

APAGE

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



2018 Annual Newsletter



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20th APAGE Annual Congress

September 20-22, 2019
CHONGQING, CHINA

Kempinski Hotel Chongqing



www.apagemit.com

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APAGE Future Events

MIC Workshop Shanghai

Shanghai, China
Friday, December 7 – Saturday,
December 8, 2018

APAGE 2nd NOTES Hands-On Workshop

Bangkok, Thailand
Wednesday, December 19 – Friday,
December 21, 2018

APAGE Regional Congress

Guangzhou, China
(TBA) Friday, March 29 – Sunday,
March 31, 2019

MIC Workshop

Shanghai, China
(TBA) Friday, April 12 – Saturday, April
13, 2019

APAGE Regional Congress

Thailand
(TBA) Wednesday, June 13 – Friday,
Jun 15, 2019

7th APAGE North East China Regional Meeting

Liaoning, China
Saturday, June 22, 2019 or Saturday,
June 29, 2019

APAGE-ESGE-PSGE Regional Meeting

Philippines
Thursday, August 15 – Saturday,
August 17 2019

20th APAGE Annual Congress

Chongqing, China
Friday, September 20 – Sunday,
September 22, 2019

About APAGE



The Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy (APAGE) was officially formed in 2003 by a group of eight devoted endoscopists <Prof. Chyi-Long Lee, Prof. Prashant Mangeshkar, Prof. Keen Whye Lee, Prof. Yasuyoshi Hayashi (Bao-Liang Lin), Prof. C.Y. Liu, Prof. Felix Wong, Prof. Joo-Hyun Nam, Prof. Pong Mo Yuen> in the Asia-Pacific region who recognize the needs to share research achievements and further professional trainings in

gynecological endoscopy.

APAGE represents over 15 associations in the gynecologic field worldwide, and provides various scientific and educational activities for doctors.

Since 2004, the APAGE Annual Congress has been the largest gynecologic meeting in the Asia-Pacific region. It holds congresses in conjunction with its affiliated societies, which are becoming increasingly popular within this region. Furthermore, it has launched its laparoscopic gynecologic oncology surgery and hands-on animal workshop since 2006 to provide all experts in the region with practical trainings and a platform to exchange their experiences. APAGE endeavors to promote educational exchanges between hospitals and countries; more than 200 doctors have completed APAGE's training program.

In 2007, the idea of regional meeting was brought out for connecting the diverse professional interests and needs of different countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Moreover, the association has started its single-incision laparoscopy surgery workshop and robotics master course in gynecology in 2011. It announced the publication of its official journal, "Gynecology and Minimally Invasive Therapy" in 2012 to offer doctors in this region an open forum to share their latest academic research achievements. Finally, starting from 2014, APAGE has associated with AITS-IRCAD Taiwan on organizing reproductive surgery workshops focusing on hysteroscopy training.

Over the past 15 years, APAGE has gathered a number of inspiring topics and expertise as its goal is to provide a platform for gynecologists who desire to enhance their surgical skills and knowledge. As for the continuously research and practice, laparoscopic gynecologic surgery has gained popularity due to developments in illumination and instrumentation that led to the emergence of laparoscopy as a credible diagnostic as well as therapeutic intervention. APAGE is honored to share some of the responsibilities to make contributions to both the medical field and the public. The progress is non-stopped; we welcome everyone to join us and assist to lead an impetus to the field of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

Board of Directors



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U.S.A.



Prof. Felix Wong
Australia



Prof. Joo-Hyun Nam
Korea



Prof. Pong Mo Yuen
Hong Kong

Affiliated Societies

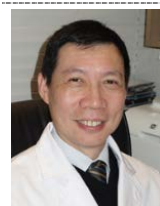
The APAGE International Board Members



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 (IAGE)
Rishma Dhillon Pai, M.D.



Indonesia
Indonesian Gynecological Endoscopy
Society (IGES)
Wachyu Hadisaputra, M.D., Ph.D.



Japan
Japan Society of Gynecologic and
Obstetric Endoscopy (JSGOE)
Toshiyuki Takeshita, M.D., Ph.D.



Korea
Korean Society of Gynecologic
Endoscopy (KSGE)
Noh-Hyun Park, M.D.



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



Malaysia
Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society
of Malaysia (OGSM)
Eeson Sinthamoney, M.D.



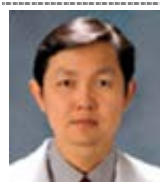
Myanmar
Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) –
Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society
Khin Htar Yi, M.D. Ph.D.



Philippines
Philippine Society for Gynecologic
Endoscopy (PSGE)
German C. Tan Cardoso II, M.D.







Taiwan
Taiwan Association for Minimally Invasive
Gynecology (TAMIG)
Kung-Liahng Wang, M.D.



Thailand
Thai Society of Gynecologic
Endoscopists (TSGE)
Amphan Chalermchokcharoenkit M.D.

19th APAGE Annual Congress 2018

Surabaya, Indonesia



The 19th
Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy
and Minimal Invasive Therapy Annual Congress
in conjunction with
The 7th
National Meeting of Indonesian Gynecological
Endoscopy Society
MAXIMIZING GYNECOLOGIC ENDOSCOPY AND MINIMALLY
INVASIVE THERAPY FOR BETTER MEDICAL SERVICE

November 8th - 11th, 2018
Shangri-La Hotel Surabaya, East Java - INDONESIA

Welcome Messages



Dear Colleagues and friends,

It is my great honour to welcome all of you to the 19th APAGE Annual Congress in conjunction with the 7th IGES National Congress in Surabaya, Indonesia. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to organising committee IGES and its chairman, Prof. Wachyu Hadisaputra for their excellent organisation.

The mission of APAGE is to promote endoscopic techniques, knowledge and educational exchange between hospitals and countries among Asia-Pacific region. Last year, we had three workshops (two in Shanghai, one in Thailand which is our 1st NOTES workshop with live hands-on course), five regional meetings in China, three regional congresses (in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia) and several endorsed meetings all over the world. APAGE have achieved a great success as we received very positive feedback and reviews. We expect more academic conference and look forward to your participation.

The Congress will bring together experts from all over the world to exchange skills and ideas, also to learn from each other. Besides, to earned recognition for their outstanding performance. It is an exceptional opportunity to keep up to date on the latest development in gynecologic endoscopy.

I hope that this year's conference will challenge and inspire you, also rewards of new knowledge, collaborations, and friendships.

Best regards,

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



Dear Colleagues,

With the great pleasure, I hereby would like to offer a warm welcome to all the participants to the 19th APAGE Annual Congress hosted by IGES in Surabaya, Indonesia from 8th November till 11th November 2018.

Taking this chance, we deeply appreciate the local Organising Committee IGES for their effort toward this APAGE 2018 Annual Congress. Furthermore, I would like to express heartfelt appreciation to those who have devoted, supported and assisted APAGE continuously over the years. Looking to the future, APAGE is always glad to collaborate with medical societies in the Asia-Pacific region, holding workshops and conferences to advance the development, knowledge and techniques in gynecological endoscopy and minimally invasive therapy in our region.

The Congress is a unique and excellent opportunity to learn and to share innovative ideas and experiences with colleagues from all over the world. Wherever you work, take this opportunity to break away from your daily routine in order to discover new approaches and to get acquainted with the scientific sessions that will inspire you. Most of all, please take this opportunity to network and to return home with new knowledge, insight and motivation for your workplace and colleagues.

I believed that this congress will be a highly rewarding educational opportunity. Come and share in our exciting scientific programme and activities in Indonesia.

Sincerely yours,

Masaaki Andou, M.D., Ph.D.
President, APAGE

Welcome Messages



Dear Colleagues and friends

The 19th APAGE Annual Congress in conjunction with The 7th National Meeting of Indonesian Gynecological Endoscopy Society (IGES).

It is really an honor for us to host a magnificent event with distinguished faculties. We will provide you the best scientific discussions, and the hospitality of Surabaya. The scientific program will comprehensively provide a forum for intellectual discussions on new, exciting and controversial issues in Gynecologic Minimal Invasive Surgery.

Let us serve you with our hospitality and beautiful culture to get the experience from the magnificent congress. Once again, we would like to say "Come to Surabaya and Feel the Beat of the City".

With our sincere regards,

Wachyu Hadisaputra, M.D., Ph.D.
President, IGES



Dear Colleagues,

Let us thank God for the blessings, guidance, and the good health. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to The 19th APAGE Annual Congress to be held in conjunction with 7th National Meeting of Indonesian Gynecological Endoscopy Society (IGES).

As a General Chairman of this congress, it is a great pleasure for us to provide presentations from world class endoscopists from all over the world, as well as in workshops conducted by experts in their fields.

Surabaya – the capital of the province of East Java – is Indonesia's second largest city with a population of over 2.7 million. To Indonesians, it is known as 'the city of heroes' due to the importance of the Battle of Surabaya during the independence war period.

Surabaya now enjoys the reputation as being the cleanest city in Indonesia, equipped with every modern facility and offering a standard of accommodation to suit every taste and budget. Places of interest for the tourists include Kalimas harbor and Kampung Arab in the old town, The Mpu Tantular Museum, and the Surabaya Zoo – the largest zoo in South East Asia.

Hopefully, this congress will provide favorable occasion for valuable discussion on techniques, innovations, minimally invasive approaches, surgical skill, instrumentation and technology in surgery.

We are looking forward to see you in Surabaya.

Yours Sincerely,

Relly Y Primariawan, M.D.
General Chairman, IGES

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18th APAGE Annual Congress 2017

September 7 – 9, 2017, Okayama Convention Center, Japan



Day 1: Opening Ceremony



Day 1: Convention Hall



Day 1: Welcome Reception



Day 1



Day 2: Tea Party



Day 2



Day 2: JSGOE



Day 2: Gala Dinner



Day 3: Exhibition Hall



Day 3: Closing Ceremony



Day 3: Closing Ceremony



Day 3: Closing Ceremony



Study Tour



Day 1: Welcome Banner



Day 2: JSGOE Board Meeting



Day 1: Medical Staff



Day 1: Welcome Reception



Day 2: Convention Hall

Advanced Hysteroscopy Workshop & Certification, IRCAD Taiwan

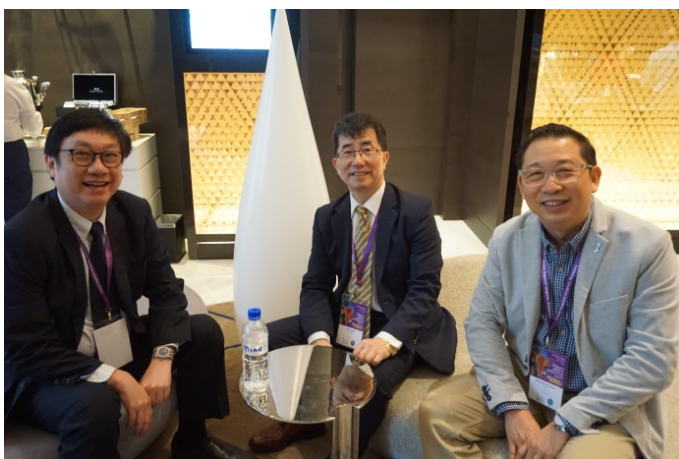
August 11 – 12, 2018, IRCAD, Changhua, Taiwan





APAGE Regional Congress, Singapore

June 28 – 30, 2018, Singapore



1st APAGE NOTES Workshop & Live Hands-On, Bangkok, Thailand

March 25 – 27, 2018, BMEC, Bangkok, Thailand

(In Alphabetical Order)

The Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy 1st



Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand on March 25-27, 2018 and I would like to congratulate APAGE and APAGE Regional Center, Bangkok, Thailand a job well done for organizing such an important event.

The three day APAGE 1st Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) Workshop program was packed with variety of interesting topics from Operating Room set-up in NOTES, female pelvic anatomy related to NOTES surgery, accessing technique into intraperitoneal: tips and pearl for colpotomy, NOTES hysterectomy for complex cases, tips and tricks for successful NOTES, also recognizing and managing complications, brought by many world-class endoscopy surgeons to share their knowledge and skills in lectures and live demo also

hands-on surgery. It was attended by endoscopist from neighboring countries. And being a part of this wonderful event was a great honor for me.

Hysterectomy is the most common gynecology procedure performed in the United States and some other countries. Surgical management remains the mainstay of treatment, although some non-surgical options are available. Currently laparoscopy is gaining significant popularity over conventional laparotomy and indicated for benign uterine lesions including uterine myoma, adenomyosis and severe abnormal uterine bleeding with failed medical treatment. Laparoscopic hysterectomy offers several advantages compared to laparotomy hysterectomy. Innovative and practical approach like Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopy Surgery (NOTES) has been developed and adapted to manage gynecologic lesions. Transvaginal NOTES combines the features of vaginal surgery and the new techniques of Laparoendoscopic single site (LESS) surgery.

I learned many new knowledge and innovative techniques from the lectures, live demo and hands-on surgery. It was a privilege to be able to see, discuss and learn directly from the Faculties from different regions who invented and have been doing such novel surgeries since years ago, as Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopy Surgery is quite new technique in endoscopy field.

I personally believe Minimally Invasive Surgery will be the future of gynecology surgery as more and more innovative techniques invented for the good of patients and patient's safety because it offers benefits over conventional surgery. I strongly recommend those who interested in Minimally Invasive Surgery to attend APAGE Annual Congress in the future activities.



It was a great chance to meet old friends and make new ones with those who share the same passion and heart in Gynecology Minimally Invasive Surgery. I would like to thank APAGE for giving me the opportunity to attend the prestigious workshop and also for the hospitality of our dear Colleagues from Bangkok Metropolitan Endoscopic Center during my short stay in Thailand.



Last but not the least, I would like to invite you to attend The 19th Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimal Invasive Therapy Annual Congress in conjunction with The 7th National Meeting of Indonesian Gynecological Endoscopy Society, November 8th-11th, 2018 in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Dr. Andry Lo

Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Pondok Indah- Puri Indah Hospital
Jakarta, Indonesia

My Experience of Participation in the 2018 APAGE 1st NOTES Workshop



I attended the NOTES workshop as a lecturer, eventually, my knowledge nourished and my experience improved. In this article, I will describe this unique event briefly.

The workshop was hand on. So, there were 9 different patients with different indications for hysterectomy prepared and consented for the event. This was enough for the 8 hands on candidates registered in this event. The event took

place in one of the best hospital in Thailand, over three days. This constitution has conference room connected to the operation room. I have to say that this room is neat and support with all facilities such as, microphone, data show, comfortable chairs and excellent connection to the operation room. Moreover, there was two prepared operation room. Provided with the needed equipment and experienced staff. The event to place over three days as the following.



The first day morning there were lectures to introduce NOTES surgery to the candidates. The lectures prepared and given by experienced tutor. These lectures include patient preparation, anatomical land marks you face during surgery, and an important trick need to master this kind of operation. After an extraordinary lunch break, there was live demonstration by the creator of this technique professor Lee cl.

On the next day, we met again in the conference room. There was a simple discussion on how we will enter the theatre and candidate distribution. In addition, the tutors answer some enquires the candidates asked. Then we moved to the operation theatre.

There were two theaters four candidates in each room. So, two operations running at the same time. In each room one candidate perform the operation with an expert tutor and the other three candidates observe. The candidates can see the operation clearly and discuss the steps with the tutors directly.



The day was separated into two sections, morning and afternoon.

After the morning section, we had our lunch and went back to theatre.

Again, two operations took place and another two candidates had the opportunity to perform.

Briefly in the second day, 4 operations performed by 4 candidates under the control of expert tutor, and 4 candidates observe the operation twice.

On the last day, we follow the previous day plan. So, there was a brief discussion about the operation done on the second day, in the conference room and we went directly to the operation room. Obviously, the remaining candidates had the opportunity to perform. All in all, the candidates observed the operation five times and did once.

It is important to mention that there was Variety of cases prepared for this event and each had its own difficulty. So, there were patients with previous caesarean section, large uterus (fibroid, adenomyosis), and patient with narrow vagina.



I have to say that Bangkok is a place worth visiting, when you visit it you will realize why it is one of the most important tourists' destinations. They have extraordinary food, amazing historical place and very kind, generous and helpfully people.

In brief, I believe that this workshop is unique, in terms of design, opportunity for the participant to perform on real patient, and the amount of exposure they had.

Dr. Ala' U'wais

Assistant Professor, Mutah University
Al-Karak, Jordan

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Reflection on 17th APAGE Annual Congress 2016

November 4 – 6, 2016, Taipei International Convention Center, Taiwan

(In Alphabetical Order)

From Jordan to Taiwan



From Jordan to Taiwan is about 8000km. Jordan this safe small country in the heart of all Middle East crisis encourages all science seekers to travel abroad bringing with them back what will definitely improve our society.

APAGE reputation has already crossed the borders to Jordan, and I was really enthusiast to come and learn what they know in the field of gynecological endoscopy, a year

after research and communication here I am a fellow in the APAGE international program at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital for almost 6 months so far.

Gratefully, my colleagues and I were encouraged by professor Chyi Long Lee to participate in the 17th APAGE annual congress. And it was not a secret that Prof. Lee gave the preparation for this conference an extraordinary effort to make it the talk of the world as a pioneer country in minimal invasive therapy.

We were impatiently waiting for the opening ceremony which was under the patronage of the president of

Taiwan. The president expressed admirable knowledge in her talk about the Gynecological Endoscopy, particularly that her speech was improvised.

In the first day, I have attended a “suturing technique workshop”, supervised by a team of best figures in the world; each one of them has his special tips and techniques to make intracorporeal suturing an art. I was taken by their expressed knowledge, technical hands-on



skills and their dedication to teach. At the end of this workshop I won the first prize in suturing technique; the prize topped made my day, not only because I won, but also because it was supervised by doctors I would like to follow their steps in the way of success.



The conference continued with rich and diverse sessions; discussing the last updates in scientific evidence and techniques of Gynecological Endoscopy. Key impressive point to all participants was the concept of NOTES surgery and how Taiwan and Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in particular are pioneers in. Halls were crowded of doctors coming from all over the world discussing and adding to the success of the conference. The daily video sessions to present a surgery or a new technique shortly

and fruitfully, which I also participated in trying to win the golden needle holder; a goal shared by all participating fellows since the beginning of the competition, which unsurprisingly was won by Dr. Hada from Japan who is a unique example of competency and efficiency in our field.

Unfortunately the concurrent sessions and activities agenda made attending all tracks impossible, nevertheless the conference provided us with impeccable knowledge.

To end with, I would like to thank Professor Chyi Long Lee for the success of this remarkable congress, and for giving us a unique chance to meet and get exposed to great people from all nationalities, networking, discussing their papers, techniques, models and plans. An opportunity that enriched us with thoughts and ideas for the future both personally and professionally to eventually take part in improving minimal invasive therapy in our country.



Dr. Lu'ay Atileh
OBGYN Specialist, Al-Bashir Hospital
Amman, Jordan

When Learning Outreach Boundaries....

Had a great opportunity to be a part of the 17th annual congress of Asia-Pacific Association for gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy (APAGE) which was held in Taiwan from 4th-6th November. Had opportunity to meet and listen to stalwarts from all corners of world. It gave an opportunity for exchanging experiences and learning from experts. Workshops were well designed and with good hands on practice.



As a trainee in MIS, big attraction for me was “Basic and advanced suturing workshop” which is really a boon for beginners to improvise suturing skills. The faculty had an impressive panel of experts Dr. Prashant Mangeshkar, Dr. Bhaskar Goolab, Dr. Tae-Joong Kim, Dr. Tomonori Hada, Dr. Hsing Kuo and Dr. Abhishek. Workshop gave us knowledge right from the roots, from holding a needle to advanced

different types of suturing. The entire faculty gave attention to our even minor mistakes, corrected them and thought us to do difficult things with ease, it made suturing very interesting. At end of workshop all the participants emerged to be better in their skills.

Young APAGE group session with Dr. Veerapol khemarangsarn, Dr. C.K. Khoo and Dr. Ichnandy Rachman indeed provides young members to present themselves on international platform. For me it was a great opportunity to present my video on “Laparoscopic Para-aortic lymph-node dissection with Lee-Huang point and peritoneal suspension technique”. This session provides knowledge of new and innovative techniques done by different surgeons. Also helps us to learn new things.



Overall three day congress was brain storming experience with different topics straight from world class endoscopy surgeons, who shared their knowledge and skills. Live demo surgeries gave us chance to see different ways of doing it. It helps us gain knowledge right from basic anatomy to advanced newest techniques, indeed watching masters in their field and having a first-hand experience boost confidence of youngster's.



My experience of being an APAGE fellow is one which cannot be described in words. The key aspect of any training program is all round development of a student. It has given me opportunity to learn from pioneers in field Prof. Chyi-Long Lee and Prof. Kuan-Gen Huang. Good thing to learn different skills and different styles of doing surgery. As our master, Prof. Kuan-Gen Huang always tells us, "See and Learn Different Ways, So You Find Your Own and Best Way of Doing It." It also gave me international platform to present myself. Apart from learning surgical skills it is helping me to have an all-round development. In all APAGE congress was great for all to come together to share experiences and learn from masters. I am glad to be an APAGE member.

Dr. Amruta Jaiswal

Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology , Lata Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Centre
Nagpur, India

Reflections of the 2016 APAGE Annual Congress

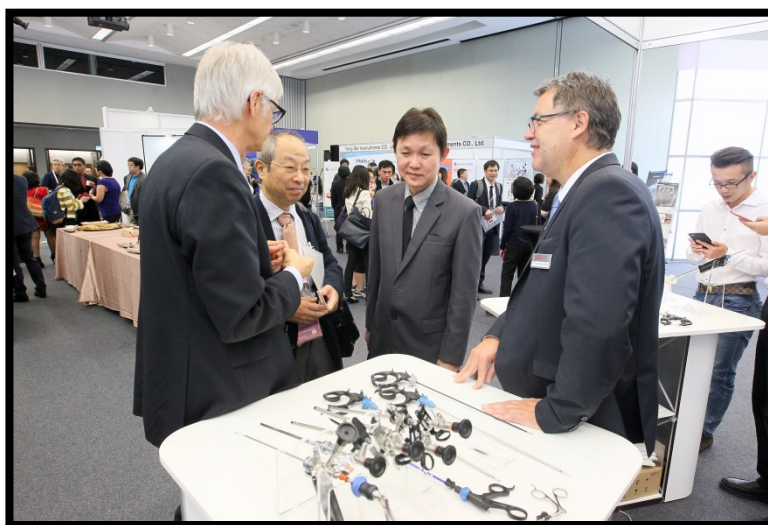
This year's annual congress was in Taipei at the Taipei International Convention centre. It took place over the first weekend of November with the pre-congress workshops on Friday the 4th of November. There was a plethora of local and international faculty who offered their expertise and skills in Hysteroscopy, tissue retrieval, NOTES and laparoscopic suturing workshops which were packed to capacity. It was a special honour for me to be an instructor for the suturing workshop and share some of the knowledge I was fortunate enough to learn during my fellowship with APAGE.



The congress was inaugurated with the eloquent speech of the President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, who spoke about Taiwan's contributions to the international medical community. This was followed by a welcome reception where we caught up with old friends and colleagues.

The next day began with an interesting keynote lecture by Mats Brannstrom who pioneered the uterine transplantation procedure. There were many halls running simultaneously and for the afternoon session I attended the YAG session which showcases work by the next generation of budding young endoscopists. After the day's academia, there was a grand gala dinner where there was a sumptuous feast of local Taiwanese delicacies.

The final day dawned and it began with three live surgeries which were broadcast simultaneously showcasing laparoscopic and robotic surgeries. Our team from Chang Gung Memorial Hospital performed two surgeries, one pioneered by Prof. Lee Chyi-long showcasing his technique of laparoscopic cerclage and the second one was a staging surgery for endometrial cancer using ICG dye with the STORZ SPIES system.



After returning back to the conference venue, the closing ceremony took place with the distribution of awards and a brief promo for next year's congress in Japan. A destination to look forward to, where I hope to see all my friends and colleagues again, a little older and hopefully a little wiser.

Dr. Abhishek Mangeshkar

Clinical Director and Specialist Consultant, Mangeshikars MAGIC Centre for Women
Mumbai, India

2016 APAGE-TAMIG Annual congress



I am very grateful to be able to participate in the 2016 APAGE-TAMIG Annual Congress in Taipei, Taiwan on November 4th to 6th, 2016. This was the best congress have attend. The three days APAGE-TAMIG Annual Congress program was packed with variety of interesting topics of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

I had a magnificent experience in the suturing workshop. All of trainers at

the workshop helped to learn and improve our skill. And the best thing, I had opportunity to share my experience and learn from one another in YAG video session.

Thank APAGE and TAMIG to organize this educational congress. I learned a lot and strongly recommended those who interested in Minimally Invasive Surgery to attend next 18th APAGE Annual Congress in Okayama, Japan.

Dr. Manatsawee Manopunya

Instructor, Gynecologic Oncology Unit, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai, Thailand



Reflection on Oncology Hands-On Workshop – Advancements in Fluorescence Imaging, 3D and Hysteroscopy

July 22 – 23, 2017, IRCAD, Changhua, Taiwan

I am Dr. Amornrat Temtanakitpaisan, a gynecologic oncologist from department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. I have a great experience participating in 2017 APAGE Oncology Hands-on Workshop—Advancements in Fluorescence Imaging, 3D and Hysteroscopy in IRCAD Taiwan workshop during I was an international fellow of MIS in Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan.



Theme of workshop was Advancements in Fluorescence Imaging, 3D and Hysteroscopy which composed with both basic and advanced techniques that will impact future Gynecologic Oncology therapy followed by discussions and hands-on animal lab. On the first day, there were the demonstrations on both diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy techniques and I had a very impressive experience for hands-on hysteroscopy techniques from a famous hysteroscopist from Italy that is Prof. Attilio Di Spiezio Sardo. On the second day, I had received a valuable knowledge regarding the most clinically relevant tips and tricks in many lecture sessions from the great endoscopists and gynecologic surgeons. More over the innovative technology of fluorescence imaging with indocyanine green was introduced and applied in the animal lab. On that day, I had the first experience for laparoscopic lymphadenectomy by myself in animal lab and it make me felt more confident to do laparoscopic lymphadenectomy in the future.



The last I would like to many thanks Prof.Lee, Associate Prof.Huang and APAGE society who gave me the opportunity to participate in 2017 APAGE Oncology Hands-on Workshop—Advancements in Fluorescence Imaging, 3D and Hysteroscopy in IRCAD Taiwan. This is a valuable experience workshop.

Dr. Amornrat Temtanakitpaisan

Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen, Thailand



Reflections on Fellowship Experience

((In Alphabetical Order))

Reflections of APAGE Fellowship

It has been a month since I returned home to Mumbai after completing the APAGE fellowship in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, that I sit down to write this article. I spent two years in that wonderful place and I must admit that parting ways was a bittersweet experience. The sweet sense of accomplishment at finishing the course, setting foot into the world of gynaecological endoscopy with a sense of purpose and accomplishment which only experience provides. I still remember the last night before I was due to fly home the next day, after all the goodbyes were said, that a sense of sadness set in; that I was leaving a place I had grown to love and call home for the past two years, leaving behind friends and mentors was like leaving family behind. I felt a strange sense of loss even though I was returning to my home, to my family, to real life. I first arrived in Taiwan in April of 2015 prepared to spend the next two years entrenched in academia. The fellows who were already there were very welcoming and made acclimatising to Taiwanese life very easy. The APAGE fellowship for minimally invasive gynaecology is one of the most comprehensive programs in the world, at one of the largest hospitals in the world, run by some of the pioneers in the field of gynaecological endoscopy. In the first few weeks, one of the first things I noticed was the dedication to perfection and true passion for teaching among the mentors. Their obvious skill was shrouded in modest humility which is a trait rarely seen nowadays.

The programme is very well designed and involves a period of observation for the first month. After that the fellows undergo rotations under different mentors thereby exposing them to a wide variety of techniques and skills as well as a vast multitude of surgeries. There is no shortage of surgeries as Chang Gung Memorial Hospital is the largest tertiary referral hospital in Taiwan and the majority of cases we grew accustomed to were advanced gynaecological endoscopy as well as gynaecologic oncology. Prof Lee and his team pioneered the technique of NOTES surgery for gynaecology and learning this technique will prove to be a useful tool in the armamentarium of APAGE fellows.

Apart from the OR learning, there were weekly meetings organized by the mentors where the fellows discussed surgical techniques while watching recorded cases of the previous weeks surgeries. Another incredible learning tool was video editing, which entailed poring over hours of surgical footage to skim it down to 5 minutes of the salient features of the case; which taught the steps of the surgery as well as the finer nuances through repetitive learning.

Although two years may seem like a long time, they flew by like a breeze. The state of constant learning and being surrounded by world class surgeons does stimulate the mind like nothing else. It may seem daunting to some, but I believe it brings out the best in people. Prof Lee and

Prof Huang and their team have an untiring drive toward excellence and to pass on the knowledge of their techniques.

The second year was where I developed a didactic teaching program for the fellows where a particular topic was assigned every month and presentations were made which stimulated fervent discussions and enhanced learning. Over the course of those two years I met many people from all over the world. Lifelong friendships were formed with many of the international fellows as well as the Taiwanese doctors. I travelled to many countries taking part in APAGE courses, from Singapore to China to Thailand as well as Malaysia. I will always consider my tenure in Taiwan as special and owe my surgical competence and confidence to my time spent there and my teachers. To the incoming fellows and the current fellows I urge you all to make the most of your time in Taiwan reassure you that you could not be in better hands. Till we meet again!

Dr. Abhishek Mangeshkar

Clinical Director and Specialist Consultant, Mangeshikars MAGIC Centre for Women
Mumbai, India

My Experience of APAGE Fellowship

I am Teerayut Temtanakitpaisan, a urogynecologist and minimally invasive subspecialist from Thailand. I am a faculty of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. I have experience in the APAGE fellowship from January 2017 to December 2017 at Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan. My mentors are Prof. Chyi-Long Lee, Assoc. Prof. KG Huang, Assist Prof. Kai-Yun Wu, Dr. Chen-Ying Huang and Dr. HH Kou. There was a lot of experience there. I learned how to do minimally invasive procedures as a simple and effective way and learn how to do advance surgery safely. New techniques were invented here such as NOTES hysterectomy. I felt impressed in this kind of procedure because it is a scarless technique and this is a new thing of mine.

There are many kinds of operations every week that makes me feel excited to learn. Every Tuesday we had a meeting in the morning with Assoc. Prof. KG Huang and every Tuesday afternoon we also had the VDO meeting and topic presentation with Prof. Chyi-Long Lee to discuss the pitfalls of the last week operation by reviewing the VDO of surgery and discussing how to do it correctly and safely on next time. This meeting stimulated brainstorming among the fellows to generate the best way to practice and learn together as Picture1 and Picture 2.



In the operating theater, we had experience as an assistant and a surgeon to do the surgery under supervision as Picture 3. This is a valuable opportunity for international minimally invasive fellows to get from our mentors and gain our experience. However, before getting in the operation, we have to keep practicing with training box for the ability and dexterity of suturing and tying skills as Picture 4.



In my opinion, this is an invaluable experience to training here, and I get a lot of techniques and knowledge

regarding minimally invasive procedures.



Dr. Teerayut Temtanakitpaisan

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APAGE Fellowship – My Experience

I have chosen the APAGE short-term fellowship as an optional internship of my fifth year of residency in gynecology and obstetrics in Portugal. A lot of people asked me why APAGE and Taiwan and my answer was very easy: I had very good references from a Portuguese doctor who had done the same few years before, and also because I like to know different cultures, ways of living and working, and Taiwan seemed to be a great option. And I was absolutely right,

it was an excellent choice! I met prestigious professors, who are world references, great physicians magnificently performing endoscopic surgery, and a spectacular group of long-term and short-term international fellows, from Thailand, India, Jordan, Myanmar and Philippines. However, the impact was not negligible. From the language, food and culture in general, to the ways of working and performing laparoscopy, each day I learned a variety of new things. The experience could not be more enriching.

I come from Hospital Pedro Hispano, in Matosinhos, near to Porto in the north of the country, and as a resident I had already some experience in laparoscopic surgery, mostly simple and benign cases, and a special interest in this area – the reason I apply for the fellowship. During these two months, every day there were many different endoscopic surgeries going on in different operating rooms. I usually started by learning more about each patient's clinical history. Afterwards watched all the procedure and often at the end we had a brief discussion about the case with the performing surgeon. I have seen numerous endoscopic procedures, including some I have not seen before, namely vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES), gynecological robotic surgeries, including single port robotic procedures, robotic staging surgeries for endometrial cancer with lymph node dissections; I learned new techniques, such as Lee-Huang point, laparoscopic/robotic ovary transposition and cervical cerclage techniques, between many others. Thus, I could watch plenty of benign cases, including urogynecology and infertility cases and also oncological cases, almost 100% of them performed by laparoscopy. All surgeons performed it amazingly well and fast, making it look easy! Chang Gung Memorial Hospital also has high quality facilities and cutting-edge technology.

Every Tuesday we also had scientific meetings, led by Professor Huang and Professor Lee, morning and afternoon, respectively. Here we discussed videos of surgeries from the previous week, presented different topics in the area of endoscopic surgery, case reports, scientific reviews and other works for publication. I also had the opportunity to do some presentations and scientific work, which we submitted for publication. It was an honor to be able to work and learn from such excellent professionals/teachers.

In addition to scientific and clinical achievements, cultural exchange was also incredibly teaching, as we could discuss many clinical and non-clinical issues about each of our countries and realities. Everybody welcomed me very well: the international group of fellows, the team of Taiwanese doctors and Taiwanese people in general. I found Taiwan and Taiwanese lovely and friendly. This internship has definitely made me scientifically and socially richer, with the bonus of a few more long-distance friends and working partners!

Dr. Joana Moreira de Barros

Medical Specialization in Gynecology and Obstetrics in ULSM, Hospital Pedro Hispano
Matosinhos, Portugal

Photo Gallery – Fellowship

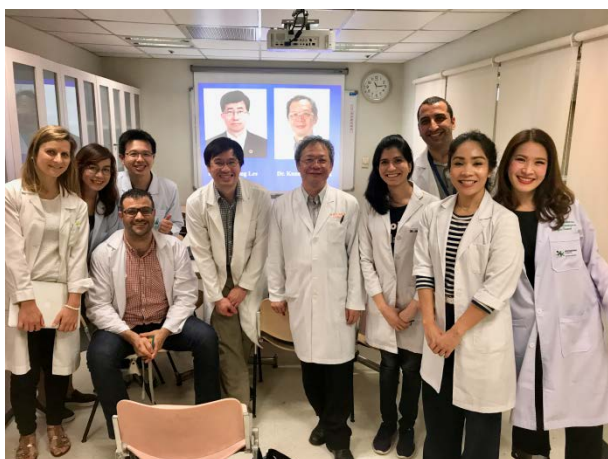


Fellows with Dr. Kuan-Gen Huang and Prof. Chyi-Long Lee

Fellows with Dr. Chen-Ying Huang, Dr. Kai-Yun Wu, Dr. Kuan-Gen Huang and Prof. Chyi-Long Lee



Fellows with Dr. Kuan-Gen Huang



Receipt of Certificates from Prof. Chyi-Long Lee

Pictures Provided by Joana Moreira de Barros (Fellow of 2017)



Young APAGE Group (YAG)

20th Annual Congress Date

Friday, September 20 – Sunday, September 22, 2019

Qualification

Doctors under the age of 40, or members who have received training in APAGE certified facilities in 5 years are welcome to participate.

Other Requirements

Official Language: English

Video Format: MP2 or MP4 – with submission of an English abstract limited to 500 words

Video Length: 5-minute maximum, including titles, video clips and English narration

Video Size: 750MB maximum

Accepted abstracts and videos will be presented in the YAG session in the upcoming 2019 APAGE Annual Congress in Chongqing, China. All videos accepted for presentation will be posted on APAGE official website (www.apagemit.com) for educational purposes.

Young APAGE Group

YAG Submission for 2019 APAGE Annual Congress

A 5-minute short video with inspirational ideas & innovative surgical techniques.

APAGE Accreditation



APAGE is proudly to present its Accreditation Program! The accreditation can be awarded to centers and individual surgeons performing and practicing minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

The purpose of the program is two-fold. Firstly, the centers and/or surgeons achieving APAGE accreditation would have demonstrated a high standard of minimally invasive surgical practice as per APAGE guidelines. These units are quality assured.

Secondly, the accreditation program focuses on teaching and training. ACMIG Centers have an established training program and the capacity to train. Surgeons seeking training in minimally invasive surgery can apply to these centers.

How to become an ACMIG Center?

1. Register by submitting an application form to apage.accreditation@gmail.com
2. Schedule an assessment date
3. Proceed to on-site inspection
4. Outcome of accreditation
5. Award of certificates at APAGE Annual Congress

How to apply for Fellow of APAGE? (Surgeon Accreditation)

1. Register by submitting an application form to apage.accreditation@gmail.com
2. Submit the required documents/video for review
3. Outcome of accreditation
4. Award of certificates at APAGE Annual Congress

If you are interested in applying for accreditation, please contact the APAGE Secretariat at apage.accreditation@gmail.com



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- NLM Style of citation
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