



# 2021 ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) NEWSLETTER



## Members of Management Committee

**Chief Delegate Australia**  
A/Prof Sue Liew

### APOA EXCO

Prof T Mah  
(Chair, Awards Com & HUL)  
A/Prof Marinis Pirpiris  
(Chair, Trauma)

### Delegates & Councillors Australia

Dr Andreas Loeffler (Federation)  
Dr Annette Holian (Federation)  
A/Prof G Mercer (Aus Chapter)  
A/Prof Sue Liew (Aus Chapter)  
Prof Ted Mah (Aus Chapter)

### Co-opted members

Dr John Bartlett  
Dr Michael Gillespie (AOA President)  
Prof Richard de Steiger  
Dr John North  
Prof Ton Tran  
Prof Bogdan Solomon  
Dr Sunil Reddy  
Dr Mike Blackney  
Dr Sam Adie  
Dr Nick Russell

### Hon Secretary

Dr Sunil Reddy

### Hon Treasure and Newsletter Editor

Prof Ted Mah

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# 21ST ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

*ORTHO 360°*

*(Hybrid of Physical and Virtual Meeting)*

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE,  
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA  
29 JULY - 31 JULY 2021



### REGISTRATION IS OPEN

To register, please scan here or visit  
[www.apoa2021malaysia.org](http://www.apoa2021malaysia.org)  
Follow us on Facebook at [apoa2021](https://www.facebook.com/apoa2021)

Deadline for Abstract Submission Extended to 28 February 2021  
Early bird Registration until 30 April 2021

### ORGANISED BY:



### SUPPORTED BY:



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**APOA (Australia)**





# PER ARDUA AD ASTRA

Through Adversity to the Stars



81st AOA ASM  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
7-11 November 2021



**AOA**  
AUSTRALIAN  
ORTHOPAEDIC  
ASSOCIATION

[www.sicot.org/budapest](http://www.sicot.org/budapest)

**Abstract  
Submission  
Opens  
Soon!**

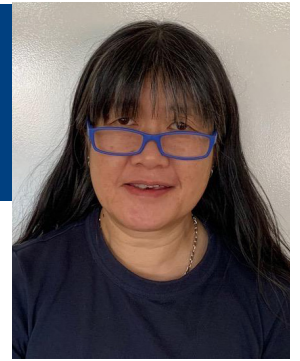


**HUNGARY  
BUDAPEST**

**41<sup>st</sup>**  
**SICOT**  
ORTHOPAEDIC  
WORLD CONGRESS  
15-18 SEPTEMBER 2021



## FROM CHIEF DELEGATE APOA (AUS)



*“I think, therefore I am” – René Descartes*

2020 has been the year where we have been forced to think about our very existence, and thinking is at the very core of the human condition. Combine this with the optimists and pessimists around the world and this is why we will eventually triumph over COVID-19! The pessimist may well predict the future more accurately; however, optimism does, in fact, increase the chances that things will turn out well. Both are needed!

The shelter-in-place rules have produced a burgeoning of online connections to both help our social animal instincts and to enable us to follow the tenet of lifelong learning. Some of the changes we have seen this year include:

- Changes to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points available for different meetings due to new Australian Government policy. This means that points are less overall, and capped as a percentage of that category, for any industry-sponsored meetings. However, the AOA is pleased to announce that all APOA meetings will remain eligible for one point per hour.

- The rapid exploration, development and usage of online platforms for continued education across all groups from medical students, to trainees, to consultants. There is no doubt that record attendances at my own hospital's clinical meetings, to state-based AOA meetings, to international APOA section meetings were made possible due to the convenience aspect that this afforded. Unfortunately, it didn't quite work for the hybrid AOA national ASM, but this has taught us valuable lessons about the meanings of different meetings, and the meaning of online fatigue...

· The disruption to our teaching and assessment processes for our trainees. At our online/virtual AGM in October, we were delighted to have the attendance of a number of overseas APOA executive members who were able to update us regarding the way that their countries rose to the challenge. Unfortunately, many countries reported disruption to their elective operating schedules, and there was general concern about the effect of this on our very hands-on skill-based profession, for which there was no easy answer. However, everyone had moved to very robust theoretical online teaching which looks like it will remain as an integral part of future programs.

We have a strong presence in the APOA with Ted Mah being the Chair of the new Hand & Upper Limb section, Marinis Phipps being Chair of the Trauma section, and Mark Blackney having just handed over the Chair of the Foot & Ankle section. There are also many other Australian stars of the APOA who continue to work tirelessly in the background to provide guidance and sage advice to keep the Australian chapter's boat afloat. I hope to work with them all and also with Michael Gillespie, the new AOA President, to promote the Australian Chapter, and take us to a new level of engagement and collaboration in the international APOA community.

*Assoc Prof S Liew*

*Chief Delegate APOA (Aus)*

*Chair, Professional Conduct & Standards, AOA*



22<sup>nd</sup> EFORT Congress

Vienna, Austria: 30 June-02 July 2021

Main theme: Sustainable Professional Practice | [#EFORT2021](#)



**APOA (Australia)**



**03**



# APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society Webinar Series



SAVE THE DATE FOR  
APOA HAND & UPPER  
LIMB WEBINAR  
SERIES

JANUARY 31 (SUN) 2021  
PM 15:00 - 17:15 KL TIME

Inquiries:  
[apoahul2020@gmail.com](mailto:apoahul2020@gmail.com)

Sponsored by **stryker**

## Arthroscopy and Sports Related Injuries in the Shoulder, Elbow & Wrist

KL TIME	TOPICS	TITLES	SPEAKERS	
15:00 – 15:05	OPENING REMARKS		EDWARD T MAH (AUSTRALIA)	
15:05 – 15:20	PERILUNATE FRACTURE DISLOCATION	AN OVERVIEW (15 min)	JEFF YAO (USA)	MARGARET FOK (HONG KONG)
15:20 – 15:35		ARTHROSCOPIC TREATMENT (15 min)	BO LIU (CHINA)	
15:35 – 15:50	Q & A (*)			Moderator
15:50 – 16:05	LATERAL EPICONDYLITIS MANAGEMENT	OPEN SURGERY (15 min)	MIN-JONG PARK (KOREA)	ERICA KHOLINNE (INDONESIA)
16:05 – 16:20		ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY (15 min)	CHOLAWISH CHANLALIT (THAILAND)	
16:20 – 16:35	Q & A (*)			Moderator
16:35 – 17:00	SHOULDER INSTABILITY	THE CONCEPT OF GLENOHUMERAL INSTABILITY (25 min)	NOBUYUKI YAMAMOTO (JAPAN)	GUO-QING CUI (CHINA)
17:00 – 17:15	Q & A (*)			
17:15 – 17:20	CLOSING REMARKS		IN-HO JEON (KOREA)	

(\*) Real time Q & A is available through chat box in Ortho TV during the meeting

# IMMEDIATE PAST CHIEF DELEGATE'S REPORT for 2020 APOA (Australia) AGM



2020 has been a very disruptive year for APOA! COVID -19 hit Australia in Jan/Feb 2020 and we all live in a different world since!

Australian chapter has continued its regular committee meetings via Zoom in accordance with social isolation rule. Indeed Zoom meetings seem to work better than the traditional telephone hook up but lacks personal touch.

There were a few changes in APOA (Aus) include the early retirement of Andrew Beischer in June to be replaced by Annette Holian; as well as early retirement of T Mah as Chief delegate at the same time to replace by Sue Liew. The new Australian councillors for 2021-2022 will be Sunil Reddy to replace T Mah and Ton Tran to replace Andreas Loeffler. The plan at this stage is that the change over will take effect during 21st APOA Congress in August 2021, on the assumption that the Congress will go ahead. We welcome Michael Gillespie replacing Andrew Ellis as AOA President; as well as Marinis Pirpiris replacing Tim Whitehead as co-opted member.

In May 2020 the APOA council formally approved APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society/ Section in May 2020. This is the newest Section of APOA. Prof T Mah chairs it and the society currently has members from over 15 countries. Please read the article on H&UL Society in this newsletter. The new society ran a very successful first webinar on 21-11-2020 with over 5240 participants, perhaps reflects the great need for education and collaboration in this area across APOA member countries.

In 2020, APOA Australia is fortunate enough to have 3 Section Chairs within its chapter: T Mah is the inaugural Chair of the APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society. M Blackney remains the Chair of APOA Foot & Ankle until November. M Pirpiris took over as Chair of APOA Trauma Section in September 2020—no mean feat! In November 2020 M Blackley retired as F&A Section Chair, to be replaced by Dr Rajiv Shah from India. M Pirpiris has provided his vision and insight regarding the APOA Trauma Section in this newsletter.

The extended APOA EXCO meeting in May 2020 was constructive but the Council meeting in May 2020 was rather disruptive because of some unpleasant behaviour of a few councillors. There was a challenge to the validity of the 2019 APOA Constitutional amendments. As a consequence, the 2019 constitutional amendments were rescinded on technical ground. Since then APOA EXCO has formed a Constitution Reform Committee chaired by Prof Rajasekaran to move forward. Australian chapter has put forward a few suggestions for the CRC to consider. Andreas Loeffler has brought his experience to the CRC as a committee member. Please read the article by Andreas reflecting his contributions to the CRC over many late nights to accommodate committee members from different time zone.

The 21st APOA Congress has been deferred until July 2021 but the 2022 APOA Congress will continue in Manila. We look forward to attend the APOA Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 2021, fingers crossed!

COVID -19 has forced many APOA Sections to run webinars to educate and to connect with their members. Our Committee members have participated in many webinars at association and at sectional levels. This includes AIOT, SICOT, AOA,

Bangladesh OA and Lebanese OA. At the Sectional level, members of the committee have been active with webinars conducted by F&A, H&UL and Trauma Sections. Regarding the issue of CME/ CPD points, the Australian Orthopaedic Association is the first organisation to formalise mutual CPD/ CME point recognition for all educational Webinars and virtual congresses between AOA and APOA. This is a big help to all members of AOA and APOA regarding CPD requirement during the period of public gathering and travel restrictions.

During the first virtual APOA (Aus) AGM in October 2020, special discussion was conducted during the AGM on matters related to the impact of COVID on association activities to cover aspects of education training and assessment. In particular attention was focused on the on the effectiveness of webinars on education, the validity and quality of training and examination without direct patient contact. Please read the article on this matter by Sue Liew in this newsletter.

The Lebanon disaster in August 2020 has triggered the APOA Disaster Committee into action again. Together with Pan Arab Ortho Assoc, SICOT and AIOT, APOA has shown leadership to provide some assistance to Beirut. A Holian has participated in a Disaster Webinar organised by SICOT. We have invited leaders from the above associations to openly discuss possible collaboration on Disaster relief between APOA, SICOT and AIOT. Please follow the article on this topic in this newsletter by A Hollian.

APOA (Aus) is proud to have our past and present committee members publicly recognised by the Australian government in 2020 for their contributions to the Australian community. John Batten and John Bartlett were both awarded AM for their contributions to Orthopaedics; while T Mah was awarded PSM for his service in public health in SA.

We look forward to 2021 as a better year to allow APOA members to socialise and to meet face to face to reconnect. No doubt COVID will continue to remind us the importance to keep social distancing. Similarly APOA and its Sections will likely to conduct future meetings in a combined virtual and face-face format.

A reminder that APOA will be guest nation at the 2021 EFORT Congress in Vienna 30th June – 2nd July 2020. This is just ahead of the rescheduled 2021 APOA Congress in Kuala Lumpur in late July 2021. No doubt many APOA members will take this opportunity to escape the lock down to visit wonderful Austria and Malaysia, again fingers crossed!

I have completed my term as Chief Delegate APOA Australia and handed over to Sue Liew, a very capable and highly respected colleague. I would like to thank all members of the Executive and management team for their unfettered support over the past years.

**Prof Ted Mah**  
**Immediate Past Chief Delegate APOA (Aus)**  
**Chair, Awards & Nomination Committee**  
**Inaugural Chair, APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society**  
**Past President, APOA**



# PHOTO GALLERY



ALOT webinar on Disaster Management



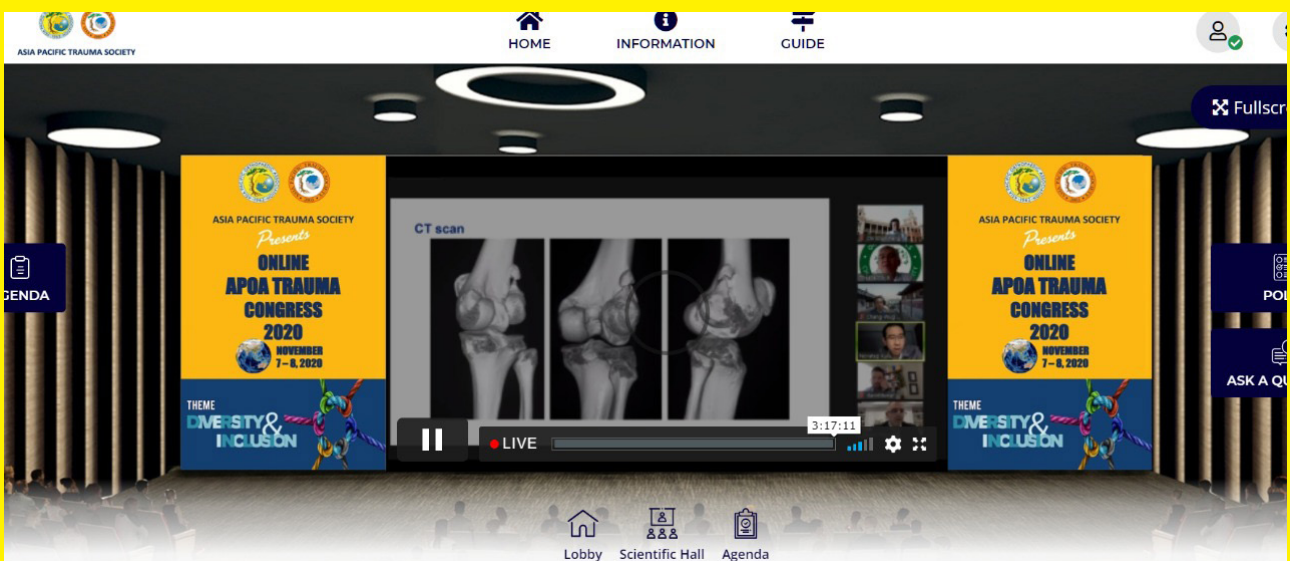
J Batten received AM



APEC Meeting 2020



JOS Editorial Board Zoom meeting 2020



Online APOA Trauma Congress 2020

## AOA - APOA ENGAGEMENT – STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP



AOA has traditionally had strong collegiate connections with the corresponding Associations in Britain, USA, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. These links have been nurtured over many generations, and remain strong, despite recent travel restrictions severely constraining opportunities for face-to-face meetings.

However, it is a cause of concern (and some regret) that the visibility of APOA within the wider AOA membership remains much lower than it (APOA) deserves.

In preparing this paper, I was greatly surprised to learn that APOA is the world's largest orthopaedic federation, with greater than 60,000 members. Unsurprisingly, it is a body that is both multilingual, and multicultural.

AOA is a founding Federation Member of APOA. The nature of the relationship means that every AOA member is effectively a member of APOA with access to wonderful opportunities in the fields of Fellowships and fellowship exchanges, teaching, training and education.

Philanthropic/humanitarian contributions are also possible, though for AOA, much of this work has been undertaken by Outreach, AOA's humanitarian arm.

It remains an ongoing issue for AOA to raise awareness amongst its members of the many opportunities available via the APOA connection.

AOA needs to encourage its members to look beyond the usual UK/US – centric horizon and sample what is on offer in Europe via the APOA-EFORT connection, and in countries like India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia to name but some APOA members who can offer training and exposure to conditions seldom seen here in Australia.

APOA and its many opportunities remain an untapped resource for AOA members – indeed it is a veritable “sleeping giant”, whose growth AOA should support and assist where it can.

Possibilities in this area include greater promotion of APOA to our trainees and younger, recently graduated members, for whom short visits/fellowships may be attractive; better visibility and click-through access to APOA on AOA's website; promotion of travel (when it is feasible to do so), and time zone-friendly enrolment in APOA webinars.

To that end, AOA's relationship with APOA will be included in our upcoming strategic review, scheduled for early 2021.

Our two organisations share members, aims and ideals in common, and I undertake to bring the relationship under close scrutiny and attention in 2021 and beyond.

*Mr Michael Gillespie*  
*AOA President*

**SAVE the DATE**

**2nd International Scientific Meeting of the APOA Young Surgeon's Forum**

Organised by  
APOA YSF – India Chapter

**THEME  
MOVING FORWARD  
TOGETHER**

**MARCH 13 - 14, 2021**

For details visit  
[www.apoaonline.com](http://www.apoaonline.com)

# Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) - My Perspective



In order to stay relevant, an organisation needs to review its own rules from time to time.

Internal or external factors may precipitate the need to do so. 2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least. The inability to hold meetings in person was one challenge faced by many institutions, which had no provisions for virtual meetings. That, as well as questions raised by the specialty societies, in particular the APSS, necessitated a review of our constitution. Thus, the executive of APOA decided to form a committee, the Constitution Review committee (CRC).

The widely known and respected Professor Rajasekaran, who is also the incoming president of APSS, agreed to chair the CRC. Members were chosen from a wide range of countries: the chair from India, Professor Doral, the current president of APOA from Turkey, Professor Kokubun, the incoming president of APOA from Japan, Arif Khan from Pakistan, Syed Alsagoff from Malaysia, David Fang from Hong Kong, and lastly me from Australia.

The task of the CRC was to review the entire constitution and to bring it up to date. Teleconferences and virtual meetings are now a reality. Our membership categories needed to be reviewed. Electronic voting is now common, and our election process needs to reflect modern technology. We looked at the composition of the executive committee and suggested changes to broaden representation of member countries. We also addressed specific issues, which had been raised by the specialty sections.

The CRC met via Zoom. We had 12 meetings in all. In order to accommodate time zones ranging from Turkey in the West to Japan in the north and Australia in the East we agreed to meet at midnight Sydney time. The

meetings were cordial and efficient. The CRC was supported by the staff at HQ in Kuala Lumpur and by Jamal Ashraf, the Secretary General, who resides in India. He has an amazing corporate memory and a detailed understanding of APOA.

The Internet allowed us to share documents instantly. Zoom was an excellent platform for discussion, for word smithing, and to review draft suggestions made by each of us. It was at times amusing to hear surgeons argue legalese; should we use the words 'shall' or 'will', and should we use 'objects' or 'objectives' to describe the aims of the association? We also discussed philosophical questions, whether APOA should be an association exclusively for orthopaedic surgeons, or whether we should accept surgeons from other specialties, physicians, and allied health practitioners to promote better outcomes for our patients.

The members of the CRC got to know and respect each other. It is worth noting that we had frank discussions and argued over many points. However, we also managed to make decisions by consensus and all changes proposed by the committee were ultimately supported unanimously. A curious little fact, which we discovered to our amusement, was that English is the second language for all of us.

As part of an open process the specialty societies were asked to comment on the proposed changes. We had a combined Zoom meeting with representatives of the interested societies. Consensus was achieved. The amended version of the constitution will be presented to the Council, who needs to approve all changes. We hope to finalise the new constitution early next year. We must also accept that the constitution is dynamic and will need to be changed again at some future date.

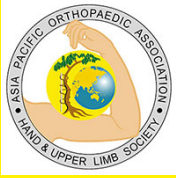
It has been a privilege to participate and serve on the CRC. Zoom has allowed the members of the committee to meet weekly in an informal way. We got to know each other, and I look forward to meeting my fellow CRC members in person whenever we next can.

*Mr Andreas Loeffler  
Councillor, APOA(Aus)  
Past President, AOA*



T Mah received PSM





# APOA HAND & UPPER LIMB SOCIETY

APOA Hand & upper Limb Society was founded on 31-5-2020 during the difficult COVID lock down across the world. With the approval of the Council, it became the latest Section of the APOA, now ten sections all up.

The Hand Section was indeed first formed in 1982 during the WPOA era but it later left APOA to become the Asia Pacific Hand Society. One major reason was that members of the Hand Section needed more meetings but WPOA could only hold Triennial meetings at that time. Nonetheless, the hidden wish of Hand Section reincarnation has remained in the heart of many WPOA and later APOA fellows. Indeed Dato Sivanathan, APOA President 2001-3, urged me to revive the APOA Hand Section during his presidency but I could not oblige knowing the issue of the Triennial meeting remained a



stumbling block, and that APOA membership remained low.

Far forward to 2020, APOA is now a federation and has 24 member countries with over 60,000 members. Hand & upper limb surgery is now a major part of the orthopaedic activities in most member countries. I considered it is timely to promote the concept of the Hand & Upper Limb Society. Not surprisingly, many countries warmly embraced this initiative. Indeed foundation members of the newly formed Hand & Upper Limb Society comprised members from 15 APOA member countries.

The purpose of the new society is not to compete with existing Hand, Elbow or Shoulder Societies; but to work collaboratively with them in promoting education, fellowships and research, especially to engage the younger trainees and surgeons in the AP region. The Society consists of a diverse team of EXCO with members from Australia, HK, Indonesia, Korea and Thailand; as well as Education subcommittee members from Japan.

H&UL Section completed the first webinar on 21-11-2020. It has over 5250 participants where the program and content were well received. It was broadcast over Ortho TV, YouTube, Facebook and Twister. Each H&UL webinar will have 3 components: shoulder, elbow and hand. The next webinar is scheduled for Jan 31st 2021. We look forward to your participation in these webinars, either as audients, speakers or moderators; and to consider joining the Society with only once off membership fee. Please email: tedmah@hotmail.com or jeonchoi@gmail.com for further information.

*Prof Edward (Ted) Mah  
Inaugural President  
APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society*

**The First**  
**APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society Webinar**

**Management of Common and Complex Fracture in the Shoulder, Elbow & Wrist**

November 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday 2020, 8.30-10.00 PM KL time

Edward T Mah (Australia)  
President, APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society  
Welcome and Introduction

Iman Aminata (Indonesia)  
Ashish Babhulkar (India)  
Myungsun Kim (Korea)  
Takuro Wada (Japan)  
Shawn O'Driscoll (USA)  
Esther Chow (Hong Kong)  
Jeff Ecker (Australia)  
Margaret Fok (Hong Kong)

Proximal Humerus Fracture: Fixation VS Arthroplasty

Principles of Management of Distal Humerus Fracture - Simple to Complex

Controversies in Undisplaced Scaphoid Fracture Management

# REPORT ON 2020 FOOT & ANKLE SECTION ACTIVITIES



Foot and ankle surgery as a subspecialty of Orthopaedics has been a recent development. There have always been surgeons who had a keen interest in foot and ankle surgery but the development of techniques and advanced technologies really took off in the late 1990s and early 2000's. Since then we have seen a rapid development in the understanding and treatment of the various pathologies around the foot and ankle. Initially it was the understanding of biomechanics which drove the development. Then the development of specific internal fixation devices grew which made the correction of many more problems possible. Over time arthroscopic techniques improved allowing treatment of intra-articular diseases to be advanced. Eventually arthrodesis became possible with arthroscopy. Now there is a proliferation of minimally invasive surgical techniques. This borrows some of the instrumentation used in dentistry and is adapted to the foot and ankle. This has allowed for the correction of bone deformities in a much safer manner. Many of the

wound and pain problems seen previously have started to fade away.

With this in mind the Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association decided to start their foot and ankle group in 2016. This was formed at the 19th biennial Congress in Melbourne. There had been a growing interest for some years and there was now a significant number of pure foot and ankle specialists in the Asia-Pacific region. I was greatly honoured to be chosen as the inaugural chairman of this section. Having commenced foot and ankle practice in 1999 I had been a sub specialist in foot and ankle surgery for over 16 years. I had previously had quite a bit of contact with my specialty throughout Asia. I had been on a number of lectures and conference visits to Singapore and Malaysia. I had been running a fellowship for a number of years and was involved in training surgeons from the region. The first fellowship trained foot and ankle surgeons in both Singapore and Malaysia were trained through this Fellowship in Melbourne. I was also greatly pleased that two of my previous fellows were asked to be part of the foot and ankle committee for the APOA.

The initial group consisted of members from many countries. The inaugural vice-chairman was Dr Rajiv Shah from India. Dr. Shah has recently taken over as chairman after the four years of my term has finished. The secretary was Dr. Yeok Pin Chua from Malaysia. The other members of the committee consisted of Dr. KB Lee from South Korea, Dr Gow Thevendran from Singapore, Dr. Nurettin Heybeli from Turkey, Dr. Kumar Shantanu from India, Dr Satori Ozeki from Japan, Dr Arvind Puri from Australia, Dr. Andri Primadhi from Indonesia and Dr. Mohd Asni from Malaysia. So a true international group of doctors was formed to develop the foot and ankle section.

Of course the section was created before the advent of zoom meetings so initially communication was via email and eventually a WhatsApp group was created as well. Many of the committee attended a specialty course in Guangu, South Korea in late 2016 where one of the first committee meetings was held. We discussed the goals of the foot and ankle section. It was clear that throughout the Asia and Pacific region most of the foot and ankle surgery was a trauma type so our teaching would be for junior surgeons and trainees as well as general orthopaedic surgeons rather than discussing cutting edge treatment options for a small group of specialists.

In 2017 we held our first training course in Kuala Lumpur

## APOA & APOA Foot & Ankle Section

Presents

**3rd Interactive**  
**FOOT & ANKLE**  
**LIVE WEBINAR**



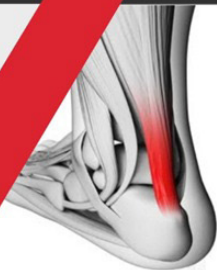
### The APOA Foot and Ankle Section Achilles Tendon Problems

**01 August**  
**SATURDAY**  
**5:00-7:00 PM (IST)**



Register

**ORTHOTV**  
www.orthotvonline.com



### SPEAKERS



**Dr. Marj Blakeney**  
Chairman, Foot & Ankle, APOA



**Dr. Paulo Ferrao**  
TA Achilles Injuries



**Dr. Terence Chin**  
Conservative Management



**Dr. Vinod Panchbhavi**  
Chronic Achilles Injuries



**Dr. Rajiv Shah**  
Tendon Transfer for TA



**Dr. Chua Yeok Pin**  
TA Insertional Tendinopathy



**Dr. K Shantanu Anand**  
Non Insertional Tendinopathy



**Dr. Chayanin Anghong**  
Technique and Indication for TA/ Gastroc Length

Streaming Live on [www.orthotvonline.com](http://www.orthotvonline.com)

3rd F&A Webinar



Malaysia at the Sunway University. This was well attended and the course contained a practical and theoretical training. Many of the committee members were part of the faculty. Also in 2017 our section was invited to provide the foot and ankle content for the SICOT meeting in Capetown, South Africa. This was a great privilege and an excellent meeting. During this time we also got to know many of our South African foot and ankle specialty colleagues.

The next major event was the 20th APOA Congress in Antalya, Turkey in 2018. This provided a great opportunity for new members to see what the foot and ankle section could offer. A full day of instructional course lectures and presentations was provided. Representatives from over 20 countries attended. A further committee meeting was held and plans were made for our first combined Congress with the trauma section in 2019. After this meeting we also increased the size of our committee adding Dr. Sui K Ming from Hong Kong and Dr. Chayanin Anthonng from Thailand.

The first foot and ankle/trauma Congress was held in 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Around 400 surgeons registered. Many of these were trauma and general surgeons. The focus of the foot and ankle instructional lectures here was trauma and we were very glad that we had to increase the size of the lecture room to hold the number of attendees who were interested in learning from our expertise. Once again we had registrations from over 25 countries. This meeting also started the movement towards virtual attendance as some of the lectures were streamed online.

2020 has been a year like no other in memory and many things have been affected including the APOA Congress which was due to be held in Malaysia. After the 2019 F&A Congress our committee felt that it was important to start some online education. We had planned to hold a videoconference from a location in Malaysia in late February 2020. However due to the COVID pandemic this was cancelled. But our desire to develop this platform continued and in July 2020 we held our first zoom webinar.

As I write this it seems very normal to be doing zoom

conferences, calls and webinars. I have a few times this year been sitting in my study in the middle of the night lecturing to thousands of people. A quite surreal experience. But at the time it was a brave new world that we were not certain would be taken up or viewed. We were not even that sure about the technology. Our first webinar topic was Ankle Fractures. This ran for two hours and involved instructional lectures as well as case discussions by an esteemed panel. Our first webinar was advertised through the APOA and had an audience of 200. We were sufficiently happy with the outcome and decided to continue.



F&A Society members



MB instructing



APOA EXCO meeting in HK 2019



In August 2020 we held our second webinar. This time we decided to use a different technology to trial alternatives. We used a webex webinar system that was supported by the Sunway University in Malaysia. Dr. Chua was our host. This time the topic was Achilles tendon problems. We had steamed speakers from five different countries. The format was the same with instructional lectures and case studies. It was very useful to be able to interact with the audience who could ask questions that would be directed to the speakers. This time the audience increased and we had over 800 attendees.

Our most recent webinar was held in September 2020. This was run out of India via the Ortho TV system. Dr. Kumar Shantanu was the host and the topic was Difficult foot and ankle diagnoses not to be missed. This time the audience increased further with over 2000 people watching online via YouTube, Facebook or the conference website. The thought of being able to reach so many people for educational purposes this way is very exciting for the future. So out of the very serious and sombre events of 2020 there have been some growth shoots arise for future benefits.

Now our foot and ankle committee meetings are held via zoom. The APOA has provided an account where we are able to login for relevant meetings. This has also been the case for the executive Council meetings as well which has made attendance much greater. At our last meeting we held a transition where the new chairman and committee was created. As mentioned before Dr Rajiv Shah is now the chairman of the foot and ankle section for the next two years.

The future of the foot and ankle section is very bright. Our membership is increasing and the specialty is growing rapidly. The next event planned by the group is a two-day online Basic foot and ankle course. This will be held in March 2021, which will involve instructional lectures and training in history, examination and radiology. We expect a very large registration as this will be open to students, trainees as well as surgeons. Later in the year we have the delayed 2020 APOA Congress, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in July 2021.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be involved in the Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association. In Australia we have traditionally looked more towards Europe and America for contact and education. But we are really an Asian country and I have welcomed the many new friends and colleagues that I have met during my time as chairman. As well as foot and ankle surgeons I have enjoyed meeting and becoming friends with my colleagues on the executive Council. The APOA now has over 60,000 members via direct or Federation membership. This makes it one of the largest orthopaedic organisations worldwide. The challenge for that future is to enhance our connection to these members and bring together the many countries and cultures that

make up this organisation. Through my short time I have seen much of this growth happening and it has been very exciting. I will continue to be involved and look forward to developing friendships in the APOA's both old and new.

**Mr Mark C. Blackney**  
*Inaugural Chairman, APOA Foot & Ankle Section*

## PHOTO GALLERY



Relief aids from Parkistan to Lebanon



Relief aids from Turkey to Lebanon



Turkish Disaster relief team to Lebanon