

Asian Surgical Association



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Meeting with Professor London Lucien Ooi

MBBS (NUS), MD (NUS), FCSHK (Hon), FRCS (Edinburgh), FRCS (Glasgow)
Professor, Surgery Academic Clinical Programme, SingHealth-Duke-NUS
Professor, Oncology Academic Clinical Programme, SingHealth Duke-NUS
Professor & Associate Dean, Duke-NUS
Professor, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS
Senior Consultant Surgeon, HPB & Transplant, SGH & NCCS
Senior Clinical Advisor, Office of Innovation, Changi General Hospital



Professor Ooi is a senior member of the ASA and has served in the Council for more than 10 years. In this issue, it is our pleasure to have Prof Ooi sharing with us his visions on surgical development. More interesting, he is also telling us about his personal life...

Q: For the past 20 years, which particular aspect in the surgical advancements has impressed you the most?

Ooi: This would have been robotic surgery. It is amazing how much dexterity and stability the robot has that allows surgeons to enhance their technical capabilities. While we all know of gifted surgeons whose hands make any operation look simple, the majority of surgeons need significant training and practice to be sleek in their technical handling skills. Robotic surgery has certainly made things much easier for the majority, although the benefits to gifted surgeons is less obvious.

On the non-operative side, it would be the improvements and advances in peri-operative care that have impressed me the most as this has significantly reduced morbidity and improved outcomes in many complex surgical procedures. On a personal example, when I first started my practice in HPB surgery almost 30 years ago, major liver resections would be monitored in ICU post-op and discharged after a week. Today, simple monitoring post-operatively in high dependency ward is sufficient, followed by an average length of stay of only 3 days as the norm.

Q: How would you foresee the surgical development in the coming 10 to 20 years?

Ooi: I would envision surgery becoming more personalized, just like in precision medicine in cancer care, it is likely that the specific type of surgery would be tailored to the patient's specific requirements rather than standardized procedures for disease conditions and this may include the use of various adjuncts to aid surgical planning and mapping and also potentially including therapeutic agents in surgical procedures like implantable pharmaceuticals and radiologics especially in cancer care, or biologics like stem cells in regenerative surgery. There is likely to be increasing use of technology also, more so than now with miniaturization of instruments and devices, more advanced robotic systems potentially with artificial intelligence capabilities, and improved navigation systems and integrated radiologic imaging displays making "augmented" surgery feasible.

Q: What do you think about sub-specialisation in surgery? Good or bad?

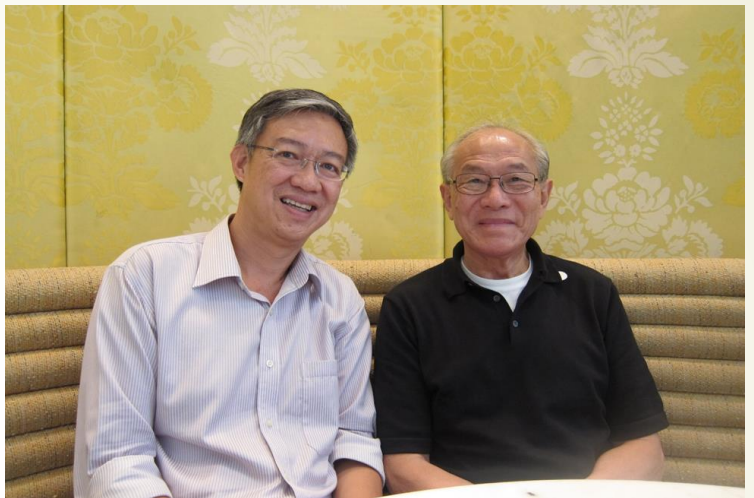
Ooi: I guess this question is somewhat dated as in many countries, sub-specialisation has replaced general surgery as the mode of practice for many surgeons. In my own personal opinion, there is a place for both. General surgery, as we have known it to be, is still important from the aspects of holistic patient care especially in acute care and trauma and also in foundation training for surgeons before sub-specialisation to develop and hone technical skills. It would be useful to have a blended model in any country where General Surgery still forms the base of practice in most hospitals and subspecialised units available in centralized fashion for tertiary referrals if needed.



ASA Council Members attending the 1st SingHealth Duke-NUS Surgical Congress and 19th Asian Congress of Surgery at Academia, Singapore when Prof Ooi was the Congress President



*Councillors at the
20th ASA Congress
in Hong Kong*



*Picture taken with
Professor John Wong*

Q: How do you define a 'successful' surgeon?

Ooi: A successful surgeon is one who is respected and loved by his/her patients, colleagues, trainees and peers, and most importantly by family. The respect and love would be testament to his devotion to his patients, peers and family – not neglecting any one of the three important components of his/her daily life.

Q: Can you tell us one of your most memorable experiences in your career as a surgeon?

Ooi: There have been so many memorable experiences it is hard to pick one but I guess it would have been the recognition by my friends in Hong Kong when I was conferred Honorary Fellowship to the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong in 2014 for advancing HPB Surgery and training in Singapore and the region, and for building close ties between surgeons in Singapore and Hong Kong through the conjoint exit examination for General Surgery between the two countries and Edinburgh.

Q: What are your expectations or visions towards the future growth of the ASA?

Ooi: In the context of increasing sub-specialisation, and the establishment of sub-specialty societies and associations, it is my hope that the ASA will find relevance to young surgeons and trainees in Asia who see the importance of a strong foundation in General Surgery as the stepping stone to their future in sub-specialty practice, and also as an association that promotes learning, training and standards through friendship and fellowship throughout Asia. It is important that senior surgeons in Asia continue to forge the friendships and links through the ASA to encourage and build the association for the benefit of our future generations.



R: Prof Ooi and his family in Maldives in 2022

L: Prof Ooi and his wife, Kathy, at the CSHK Diploma Conferment Ceremony receiving Honorary Fellowship

Q: What are your personal hobbies? How do you spend your leisure time?

Ooi: I have always loved the outdoors, in particular the sea and every opportunity I get will find myself and my family at the seaside or some island. I am glad my family enjoys the outdoors as much as I do and also keeping fit and exercising. I work out daily in the gym with weight training, swim or cycle several times a week, and whenever we can get together as a family travel to island or beach resorts around the world.

Q: How do you balance work and family life?

Ooi: I guess the key to balance in life is always time management and appropriate prioritization. There has to be allocation of time for patients and colleagues and also for family. A happy surgeon at work is likely to be a happy person at home, and vice versa. My advice to younger surgeons is to continue to drive your passion and ambition at work but not to neglect the family which would be the foundation of your person.

The 23rd Asian Congress of Surgery



Group photo during the opening ceremony

The 23rd Asian Congress of Surgery was held on 01 November 2021. The theme was "Surgery in the New Horizon". In view of travelling restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Congress was held virtually. Theme of the congress was "**Surgery in the New Horizon**" and the latest developments in different surgical subspecialties were presented.

Professor Dato' Dr. Hanafiah Bin Harunarashid, President of the Asian Surgical Association kick-started the Opening with the Opening Speech. This was followed by a Welcoming Speech by Professor Kent-Man Chu, Chairman the 23rd Asian Congress of Surgery Organizing Committee. Dr. Velda Chow, Secretary General of the Asian Surgical Association then introduced all Councilors and Past Presidents who were present virtually. After a group photo, citations for our honorary members Professor Sophia Chan and Professor Michael Hollands were delivered.



Welcoming Professor Sophia Chan

Professor Sophia Chan delivered the GB Ong Lecture - "COVID 19: The Hong Kong Success Story". This was followed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Foundation Lecture by Professor Michael Hollands, who spoke about "Innovation in Surgery".



Welcome Speech delivered by Professor Kent-Man Chu

The one-day scientific program ensued after a short break, comprising ten scientific panels conducted in two parallel sessions covering recent advances and innovations, and changes in practice during the pandemic, in upper gastrointestinal and esophageal surgery, colorectal surgery, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, liver transplantation surgery, breast surgery, vascular surgery, endocrine surgery, paediatric surgery, head and neck surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery and urology. World-renowned local and international speakers were invited to share their experience via lectures, operative videos and discussion with panelists and the virtual audience.

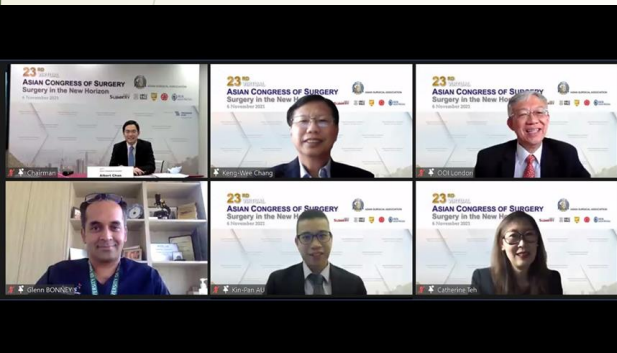
The Congress concluded with Closing Speech by Professor Dato' Dr. Hanafiah Bin Harunarashid and Professor Kent-Man Chu. The meeting was well-attended by over 1500 delegates from around the world with lots of positive feedback.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person at the upcoming 24th Asian Congress of Surgery!

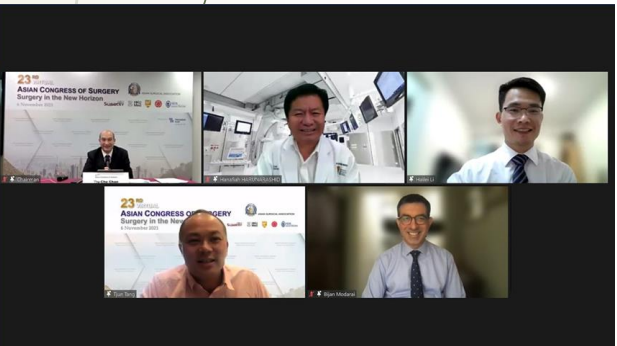
The Online Symposiums



Upper GI /Esophageal Surgery



Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery



Vascular Surgery



Paediatric Surgery



Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Colorectal Surgery



Breast Surgery



Endocrine Surgery



Head & Neck Surgery



Urology



Top cited articles in 2022

Asian Journal of Surgery 43 (2020) 880–890



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Asian Journal of Surgery

journal homepage: www.e-asianjournalsurgery.com

Review Article

Clinical, pathological, and oncologic outcomes of robotic-assisted versus laparoscopic proctectomy for rectal cancer: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled studies

Caiwen Han ^{a, d, 1}, Peijing Yan ^{d, 1}, Wutang Jing ^{a, d, *}, Meixuan Li ^{b, c}, Binbin Du ^{a, d}, Moubu Si ^{a, d}, Jia Yang ^{a, d}, Kehu Yang ^{b, c, d}, Hui Cai ^{a, d}, Tiankang Guo ^{a, b, d}

^a Department of General Surgery, Gansu Provincial Hospital, Lanzhou, 730000, PR China

^b Evidence-Based Medicine Center, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, 730000, PR China

^c School of Public Health, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, 730000, PR China

^d Institute of Clinical Research and Evidence Based Medicine, Gansu Provincial Hospital, Lanzhou, 730000, PR China

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1015958419308346>

Asian Journal of Surgery 44 (2021) 615–628



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Asian Journal of Surgery

journal homepage: www.e-asianjournalsurgery.com

Review Article

Robotic versus laparoscopic hepatectomy for malignancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Yingnan Hu ^{a, e, **}, Kaibo Guo ^a, Jingming Xu ^a, Taotao Xia ^a, Tingting Wang ^b, Nan Liu ^c, Yongqing Fu ^{a, d, *}

^a The First Clinical Medical College of Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Hangzhou, China

^b Graduate School of Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine, Nanning, China

^c School of Rehabilitation Medicine of Anhui University of Chinese Medicine, Hefei, China

^d Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Hangzhou, China

^e Jieshou Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1015958421000191?showall%3Dtrue%26via%3Dihub>

Asian Journal of Surgery 44 (2021) 2–10



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Asian Journal of Surgery

journal homepage: www.e-asianjournalsurgery.com

Review Article

Anti-reflux surgery for controlling respiratory symptoms of gastro-esophageal reflux disease: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Francisco Tustumi^{*}, Wanderley Marques Bernardo, Julio Rafael Mariano da Rocha, Sérgio Szachnowicz, Francisco Carlos Bernal da Costa Seguro, Edno Tales Bianchi, Flávio Roberto Takeda, Antonio Afonso de Miranda Neto, Rubens Antonio Aissar Sallum, Ivan Ceconello

Department of Gastroenterology, Digestive Surgery Division, University of São Paulo, Av. Dr. Eneas de Carvalho Aguiar 255, São Paulo, SP, 05403-000, Brazil

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1015958420301597?showall%3Dtrue%26via%3Dihub>



Thank you for reading

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