

WELCOME MESSAGE BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Congress Organising Committee, and the Council of the Asian Surgical Association, I bid you welcome to the 19th Asian Congress of Surgery and 1st SingHealth Surgical Congress.

The Asian Surgical Association (ASA) was set up in 1975 as the Association of Surgeons of South East Asia with the objective of establishing professional bonds and providing a medium for sharing and dissemination of surgical knowledge and expertise among surgeons of the region. It has since grown to encompass wider Asia with representation also from Australia, and became the Asian Surgical Association in 1988.

SingHealth, as the largest public healthcare provider in Singapore, has a strong tradition of caring for the nation as well as being a leading centre for training and research. The group comprises Singapore General Hospital (SGH) with her legacy of 190 years of medical care and training as the flagship hospital of the Ministry of Health Singapore, KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), and also the combined expertise of the 5 National Centres incorporating National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), National Dental Centre Singapore (NDCS), National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS), National Neuroscience Institute (NNI) and the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC).

The inaugural meeting of the ASA was in 1976 in Singapore, and it is indeed fitting that the biennial meeting returns to Singapore in 2013. SingHealth is indeed honoured to be the local host with our own 1st SingHealth Surgical Congress as a conjoint meeting.

The theme for this Congress is "Training for the Future" and emphasises the importance of how we need to prepare our surgeons in how they would provide care to our people in the coming years with advancements in technology and innovation, surgical techniques and changes in the socioeconomic and healthcare demands of our nations.

This Congress also sees a novel approach as the Organising Committee has planned the Congress around hands-on, interactive workshops so that there is seamless and integrated engagement of participants across the various topical tracks. This is possible because the Congress will be held in the new SingHealth Academia, where 3 floors of dedicated state-of-the-art skills training and education space will serve the needs for the concurrent Congress symposia and workshops.

In addition, the Congress will also cater to the needs of students and trainees, as well as surgical nurses including topics relevant for nurse clinicians as well as nurse managers, such as workshops on planning and managing the Operating Rooms, etc.

Singapore will be an even more exciting place in 2013 with new tourist attractions opening, and we look forward to welcoming you here at the conjoint 19th Asian Congress of Surgery and 1st SingHealth Surgical Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucien Ooi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor London Lucien Ooi
Congress President
19th Asian Congress of Surgery and 1st SingHealth Surgical Congress