



APOA

ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

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## Special Message from the APOA President

2015 has been an extremely busy and exciting year for APOA and the APOA President!

It has been my privilege as your President and representative to attend many National Orthopaedic Annual Scientific Meetings in person and I been actively involved in the discussion on collaboration and future activities of APOA. These meetings include the Australian Orthopaedic Association, Malaysian Orthopaedic Association, Japan Orthopaedic Association, Turkish Orthopaedic Association, Myanmar Orthopaedic Society and EFFORT. Drs Graham Mercer, VP and David Choon, President-Elect represented the President at the SICOT meeting in Guangzhou. I have also attended the APOA Sports Injury Section meeting in Bandung in February and the combined APOA Trauma/ Infection Sections meeting in Mumbai in March 2015. During my term as your President, I have been fostering closer international collaboration between APOA and many of its member's countries.

The APOA constitution was updated in 2014 where the delinking of future President-Elect and APOA Congresses was completed. This led to the election of Prof D Choon from Malaysia as President for 2016-8, whilst the 2018 APOA Congress will be held in Antalya, Turkey. In August 2015, the APOA constitution was further amended to include a hybrid membership model, introduce the new Federation membership, where National Orthopaedic Associations may join to become a Federation member of APOA, whilst the existing APOA Chapter system remained. Many countries with strong existing Life Fellows will remain as an active Country Chapter member, whilst their National Orthopaedic Associations may wish to become, in addition, Federation members. This will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Many smaller countries and non-APOA member countries may wish to join as Federation members only, as the cost of such membership for 2016 is only US\$5 per member, with the capping US \$5000. This capping of fee does not disadvantage larger associations and supports smaller associations. In countries where there are concurrent Chapter and Federation memberships, there will also be concurrent proportional council representation.

The potential benefits of Federation membership may be grouped into three areas:

### 1) Education:

- to improve international collaboration between member countries and organisations with respect to Education, Research and Training, facilitate Fellowship and trainee exchanges, surgical attachments, attract attendance to

national and specialty meetings , speakers for Plenary Lectures and workshops etc.

- to substantially increase membership and interchange of Sub-specialty groups
- to improve awareness of all academic and clinical orthopaedic activities across the Asia Pacific region
- to improve collaboration on Orthopaedic research and educational curriculums, standards and minimum skill standards
- there is already open access to the JOS e-journal and a hard copy of JOS will be sent to the National Orthopaedic Assoc.

## 2) International Collaboration:

- to improve orthopaedic co-ordination in collaborative activities such as Disaster Planning and humanitarian work.
- To collaborate cross border sharing of information, expertise and resources

## 3) Finance:

- to increase the membership base to a consistent level that will attract increased Industry support for national and international meetings
- reduced registration fees to all APOA Meetings

I have recommended at the August Council meeting to increase the committee membership of the Federation and Congress Subcommittees to take effect immediately, as the activities of these two committees are expected to increase substantially almost immediately and in the next few years. The Council has also approved the establishment of an APOA Disaster Response Subcommittee chaired by Prof Onder Aydingoz and a new APOA Education Fund, for the purpose of consolidating all donations and money from Industry earmarked for any educational related activities.

The financial activities of the Treasurer and Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur have been closely scrutinised by the Finance Committee to ensure transparency and accountability. The Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur has been efficient and disciplined under the supervision of Dato' Sivanathan and APOA Secretary Suresh Sivanathan. However, it will probably need another year to reach functional maturity. During this time it is important not to disrupt the existing cohesive working relationship between the Secretary, members of the Secretariat and the Supervisor of the Secretariat by any changes in the current APOA Secretary and Secretariat Supervisor.

The finances of the association have remained strong with many new members recruited by Jamal Ashraf, Chairman of Membership Committee, and the staged payments of Congress fees by Australia and Turkey Chapters. It is anticipated that the Federation memberships will ensure a substantial increase in membership fee payments and a more stable income for the association. In line with the introduction of federation membership, it is expected that the Sectional activity will also increase substantially as more members of any given National Orthopaedic Association may now join the subspecialty groups. The President therefore has advised the Subspecialty Sections to consider introducing a yearly membership fee and possibly Life membership for their Sections and to abolish the existing joining fee.

There has been significant collaboration in fellowship exchange between APOA and SICOT. In 2016 there will be two travelling fellowships from SICOT to 2016 APOA Congress, as well as one travelling fellow to the Asia Pacific Spine Section. This will be reciprocated by SICOT in 2017. There will be a reduction in registration fee for members of each association to attend reciprocal meetings. The President will seek similar collaboration between APOA and EFORT in the near future.

With regret APOA mourned the loss of Dr Ian Torode in August 2015. Dr Torode has been a significant figure in both the Australian Chapter and parent APOA. Ian has travelled widely within the Asia Pacific region. He is a stalwart of the APOA, has helped and contributed extensively to teach, train and inspire many young surgeons, especially those from the developing countries. Many of those trained by him are now prominent international leaders in the field of Spine and Paediatric Orthopaedics. A great surgeon and excellent educator, Ian has always been active in advising, and recommending new and innovative ideas to the association. APOA and APPOS will miss his presence and his contribution over the years will be well remembered and continue to inspire APPOS members to further improve the society along the mission of promoting the science and art of Paediatric Orthopaedic surgery in the region. His humour, vision, guidance and dedication to Paediatric Orthopaedics and APOA are legendary. Dr Ian Torode will be honoured with Life Fellowship posthumously at the Biennial Congress in Melbourne 2016.

The 2016 APOA Congress preparation is now in earnest. Congress Chairman Dr John Bartlett has put together a world-class scientific programme, with many world-renowned surgeons speaking at the meeting. All living Past APOA Presidents have been invited to attend the Melbourne Congress to receive the Past President's medal, a gift from Australian Chapter, and a brooch for the Presidents' partner, a gift of Malaysian Chapter. All APOA Life Fellows are invited to the Melbourne Congress to receive the new Life Fellows' Certificate. There will be awards for the best paper in each APOA Section and posters, where the prize winners will be given free registration at the 2018 APOA Congress in Turkey. The inaugural Robert Bauze Trauma prize by the Trauma Section will be awarded at the Congress. There are many pre and post congress tours and exciting partners' activities. There will be APOA Young Ambassador, APOA Spine and APOA Paediatric travelling fellowships clinical activities at the Congress.

The previously announced Formula 1 grand prix has been brought forward to two weeks before the Congress. While it is disappointing with the change of dates for the grand prix, it also allows Congress attendees to stay longer after the meeting without the worry of an otherwise a much higher accommodation charges.

Finally, I expect 2016 will prove to be even more exciting and I look forward to welcome many APOA members and their colleagues and families at the Melbourne Congress.



Edward (Ted) Mah  
President, Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association

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