



APAGE Newsletter

The Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy

November 2014



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APAGE Future Events



2015 APAGE-JSGOE Oncology Workshop (Endometrial Cancer)

Date: Feb 27 to 28, 2015

Venue: Covidien ATC, Shizuoka, Japan

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2015 APAGE Laparoscopic Gynecologic Oncology Surgery & Hands-on Animal Workshop (Ovarian Cancer)

Date: March 27 to 28, 2015

Venue: Covidien C.C.I., Shanghai, China

3



2015 APAGE Regional Meeting

Date: June 3 - 6, 2015

Venue: Singapore

6



2015 APAGE Reproductive Surgery Workshop

Date: July 25 - 26, 2015

Venue: AITS. IRCAD, Taiwan

7

2015 APAGE Annual Congress

Date: Oct 22 - 25, 2015

Venue: Beijing, China

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Welcome Message from the President

Prof. Duk-Soo Bae

Dear members of APAGE.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of 14th APAGE annual congress, we would like to thank all speakers and chairs also participants who participated in the 14th APAGE annual congress held on Oct. 31-Nov.2, 2013, Seoul, Korea. I would like to express appreciation to all members of APAGE for their contribution and participation of it.

With the great pleasure, we sincerely welcome you to the 15th APAGE Annual Congress co-hosted by the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from the 26th November till 30th November 2014. We are pleased to share this joyful news and hope this annual congress would be held successfully and a good opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones also memorable one to all participants.

This year, we had three workshops in Shanghai and Malaysia: one regional meeting in Singapore and three issues of APAGE official Journal (GMIT) published. All the events and publications were extremely successful and positive feedbacks were received. As the objectives of APAGE are to support basic, applied or translational research and the dissemination of knowledge or new techniques of all aspects of gynecologic endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery: in the future, APAGE would gladly collaborate with the society for workshops, conferences or regional meeting wherever needed in the Asia-Pacific regions and hope to advance the development, knowledge and techniques in this filed continuously/

I would like to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to Dr. Professor Sevellaraja Supermaniam, the Chairman of Organizing Committee and the Organizing Committee of APAGE 2014 also his colleagues for their effort to make the congress successful. Furthermore, heartfelt appreciation to whom have devoted, supported and assisted so much to APAGE. Look forward to your participation and continuous support in APAGE.

Best regards,



Duk-Soo Bae, M.D., M.D.
President
APAGE



Welcome Message from the Chairman of Board of Trustees

Prof. Chyi-Long Lee

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Congress of the Asia Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy (APAGE) hosted at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I would like to take the opportunity to express sincere appreciation to the organizing committee and chairman, Dr. Sevellaraja Supermaniam, for their effort to make the congress successful.

APAGE is an association, which dedicated in promoting gynecological endoscopy and minimally invasive therapy. There are international meetings and events such as Annual congress, regional meeting, and workshops as a platform for academic exchanges and highlight the latest advancement in gynecologic endoscopic field. Over the past 12 years, we have gathered a lot of inspiring topics and expertise since our establishment and offered opportunity for the endoscopists who desired to enhance their surgical skills and knowledge. The feedbacks we received from participants in the past have always been very encouraging. It will be a great opportunity to exchange advanced knowledge and level up the academic standard between members and experts. We have also prepared a strong educational program on the advanced techniques in gynecologic endoscope located at the training centers in Asia.



2014 APAGE Hands-on Workshop in C.C.I., China



2013 APAGE, the 14th Annual Congress in Seoul, Korea

First row (left-right): Wu-Chou Lin, Felix Wong, Bernard Chern, Joo-Hyun Nam, Sangchai Preutthipan, Chyi-Long Lee, Bao-Liang Lin, Keen Whye Lee

Second row (left-right): Kuan-Gen Huang, Zoraida R. Umipig, Fong Yoke Fai, Duddy S Nataprawira, Wachyu Hadisaputra, Chih-Feng Yen, Sevellaraja Supermaniam, Pong Mo Yuen, C.K. Khoo, Wai-leng Fong

Here we want to introduce our journal *GMIT*, which stands for Gynecology and Minimally Invasive Therapy, was issued since 2012. This publication endeavors to share research and review papers, as well as studies in scientific fields. Gaining reputation within the gynecologists around the Asia-Pacific region, the journal is expected to acquire the accreditation of SCI next year, and we are welcome for papers submission.

Once again, the congress will be an excellent opportunity for both scientific and cultural exchange. I wish all the participants a rewarding experience from this event and a joyful memory in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With everyone's effort and support, it can be seen that there's a bright future of the endoscopic field in Asia-Pacific region, and I very much appreciate it.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in the next APAGE Annual Congress in Beijing.

Chyi-Long Lee

Chyi-Long Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman of Board of Trustees,
APAGE

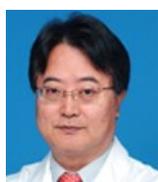


Introduction to Officers

- Officers -



Chairman, APAGE Board of Trustees
Prof. Chyi-Long Lee
Taiwan



President
Prof. Duk-Soo Bae
Korea



President-Elect
Prof. Sevellaraja Supermaniam,
Malaysia



Immediate Past President
Prof. Sangchai Preutthipan
Thailand



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Prof. Keen Whye Lee
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Dr. Chih-Feng Yen
Taiwan

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India



Prof. Keen Whye Lee
Singapore



Prof. Yasuyoshi Hayashi
Japan



Prof. C.Y. Liu
U.S.A.



Prof. Felix Wong
Australia



Prof. Joo-Hyun Nam
Korea



Prof. Pong Mo Yuen
Hong Kong

APAGE Member Societies

- The APAGE International Board Members -



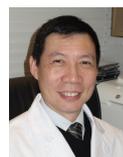
China – Chinese Gynecological Endoscopic Group (CGEG)

Jinghe Lang, M.D.



China – Chinese Gynecological Endoscopic Group (CGEG)

Enlan Xia, M.D.



Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Gynaecological Endoscopy Society

Wilfred Wong, M.D.



India – Indian Association of Gynaecological Endoscopists

P. K. Shah, M.D.



Indonesia – Indonesian Gynecological Endoscopy Society (IGES)

Wachyu Hadisaputra, M.D., Ph.D.



Japan – Japan Society of Gynecologic and Obstetric Endoscopy

Yasunori Yoshimura, M.D., Ph.D.



Korea – Korean Society of Gynecologic Endoscopy

Duk-Soo Bae, M.D., Ph.D.

APAGE Member Societies

- The APAGE International Board Members -



Macau, China – Macau Obstetricians and Gynecologists Association (MOGA)
Fong Wai leng, M.D.



Philippines – Philippine Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy
Zoraida R. Umipig, M.D.



Taiwan – Taiwan Association for Minimally Invasive Gynecology (TAMIG)
Wu-Chou Lin, M.D.



Thailand – Thai Society of Gynecologic Endoscopists
Sangchai Preutthipan, M.D.



Singapore – Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS)
Tony Tan, MD



Malaysia – Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM)
Shankar Sammanthamurthy, M.D.

2013~2014 APAGE Events Review

- 2013 APAGE - 14th Annual Congress in Seoul, Korea (Oct 31-Nov 2, 2013)



Group photo - Board Meeting



Prof Franklin Loffer, Prof Chyi-Long Lee ,
and Prof Rudy Campo



Inauguration Ceremony



Faculty Group Photo



Congress Venue



Congress Venue

2013~2014 APAGE Events Review

- **10th APAGE Laparoscopic Gynecologic Oncology Surgery & Hands-on Animal Workshop: Cervical Cancer in Shanghai, China (14-15 March 2014)**



Participants



Hands-on Animal Lab



Hands-on Animal Lab



Group photo



Faculty Group photo

- **2014 Single-port Workshop and Advanced Laparoscopy Conference in Kaohsiung, Taiwan (19-20 April 2014)**



Venue



Faculty Group photo

- **APAGE Regional Congress- Hysterectomy and Managing Complications in Minimally Invasive Surgery in Academia, Singapore (12-14 June 2014)**



Venue & workshop



Group photo

- **APAGE Endorsed- 3rd Laparoscopic Gynaecology Surgery & Hands-on Animal Workshop in University of Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (20-21 June 2014)**



Venue & Animal lab



Group Photo

- 2014 MOU with Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in Bangkok, Thailand (23 June, 2014)



BMEC Opening Ceremony



Group Photo



Graduating Class from BMEC



MOU Ceremony

- 2014 Reproductive Surgery Hands-on Workshop in AITS, Taiwan (26-27 July 2014)



Workshop & Animal Lab



Group Photo



Tutor Group Photo after Animal Lab



Demo during Animal Lab

- **2014 MOU with IRCAD Taiwan and Show Chwan Health Care System in Taiwan (27 July 2014)**



*Prof Chyi-Long Lee
& Prof Min-Ho Huang*



Group Photo

- **8th Reproductive APAGE Workshop-Controversy Management of Adnexal Masses in Bangkok, Thailand (6-8 August 2014)**



Cadaver Lab

- **2014 APAGE Single-port Surgery & Hands-on Animal Workshop in C.C.I. Shanghai, China (1-2 September 2014)**



Faculty Group Photo



Day 1 Lecture



Animal Lab



Group photo



Animal Lab

Reflection on 2013 APAGE Annual Congress in Seoul, Korea

Dr. Shu-Han You

In October 2013, I was privileged to attend the 14th Annual congress of the Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimal Invasive Therapy (APAGE). The conference was held for three days at The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Seoul, Korea. The APAGE, which was established in 2003, organized congresses and workshops in the Asia-Pacific regions. As a junior resident, I got the information of the the conference this year from the journal *Gynecology and Minimally Invasive Therapy (GMIT)* ;and fortunately my abstract had been accepted for film presentation.



On the first day, I was interested in the presentation of Dr. Osama Shawki in the pre-congress education session. He introduced videos which focused on the application of office hysteroscopy to manage the endometrial polyps, intrauterine synechia, or congenital uterine abnormalities. In the film sessions, there were lots of fantastic demonstrations of surgical ideas and skills in single port surgeries or robotic surgeries in the field of gynecology oncology. One of the keynote speakers, Dr. Masaaki Andou showed the management of possible complications in laparoscopic surgeries, such as vascular or bowel injury and bladder perforation. I was impressed of the importance of intraoperative recognition of the injuries as well as the skills of laparoscopic suturing repair.

The exhibition provided the opportunities to manipulate da Vinci surgical system and 3D imaging of laparoscopy. I was excited to use the high-tech platforms for the first time. Also, I was fortunate to participate in YAG meeting and learn the experiences of young doctors or fellows from different countries. Besides the educational activities, the performances in the gala dinner were awesome and the most attractive one is a Korean doctor with the single port decoration dancing "Single (port) ladies." After the closing ceremony, we had a great time having Korean barbecue and beer together at TAMIG reunion.

I would like to thank Dr. Chyi-Long Lee and Dr. Chih-Feng Yen in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital who encouraged me to attend the conference and the committee of 2013 APAGE for the well-organized meeting.



Reflection on APAGE 2014 Workshop in C.C.I., Shanghai, China

Dr. Yi-Chieh Li

At noon, March 13, I hurried to make my chores done and rushed to the airport, marching to Shanghai, where one of the only two Covidien training centers in East Asia locates in. The center is absolutely fantastic, in addition to free good coffee, it holds friendly atmosphere, well-functioning and cozy meeting hall and advanced hands-on work shop.

I had my hands-on course under guidance of Dr. Wattiez. I wonder what I've done to have such an opportunity to learn surgical skills from him. Dr. Wattiez is patient to clumsy hand like me, and always ready to show us tips and tricks to perform laparoscopic procedures better. This is the first chance for me to try laparoscopic bladder repair and paravascular dissection. I'm pretty glad that I didn't kill the pig with those complications demonstrated in Dr. Wattiez's lecture.

But the best experience is not only about hands-on workshop. Dr. Shingo Fujii gave an impressive lecture, which showed admirable understanding to the pelvic anatomy to a new-comer like me. I wish that someday I could also master in a specialty like Dr. Shingo Fujii did, and bring the sparkles to the followers. Dr. Lee opened my eyes about minimally invasive treatment, taking me out from the frame of "minimally invasive = laparoscopy". The lecture reminded me that I should always urge myself to form a vision about what I perform everyday. The vision comes from master in a specialty, and it is the key to upgrade both treatment to the patients and ideology about current practice. Dr. Wattiez took the audiences to cruise the world of complications in laparoscopic surgery. It's very refreshing (well, partly because we are not facing the complications on the table) because he took a humor but informative way to elaborate the right attitude for an operator to deal with those miserable intraoperative complications. Dr. Huang gave us an innovative example about oncologic treatment. I learned that there will always be different but not only way to treat the patients. If we could think more and dare to make differences, then there may be new break through waiting for us. Dr. Lin brought us a perfect illustration of laparoscopic nerve sparing technique. It's the audiences' luck to learn Dr. Shingo Fujii's and Dr. Lin's experience at the same time. Besides from the lectures mentioned above, all the speakers gave the audiences valuable transmission of innovations and new ideas.

APAGE workshop is definitely where we want to be to have training of both knowledge and skill. The only pity is that I don't have vacation so frequently to attend more such activities. My greatest thanks to APAGE authority, for such educational experience, and CGMH department of OB&GYN, for giving me the opportunity to attend this workshop.

I would like to thank APAGE and STORZ for giving me this wonderful experience workshop. I am also grateful to Dr. Chyi-Long Lee for inviting me to join the workshop. For the first time I was given the opportunity to perform Hysteroscopy and 3D Laparoscopy. I am sure this experience will be of great importance to my future gynecologic surgeries.



Reflection of "Single-port Workshop and Advanced Laparoscopy Conference" held on April 19-20, 2014 in E-da Hospital

Dr. Jiah-Min Lee

The hands on workshop gave a good real life feel to doing single port with the instructor showing us the technique of port insertion and demonstrating various surgical steps on the live pig – eg. Hysterectomy, bladder cystotomy and repair. We experienced the instrument clashing and found ways to get around it, we also took turns to be the camera holder so we experienced the difficulties and solutions to be both surgeon and assistant. Overall it was a good introductory experience and the tutors were experienced.



Reflection OF APAGE Regional Congress 2014, Singapore

Dr. Smita Lakhotia

We at Minimally invasive surgery unit of KK women's and Children's hospital in conjunction with APAGE, AAGL and Singhealth OBGYN Academic Clinical Program, Singapore, organized **2014 Regional Congress of the Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy (12th-14th June 2014, Singapore), "Hysterectomy and Managing Complications in Minimally Invasive Surgery"**. This was a worthwhile experience not only in terms of professional and academic developments, which were very immense and constructive but also in terms of an opportunity to meet the expert laparoscopic surgeons from across the globe, to share their views and experiences and learn from them. The venue was Academia, an iconic landmark in SGH Campus, in Singapore with state-of-art research laboratories, education and training facilities.

The Congress Chairman was **Assoc Professo Bernard CHERN** and Co-chairman **Dr Suan Tiong BEH**. Event Faculty comprised of around 40 eminent laparoscopic surgeons from Singapore and abroad such as USA, Australia, India and other regional countries. The 3-day Regional Congress started on Thursday, 12 June 2014 and ended on Saturday, 14 June 2014.

The first day was an exciting day of the pre-congress hands-on workshop which included wet lab and dry lab training sessions. One of the highlights of the event was the animal workshop led by **Professor Fidel VALEA** as the Chief Instructor, who is the Director of the Residency Program in Department of OB-GYN from Duke University School of Medicine. It was organized in Singapore under the guidance of faculty comprising of renowned multi-disciplinary international and regional surgeons such as gynae-endoscopic surgeons, colorectal surgeons and urologists.



The animal lab at Academia is very well equipped with endoscopic imaging system. There were 10 stations each in both the sessions, with 2 to 3 participants and 2 trainers per station so as to give maximum hands-on experience. The animals were in trendelenburg position under general anesthesia, simulating the real laparoscopic surgeries. It comprised of hands-on training for advanced laparoscopic procedures like laparoscopic hysterectomy, pelvic side wall dissection and managing complications like bladder, bowel, ureteric and blood vessel injury.

Besides the high resolution imaging system from Karl storz, with the support of our business partners we were able to provide an opportunity to delegates to try advanced energy sources like harmonic and enseal and also new hemostatic agents and adhesion barriers.

The dry lab exercises helped participants to get acquainted with procedures like laparoscopic suturing, hysteroscopic resection of myoma, laparoscopic myomectomy, cystectomy, 3D laparoscopy and to familiarize themselves with various advance energy devices.

The two pre-congress workshops left participants feeling more confident with laparoscopic procedures and devices and certainly more inclined to do better in laparoscopic surgeries.

On day-2, live surgeries were real time telecasted from KK Women's and Children's hospital to the event venue Academia. These were performed by renowned laparoscopic surgeons Professor CY LIU, Professor Masaaki ANDOU, Professor Giuseppe BIGATTI and Dr Rakesh SINHA, who are masters of their art. The live surgeries included hysterectomy in severe endometriosis, hysterectomy in large uterus and laparoscopic management of pelvic organ prolapse. Attendees could real time watch the surgeries and interact with surgeons during the process. Apart from these lectures, video presentations and debates were organized covering various aspects of hysterectomy and managing complications by minimally access surgery.

We would like to thank APAGE, AAGL and Professor Chyi-Long LEE for giving us this opportunity to conduct this regional congress in Singapore and for endorsing our event. We are grateful to all the international and local faculties for taking time out of their busy schedules and train our delegates. Our special thanks to our various business partners Karl Storz, Olympus, JnJ and others whose contributions made this workshop and congress possible. It was indeed a memorable workshop and Congress and we intend to do it regularly to provide a platform for learning for the budding laparoscopic surgeons.



Reflection on 2014 Cadaver Workshop, Thailand

Dr. Hashita Ramamurthy

Respected faculty, I am Dr. Hashita Ramamurthy from India want to congratulate and thank you for organizing the Cadaveric Experience in the 8th Reproductive APAGE workshop 2014, "Controversy Management of Adnexal Mass" on August 6th-8th, 2014 at Thai German Multidisciplinary Endoscopic Training (TG-MET) Center, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand. It was indeed a truly learning experience. I would like to specially thank Prof. Dr. Chyi-Long Lee (Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, University, Taiwan), Professor Dr. Yuen Pong Mo (Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital) and Prof. Amphan C. Charoenkit from Thai German Multidisciplinary Endoscopic Training (TG-MET) Center for sharing their experiences and guiding youngsters like us.

A special mention about the hands on cadaveric workshop, the first of its kind for me, having just passed out of my residency it helped me build my anatomical knowledge which was more or else vague owing to the limited practical exposure and more so it gave an entirely new outlook into what kind of training is required to be a minimally invasive surgeon.

I request the organizing committee of APAGE and TG-MET center to have many more such events to give youngsters like us the opportunity to train and learn more from the pioneers of minimal invasive gynecology like you.

Thank you once again sir.



MOU Ceremony for BCAT Program

Dr. Noppamart Whangteeranon

Impressively started with a spectacular traditional dance show, MoU ceremony for BCAT program was held by BMEC at Charoenkrung Pracharak Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand on June 23rd, 2014. It was a great honor to have Prof. Chi- Long Lee, Chairman of APAGE, Prof. Sangchai Pruttipan, Chairman of TSGE, Dr. Samart Tanariyakul from BMA (Bangkok Metropolitan Administration), and Prof. Ming-Huei Cheng from Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan participated in this ceremony.

The representatives from 4 parties made a joint agreement to set up the BCAT cooperative Endoscopic Training and Research Program. This cooperation aims to improve welfare of patients, promote innovations and clinical researches on minimally invasive surgery, and share of educational resources for support this training program. More importantly, this will be a vital step toward academic progression and a strong relationship among the institutions involved.

Also in this auspicious occasion, let us celebrate the official opening of BMEC (Bangkok Metropolitan Excellence Endoscopic Center) which is another branch for APAGE training center. This center was established with two main purposes. First, the center is designed to be a one-stop medical unit which provides a private space for complete diagnostic examination, making an appointment, pre-operative counseling and follow up. Second, it is an educational center comprised of a lecture room, pelvic box trainers, and pelvic virtual simulator to practice performing laparoscopic procedure before attempting to operate on patients under the guidance and supervision of physician mastered in laparoscopic techniques.

Together, we truly believed that the BCAT training program will bring various benefits to countless numbers of women and BMEC will become one of the most successful laparoscopic surgery training center in Asia-Pacific Region in the near future.



Reflection on 2014 Reproductive Surgery Hands-on Workshop **(July 26-27, 2014 in AITS IRCAD, Taiwan)**

Dr. Anna Liza Campos Salita

I consider myself very fortunate to be one of the participants in the recently held APAGE-TAMIG Joint Workshop entitled 2014 Reproductive Surgery Hands-on Workshop 2014 in AITS IRCAD Taiwan. Both the lectures and hands on workshops in hysteroscopy and laparoscopy were very informative and provided an enriching experience particularly to a beginner enthusiast like me.

I found the first day topics, particularly the lectures of Dr. Attilio Di Spiezio Sardo on hysteroscopy and Dr. Tomonori Hada on suturing techniques, very interesting and helpful. They provided insightful information that is very essential in the initial endeavour of performing hysteroscopy and laparoscopy.

During the workshop, I was impressed by the state of the art facilities of IRCAD, indeed very conducive to stimulate and promote learning in hysteroscopy and laparoscopy. It was a great experience not only on the practical side because we got to learn tips and tricks on how to perform hysteroscopy, but we got to learn them from the experts themselves! It was awesome to be with the best of the best. Learning from experience is still best than learning from the books. It was a first time for me to do an animal workshop so I consider it also as an exceptional experience. It was amazing to see the actual operating room set up with an anesthetized animal on the table. Though the anatomy is different, the simulation is good enough to have a feel of how it is to be in an actual laparoscopy set up. We got to do port entry, ligation of the tubes, suturing and re-anastomosis of the ureters. Indeed a wonderful experience!

During the second day, more interesting lectures were given by prominent speakers and we got to watch interesting videos of different cases from different hospitals.

I can say that attending this workshop is a very worthwhile experience. I am grateful to APAGE and TAMIG for making this possible. And it is an endeavour worth doing again in the future.



Reflection on the 1st RGE Rajavithi Gynecological Endoscopy Congress: : Let's make the difference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. Suparuek Pongsaranantakul

Nowadays, Laparoscopic Surgery has very importance role for GYN Surgery as it can replace almost traditional surgery. In addition, there are some advantages such as getting little of surgical wound, less blood loss, and short recovery period. It is the new era of surgery. I participated in The 1st REG Rajavithi Gynecological Endoscopy Congress, was held on August 18 – 20th, 2014 in Bangkok. This is a great opportunity because the congress was included technique meeting and hands on training workshop which it is not easy to be held in Thailand. Besides, Laparoscopic Surgical skill always needs to be practiced and improved. So, that is why the conference is very useful for the participant.

On the first day of the conference, I saw the overview and progression of the Laparoscopic Surgery from all specialists who came from many institutes in Thailand including Prof. Chyi Long Lee and Prof. Kuan Gen Huang, well-known international experts. Laparoscopic Surgery could do a lot of benefits, especially unexpected and difficult surgery cases. Moreover, there is using 3D technology with Laparoscopic Surgery that it can be the next step of development. Using this technology helps surgeons when they do the operation as they can see in dimension of length, depth, and height leads to accuracy and safety of surgery. Besides, Prof. Chyi Long Lee and Prof. Kuan Gen Huang presented 3D live demonstration of Laparoscopic Ovarian Cystectomy and excision of deep infiltrating endometriosis which was broadcasted from operation room to the conference hall that made all the audience feel like they are on real situation. As this is very difficult operation case, we can see ability, attempt, and techniques from two experts which it is an impress experience.

The second day of the conference was to focus mainly on Hysteroscopy. Personally, I never had a chance to use such Hysteroscopy and this conference made me realize that it has a role in diagnosis and treatment extremely, including seeing the demonstration of operation from Prof. Bao Liang Lin, a global expert hysteroscopy. He had done Hysteroscopic myomectomy for large submucous myoma proficiently which be my new vision and inspiration to practice to use Hysteroscopy in the future.

For the final day, Hands on training session in pig, fortunately I had the great opportunity to use 3D Laparoscopic system which had only one station of this workshop and this was my first time as well. In each station would have the experts from many institutions closely supervised the training. Not having to change the station and the coach made practice surgery had continued well. I also had the opportunity to practice using Hysteroscopy in training model as well. I had spent all morning in learning and practice without feeling exhausted but felt that the time passes very quickly.

From this conference, I have seen the progression of Laparoscopic surgery and Hysteroscopy which showed that Minimally Invasive Surgery is able to make what was thought impossible in the past have already come true. Besides, I also have improved my own surgical skills with greater confidence which gave me the inspiration to train and develop myself continuously to achieve the purpose of great treatment for my patients. I have seen the great participation of experts from various institutions both within country and international which was intended to fully convey knowledge including the intention of the organizers, although, it was held for the first time but it could be very impressive and well completion. I would like to thank the organizing committee for such wonderful conference and if Rajavithi Hospital is going to hold up such particular conference again, I would be so glad to join it undoubtedly.

Reflection on APAGE 2014 Workshop in C.C.I., Shanghai, China

Dr. Kirsten Huebner

This years APAGE September workshop at the CCI in Shanghai themed 'single-port surgery' was highly specific and lots of fun to attend.

Single-Port Surgery (SPS) has emerged as a growing trend in minimally invasive surgery over the past few years. The two day workshop gave participants a deep insight into a new technique of laparoscopy and into the mindset of this small group of highly skilled practitioners that were willing to share their experience and exhibit this complex procedure.

The benefits of SPS are certainly seen in less postoperative pain, improved cosmetic results and patient satisfaction. A larger umbilical opening for specimen removal and for minilaparotomy are main benefits in regards of technical performance.

However due to 'its own learning curve', single port surgery is only recommended to be performed by laparoscopic surgeons well versed in traditional multiport laparoscopy. The main challenges to master with the SPS is the loss of triangulation, the collision of instruments and reduced vision. The introduction of new optics and specifically designed instruments (long, curved and articulating) require the practitioner to remaster the laproscopic procedure by reworking and practicing the new techniques via each learning step (pelvitrainer, wet lab, in the OR with mentor support).



Single-port robotic surgery (SS-dV) certainly offers some technical advantages and will be further developed.

The presenters provided useful tips and tricks to prevent, recognize and eliminate complications; umbilical herniation being the primary complication. It was also recommended to begin with reduced port surgery (RPS) until a single port was left when introducing single-port surgery to a laparoscopic department.

Yet in spite of all enthusiasm for SPS concerns were raised that the quality of surgery shall not be sacrificed for the sake of single-port. Furthermore, being a new discipline, single-port surgery lacks good-quality evidence based studies. It was also noted that SPS, in the oncological setting, requires more data to ensure that it is a feasible approach. This as well as long operating times limit SPS to a very select group of oncological patients.

After enjoying the morning lectures packed with interesting insights, amazing videos and lively discussions we then proceeded into the beautiful lab of the CCI. Our task was to perform a 5 step drill on the pelvitrainer to get used to the different technique of single-port. Having started with some trepidation we then found out it was quite easy and everyone passed the 'test'.

The following afternoon we met in the pig lab, with the same group and tutors only to find that - it wasn't that easy anymore! The ongoing collision of instruments, the loss of triangulation and limited view was quite the challenge although our tutor had great tricks and stayed amazingly calm and supportive. I cannot compliment to the whole team enough for their support and advice.

Our final task was to undertake a single-layered suture of a pig bladder injury! I found that maintaining good body alignment and comfortable working position, while manipulating multiple devices through a single entry point, was extremely difficult. I couldn't wait for the head and shoulder massage that evening...!

From my point of view single-port surgery is the pinnacle of laparoscopic technique. The workshop gave us a good idea of this and it was two days of great fun. Thank you for this fantastic learning opportunity!

Update APAGE International Endoscopy Training Program at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital

Dr. Kuan-Gen Huang



International training and certificate is one of the main aims of the APAGE. For quality control, these training centers must fit criterion set up by the Training Committee of APAGE. Chang Gung Memorial Hospital is one of certified training centers. The formal training course is one year, also we afford flexible course to meet various needs of the international fellows. Moreover, there is not only basic training program for new endoscopists, but also there is advanced training program for the experienced gynecologists with the purpose of endoscopy subspecialty training.

During fellowship training, international fellows can observe all the procedures of endoscopy surgery, including office hysteroscopy, operative hysteroscopy, laparoscopic hysterectomy, ovarian surgery, single port surgery, NOTES, laparoscopic oncology surgery, infertility surgery, female urology surgery and fetoscopy.

The most attractive element of the training program is step by step teaching according to the learning curve, especially for long term training program. The advanced training program is designed for the Gynecology Endoscopy Specialist. It is the best training program for the doctors interested in academic research and choose endoscopy surgery as their main career in the future. Training program includes paper writing, video editing and oral presentation. We also encourage all trainee attend APAGE activities including annual meeting, regional meeting, animal lab training and cadaver training course.

Chang Gung Memorial Hospital provides free accommodation during training term. To Apply for the International Fellowship Training Program, you must prepare formal documentations which we need to submit to our Government Health Bureau Department, and it will take at least 4 months to complete the application. After finishing the training program, you can have two certificates, one from Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and the other one from APAGE.

If you are interested in the APAGE training programs and courses for the international fellows, please visit the APAGE website— Apply for Fellowship (<http://www.apagemit.com/education/fellowship.asp>) or contact the APAGE Secretariat via email at apage.edu@gmail.com.

To Apply for Fellowship – Important Notes for All Applicants

To complete your application, please send the following documents via email to the APAGE Secretariat.

1. The APAGE fellowship application form [available on APAGE website]
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. A copy of Diploma
4. A copy of medical practice license
5. A copy of passport
6. A recommendation letter
7. A copy of working experience certificate
(to prove your working experience in GYN is more than 1 year)
8. 2 x 2 inches color photo (formal)
9. English Health report (done in working place and within 90 days of the training starting date).

* The application process usually takes 3 to 4 months to complete.

All applicants need to specify their preferred starting date of the training course and confirm the duration of training course with us.

For more specific information on the International Fellowship Endoscopy Training Program, please visit our website at <http://www.apagemit.com/education/fellowship.asp>, or contact apage.edu@gmail.com

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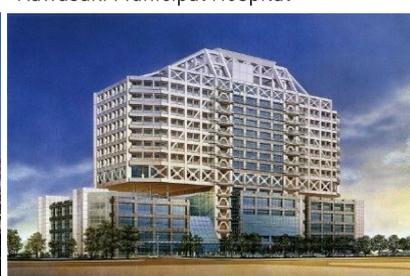
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GYNECOLOGY AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE THERAPY

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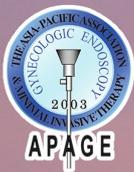
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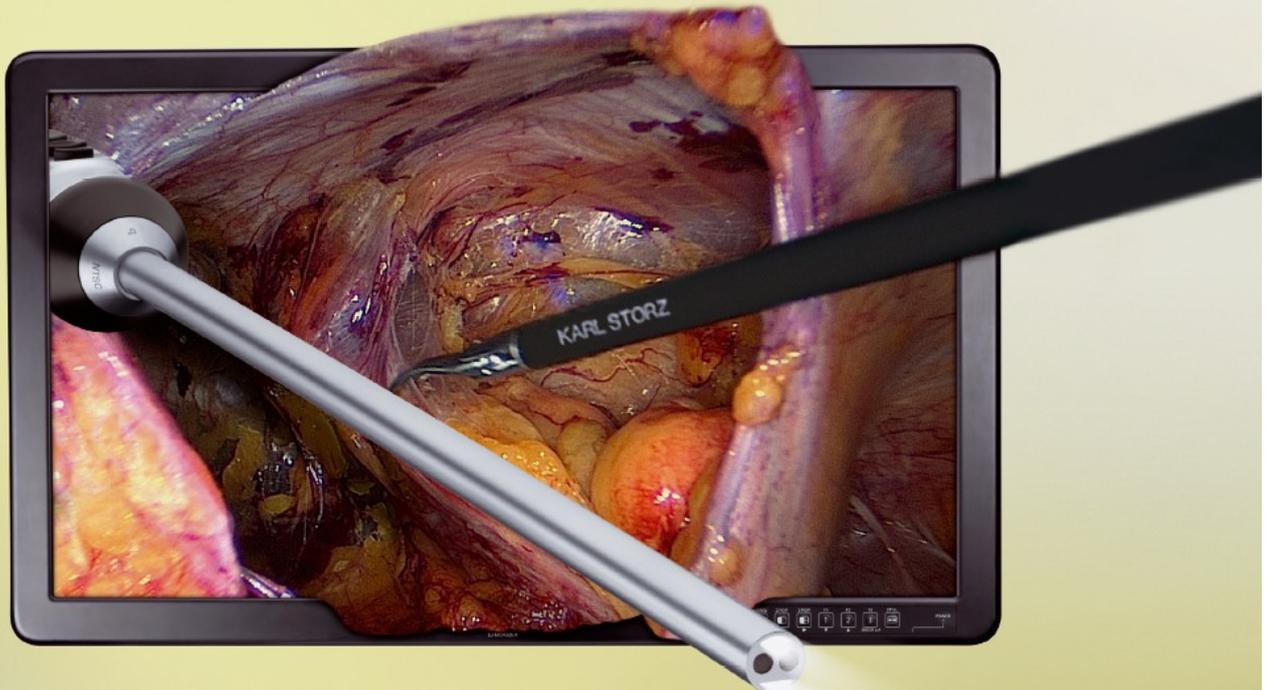
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