (RVO) occurs when a blood clot blocks the vein. Without proper blood flow to the retina, eyesight will be compromised and serious vision problems may occur, including macular edema, neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, and irreversible blindness.

Currently, two anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) agents (ranimizumab and aflibercept) have been approved by the FDA and European Medicine Agency (EMA) for the treatment of RVO, while another VEGF inhibitor (bevacizumab) is often used "off-label" in clinical practice.


Learn more about the best options for managing RVO in Dr. Sobha Sivaprasad's talk, "Anti-VEGF Choices in Retinal Vein Occlusion."

Maximizing the use of OCTA

Optical coherence tomography angiography (OCTA) is an imaging modality commonly used in ophthalmology to provide detailed visualization of the perfusion of vascular networks in the eye. Compared to dye-based imaging, such as fluorescein angiography, OCTA provides the benefits of being non-invasive and time-efficient, and allows for the examination of retinal vasculature in 3D.

Due to these advantages and great usability, OCTA is quickly adopted in the clinical routine. Nevertheless, challenges and issues exist in the interpretation of OCTA data. Image artifacts are commonly observed and the algorithmic details of OCTA signal construction can make a

clinical assessment of OCTA exams challenging.

Hear from Dr. Carol Cheung all about the utility of OCT angiography in retina and learn about how to maximize the use of this brilliant imaging modality in the management of retinal diseases. 

References

1. Wong WL, Su X, Li X, Cheung CM, et al. Global prevalence of age-related macular degeneration and disease burden projection for 2020 and 2040: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2014;2(2):e106-16.
2. Global Data. Diagnosed prevalent cases of diabetic macular edema to reach two million in 2031 across 7MM, says GlobalData. Available at: <https://www.globaldata.com/media/pharma/diagnosed-prevalent-cases-diabetic-macular-edema-reach-two-million-2031-across-7mm-says-globaldata/>. Accessed on February 13, 2023.

Hot Topics in Retinal Diseases.

Date: 23 Feb 2023

Time: 16:30 to 18:00 H

Venue: Conference Hall 2 (Level 3), KLCC



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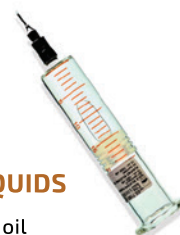
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APAO 2023

Alcon

Experience the Latest Advancement in Presbyopia Correcting IOLs & Innovation in Cataract Surgery

Saturday 25 February
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Conference Hall 2

Moderator: *Dr. Lee Mun Wai, Malaysia*



1:00 - 1:15 PM

Presbyopia Correction with
AcrySof® IQ PanOptix® & Vivity®:
A Balancing Act

Prof. Thomas Kohnen, Germany



1:15 - 1:30 PM

My Experience with the
X-WAVE™ Technology
Presbyopia Correcting IOL

Prof. Chee Soon Phaik, Singapore



1:30 - 1:45 PM

Two to Tango - LuxOR® REVALIA™
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CENTURION® Vision System with
ACTIVE SENTRY® Handpiece

Dr. Anurag Mishra, India



1:45 - 2:00 PM

Panel Discussion

Alcon Innovation Series

Hall 6

Friday 24 February



12:30 - 1:00 PM

Surgical Visualization for
Cataract surgery by
Dr. Anurag Mishra, India



2:00 - 2:30 PM

27+®Ga HYPERVIT® Cutter by
A/Prof I-Van Ho, Australia

Saturday 25 February



10:30 - 11:00 AM

Presbyopia Correcting IOLs by
Prof. Chee Soon Phaik, Singapore



2:00 - 2:30 PM

The ARGOS® Biometer by
Dr. Yeo Tun Kuan, Singapore

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