Meeting Highlights

Asia Pacific Society for Immunodeficiencies

APSID Autumn School

16 – 17 October 2016 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

TOLERANCE TO BALANCE...
...CREATIVITY FROM DIVERSITY

Organizer :

Supported by :

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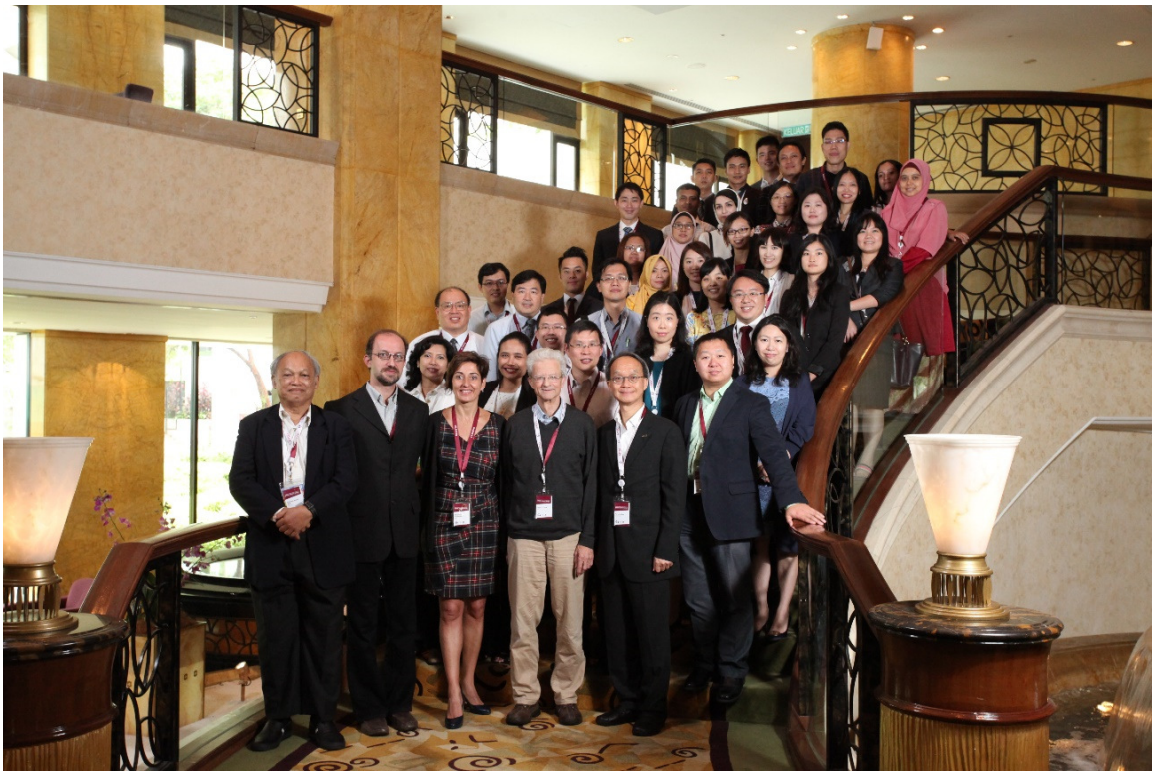
APSID 2016 Autumn School - Highlights

Following the success of the Hanoi Winter School in November 2015 and the Hong Kong Spring School in April 2016, APSID organized her third School on 16-17th October 2016, in conjunction with the Joint Congress of Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI) and Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respirology & Immunology (APAPARI) 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Faculty of this Autumn School consisted of Prof Hans Ochs, Dr Eleonora Gambineri, Prof Yu-Lung Lau, Prof Nima Rezaei, Dr Bob Geng, Dr Woei-Kang Liew and Dr Pamela Lee. The Autumn School was participated by 21 doctors from China Mainland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Myanmar, South Korea, The Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as over 50 observers who registered for the Main Congress.



The Welcoming Reception took place in the evening of 16th October. It was an occasion for the Faculty and participants to know one another in a friendly environment. Following a warm welcome by Prof Yu-Lung Lau, Prof Hans Ochs gave the Opening Lecture entitled "Primary Immunodeficiencies: A Historic and Scientific Perspective".

Hans took us through the milestones of major discoveries in immunology, and shared with us the vivid stories of how giants in our field first recognized PIDs and deciphered their molecular and genetic basis, and how effective treatments were developed for PID patients. This journey illustrated the remarkable passion and perseverance of our predecessors and contemporaries in PID research, clinical advancements, international collaborations and training the next generation. Hans' talk was an inspiration to the young doctors attending the APSID School, as an understanding of the history is the first step to knowing where we are now, and how to take PID forward.

A book so dear to his heart: Hans signing on his book "Primary Immunodeficiencies: A Historic and Scientific Perspective", co-authored with Prof Amos Etzioni. Hans has generously brought this book to every doctor in the APSID Schools as a gift.

Next, Dr Gilbert Chua introduced the APSID Juniors Working Party, which is a network connecting young doctors involved in PID care from different parts of Asia. The 'APSID Juniors' came to know one another when they first met at the APSID Schools, and have ongoing exchange by maintaining contacts via the APSID Juniors Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/APSIDjuniors/

Dr Eleonora Gambineri, Chairperson of the ESID Education Working Party, would be linking up the APSID Juniors and the ESID Juniors. Eleonora also extended an invitation to the APSID Juniors to participate in future ESID Summer Schools.

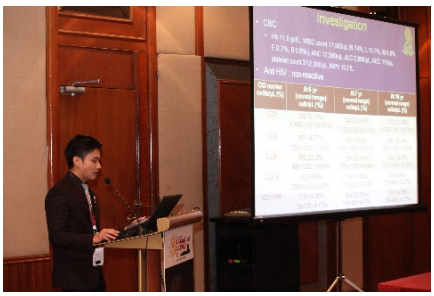
APSID 2016 Autumn School - Highlights

The Autumn School began with Prof Nima Rezaei's talk on 'Approach to Congenital Neutropenia'. Nima introduced an algorithm in diagnosing and investigating congenital neutropenia, through real cases he managed in his clinical practice. The lessons learnt from these cases were summarized as 9 'Take Home Messages' for the students. Nima's talk was followed by case presentations related to neutrophil disorders. The key learning points highlighted by the presenters brought about lively discussions between the Faculty, the students as well as some enthusiastic observers.

The second talk of the Autumn School was given by Eleonora, on "Immune Reconstitution after Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation". Making use of a case presentation on a difficult transplant procedure for immune polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X-linked (IPEX), Eleonora engaged the students to express their thoughts, by interjecting with questions as the presenter unfolded the story.

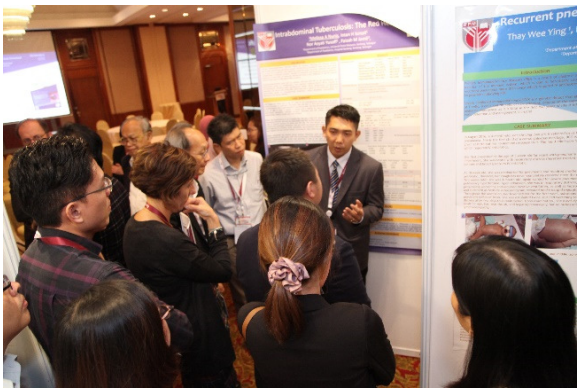
Faculty taking part in the discussion: Dr Bob Geng (left), Dr Woei-Kang Liew (middle), Prof Yu-Lung Lau and Dr Pamela Lee (right)

The other case presentations in this session were similarly related to enteric complications or autoimmune phenomenon associated with PID, such as tricohepatoenteric syndromes, RAS-associated lymphoproliferative syndrome and an unclassified combined immunodeficiency. By comparing and contrasting the clinical features and immunophenotypes of these cases, the Faculty discussed the mechanisms of autoimmunity in PIDs, and the approach to such presentations which often overlap with haematological, rheumatological and gastrointestinal disorders.



APSID 2016 Autumn School - Highlights

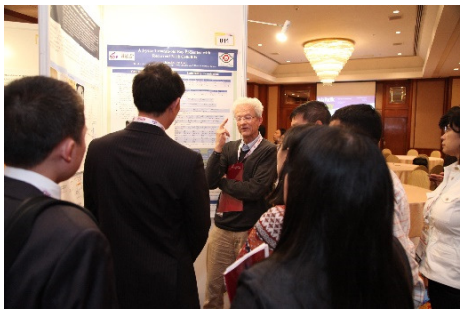
The Poster Walk was conducted in 3 small groups of poster presenters and participants. Each group was led by 2-3 Faculty. The "Walk" abolished the distance between the Faculty and the students, allowing the Faculty and the presenters to engage in friendly dialogues when discussing the cases.



Poster walk group 1: Prof Nima Rezaei, Prof Nokman Mohd Noh, Dr Pamela Lee

Poster walk group 2: Prof Yu-Lung Lau, Dr Eleonora Gambineri, Dr Bob Geng

Poster walk group 3: Prof Hans Ochs, Dr Woei-Kang Liew



Altogether, 10 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations were given by the students in just 1 day. These cases were invaluable teaching resources for collaborative learning at the Autumn School, and we thanked the Faculty and advisers for coaching the students on their presentations before the School, so that everyone could make the most benefits from these case studies.

In addition to the 2 lectures at the Autumn School, the Faculty also contributed to the APSID / Southeast Asia PID (SEAPID) Track in the APAAACI/APAPARI Main Congress which was well attended by the delegates. Some of these lectures highlighted allergy and immunodysregulation as manifestations of PID, which would be of interests and relevance to an audience who are primarily allergists and immunologists.

Prof Hans Ochs

- Too many respiratory and other infections: When to suspect, how to screen, confirm and what can be done about it
- Hyper-IgE syndromes

Prof Yu-Lung Lau

- Novel PID that present with eczema ± food allergy or urticaria

Prof Nima Rezaei

- Common variable immunodeficiencies

Dr Eleonora Gambineri

- Immune dysregulation, autoimmunity in PID…As if infection is not enough!

Dr Bob Geng

- Update on immunoglobulin use for primary immunodeficiency

Dr Pamela Lee

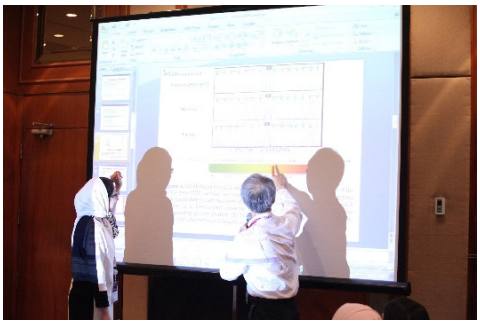
- Severe combined immunodeficiency: Spectrum and diagnostic approach
- Haematopoietic stem cell transplant in SCID & other PID in Asia

Comments from our participants

Please state one or more aspect(s) which you find the APSID Autumn School helpful to your clinical practice:

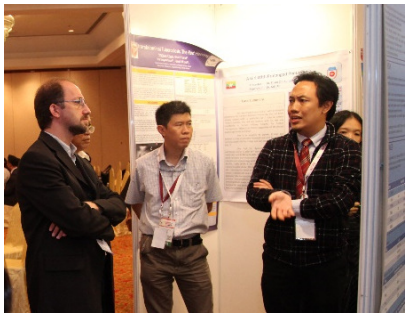
"APSID gave me a lot of fantastic knowledge about PID. It is very useful in our clinical practice."

"APSID school teachers are very good at teaching. They can teach to us very efficiently."



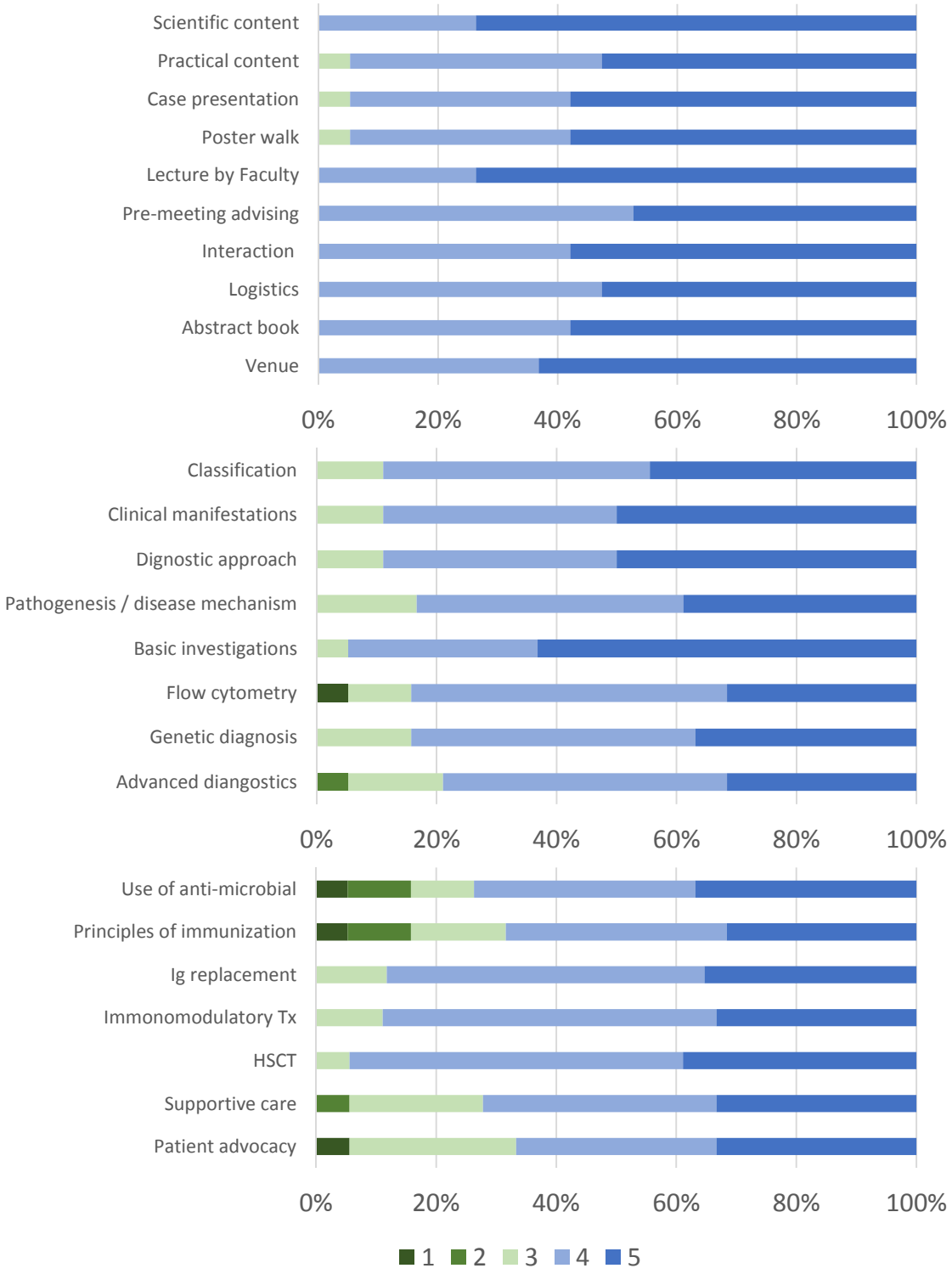
"To learn experiences from other Asian countries the approach and treatment goal is slightly different from countries to countries."

"The case discussion during oral presentation and poster walk was especially helpful. I especially like the faculty's stand of focusing skill on the basics of history and physical exam instead of elaborative investigations which we may not have in our countries."



Evaluations

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 = lowest, 5 = highest)



Within a period of 12 months, APSID organized 3 PID Schools which were attended by over 100 paediatricians from Asia and beyond. The cases and the discussions illustrated the whole range of clinical issues we are facing in Asia. In Prof Lau's concluding remarks, "The needs of every single one of our participants are unique and different, and APSID is committed to make our PID Schools relevant to their needs so that they can use the knowledge when they go home. APSID will continue to provide an environment for us to feel the closeness and the connection, so that along the way we learn, we'd be sharing our friendship and have fun – that is the secret of success and sustainability."

Connecting people .....

Upcoming activities

2017 APSID Summer School, Chongqing, China

In collaboration with Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University

1-2nd June, 2017

2017 APSID Autumn School, Hong Kong SAR, China

In conjunction with the 13th Asian Society of Pediatric Research (ASPR) Congress

6-8th October, 2017

Acknowledgement

Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI)

Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respirology & Immunology (APAPARI)

Jeffrey Modell Foundation

Curing PI. Worldwide.

CSL Behring