



2023 ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) NEWSLETTER



Members of Management Committee

Chief Delegate Australia
A/Prof Sue Liew

APOA Executives

Dr Annette Holian (Chair of Disaster)
Dr Mark Blackney (M-A-L)
Dr Anup Puri (President F&A)

Executives & Councillors Australia

A/Prof Chris Morrey (Federation)
Prof Ton Tran (Federation)
A/Prof Marinis Pirpiris (Aus Chapter)
A/Prof Sue Liew (Aus Chapter)
Dr Sunil Reddy (Aus Chapter)

Co-opted members

Prof Richard de Steiger
A/Prof John North
Prof Bogdan Solomon
Dr Andreas Loeffler
Dr Sam Adie
Dr Nick Russell
Dr Tanya Burgess
Dr Arvin Jain
Prof Zsolt Balogh

Hon Secretary

Dr Sunil Reddy

Hon Treasure & Newsletter Editor

Prof Ted Mah

Secretariat:

53 Gover Street
North Adelaide SA 5006

Ph: 61 8 8361 9888

Fax: 61 8 7006 0288

Email: tedmah88@yahoo.com

HISTORY OF THE APOA AUSTRALIA

2022 is a milestone year for APOA Australian Chapter as it is the 40th anniversary of the historic 1982 7th Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association (WPOA) Congress in Perth when Ellis Griffith became the first Australian WPOA President. Luminaries who helped raise the Australian profile at that meeting included Ron Huckstep, Bob Bauze, Ian Dickenson, Bill Cumming, and others.

This meeting was 18 years after Australia first became a Chapter of the WPOA in 1962 due to the tireless work of George Bedbrook.

Fast forward to 2000 and under the incredible foresight of Bob Bauze, in April 2000, Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) was born and replaced WPOA. Bob had watched the increasing expansions of Orthopaedic Societies in the Asian region along with the increasing specialisation of Orthopaedic practices occurring in Australia and realised the opportunity to expand fellowship and knowledge sharing.

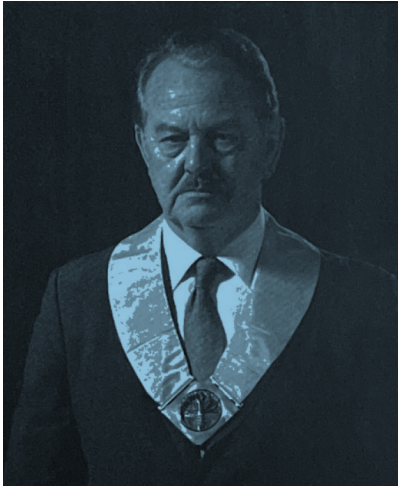
In that year Bob oversaw the admission of five new country chapters - China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey; hence the need to change the name from Western Pacific to Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association.

Hence 2022 is a double milestone as it marks the 21st anniversary of the historic 1st APOA congress in Adelaide (2000) which was organised by Bob Bauze, Jegan Krishnan, David Davison, Stephen Graves and Ted Mah.

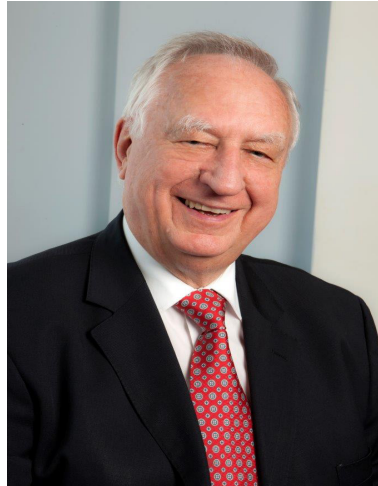
P1 - 11	History of the APOA Australia
P12 - 13	The Crossroads of Life
P14 - 16	Message from the APOA President
P17	Chief Delegate's Report
P18 - 19	My Reflection on 2022 APOA Activities
P20	Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery (Jos) Update
P21 - 22	APOA - Asia Pacific Trauma Society Report 2021/2022
P22	My Experience on the APOA Management Committee
P23	APOA WAVES: Inaugural APOA Congress report 2022



HISTORY OF THE APOA AUSTRALIA



**1st Australian WPOA President
Ellis Griffith**



**2nd Australian APOA President
Robert (Bob) Bauze**



**3rd Australian APOA President
Edward (Ted) Mah**



Professor Ronald L. Huckstep, Honorary Fellow of the WPOA, welcoming delegates to the 7th Congress. With him on stage is Sir George M. Bedbrook, the Chairman of the organizing committee and master of ceremony.

At that meeting the seed was sown by Ted Mah for the APOA Young Ambassadors Program and subsequently formalised under APOA Presidents Bob Bauze and KS Sivanathan. This has been a crucial and critical strategy that has supported the recruitment of “young blood”, encouraging many member countries to send/sponsor one or more young ambassadors to every APOA congress. It continues to thrive today.

In 2003-4 the APOA Australian Chapter came of age under the stewardship of chief delegate David McNichol who oversaw the implementation of the Australian Chapter constitution and its incorporation. Ted Mah successfully obtained tax exempt status for APOA(Aus Chapter) shortly after, an official confirmation of the educational and charitable status for the association.

In 2007, with John Barlett as the Aus Chapter Chief Delegate, ties were strengthened with the Australian Orthopaedic Association. Ian Torode and John Bartlett became instrumental in the formation of the Asia Pacific Committee as a recognised sub-committee of the AOA. Darryl Teague, Graham Mercer and Ted Mah were instrumental in expanding the AOA involvement in Fellowship exchange with Indian OA, ASEAN OA and Turkish OA. In 2010,



Council members at 7th WPOS Congress 1982



WPOA/APOA Management Committee (1998-2001)



Australian delegates with Australian young ambassadors at 2005 APOA Congress KL

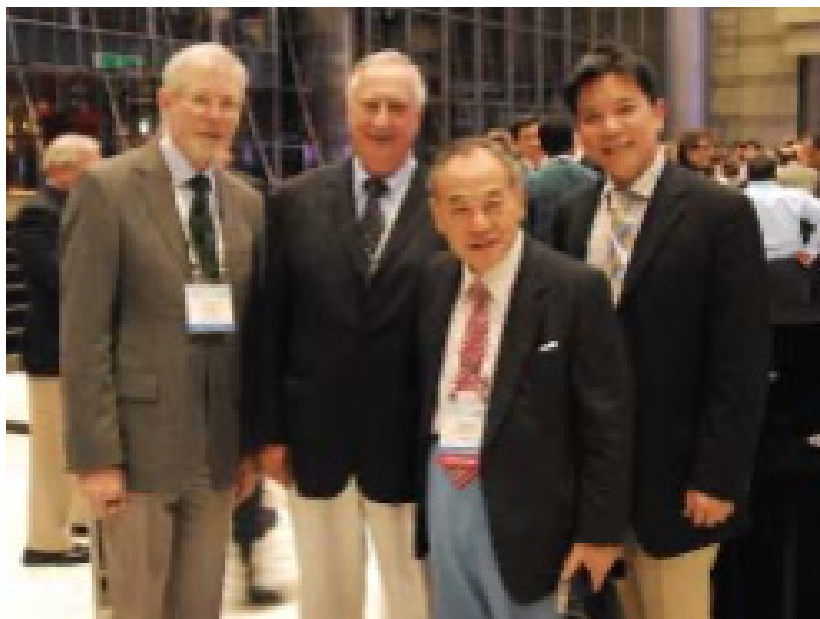




Aus delegates singing Waltzing Matilda at 2007 Korean Congress



Australian delegation at 2007 APOA Congress in Korea



John North, Robert (Bob) Bauze, Tomihisa Koshino and Edward (Ted) Mah at Korean Congress



ASEAN & AOA Travelling Fellows 2011 where Sue Liew and Prue Keith represented Australia



Young ambassadors receiving certificates at Golden Jubilee Congress, India 2012



2014 Thailand Congress partners' program



2014 APOA Young Ambassadors

David McNichol became the 2nd VP of the APOA, and Eugene Sherry became the Chair of the MSK infection section of the APOA.

From 2010 to 2020, Ted Mah followed his term as Aus Chapter Chief Delegate to become the APOA President in 2014-6, the third Australian President in the history of W/APOA.

At 19th APOA Congress in Melbourne under the stewardship of President Ted Mah, APOA became a Federation in 2016, a momentous event in the history of W/APOA. Aided and abetted by past Presidents of the AOA, David McNicol, John North and Graham Mercer (as VP for APOA), as well as past APOA Presidents Taqi Raza and Bob Bauze; the APOA federation model oversaw a massive increase in the



Asia Pacific Paediatric Ortho Society (APPOS) council members with the late Ian Torode 2015



APOA Gallipoli Centenary visit, Istanbul 2015



Visiting Presidents to AOA ASM Brisbane 2015

membership and relevance on the world stage. Within three years, APOA expanded the membership from 19 to 24 countries: and from humble beginnings of 3500 to over 20 000 members overnight. Current APOA members now include over 60,000 orthopaedic surgeons in 26 countries. APOA (Australia) consists of chapter members (Life fellows of APOA) and Federation members (AOA members). This is the second momentous shift in the core ideology of APOA where national Orthopaedic associations can be a federation member in addition to Chapter

membership. The first monumental change was from Western Pacific OA to Asia Pacific OA under the leadership of Bob Bauze. Hence, two Australian APOA Presidents have successfully changed the face, philosophy, and activities of APOA forever. They achieved that by quietly promoting the Australian spirits of Engagement, Collaboration, Inclusion, and Camaraderie.

President Ted Mah has also reached out to other international orthopaedic associations and formalised



APOA(Aus) Gallipoli Centenary visit 2015

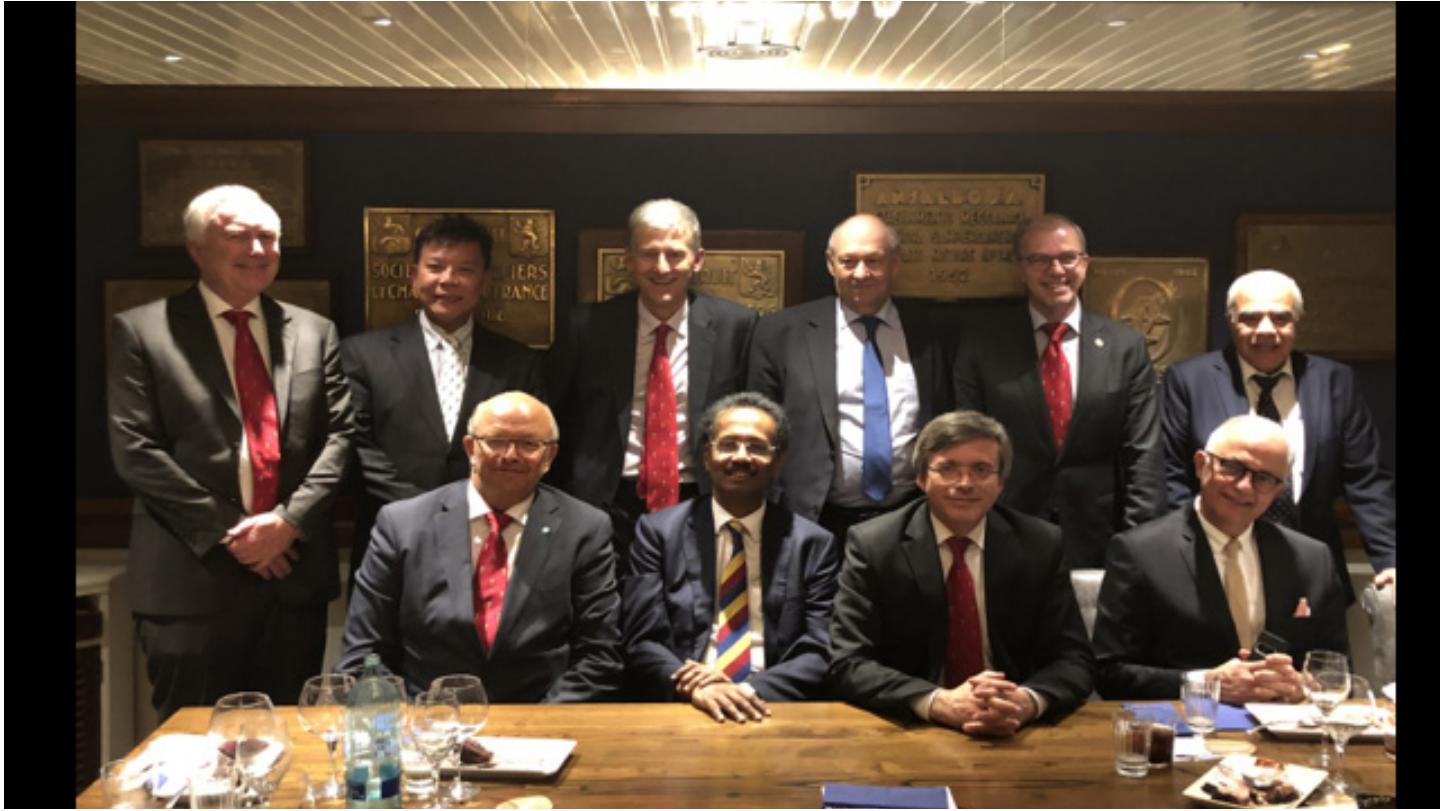


2016 MOU between
 APOA
 &
 SICOT
 PAOA
 EFORT
 AO Alliance



MOU between APOA and other associations





Foundation members of AIOT



Partners are the REAL Foundation members supporting AIOT



Presidents of AOA (A Loeffler) ,
APOA (T Mah) , NZOA (J C Theis)
and APOA Congress Presidents
(J Bartlett) at 19th APOA
Congress 2016



D McNicol, J Zhang, T Mah, I & O
Aydingoz at 2016 Congress



D McNicol and G Mercer been honoured for their services to APOA(Aus) 2017





APOA Young ambassadors' hospital visit at Antalya during Turkey Congress (2018)



APOA members in Oman desert post at SICOT Meeting 2019-a



APOA members in Oman desert post at SICOT Meeting 2019-b

collaboration with four other international orthopaedic organisation to form an international alliance – Alliance of International Organisations of Orthopaedic and Traumatology (AIOT). AIOT consists of APOA,

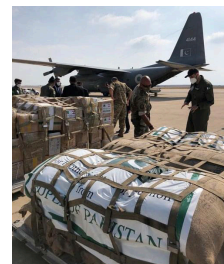
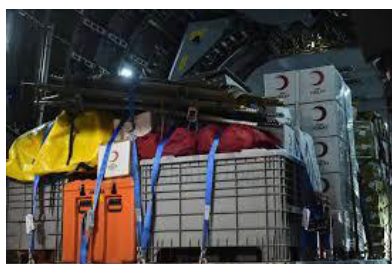
EFORT, PAOA and SICOT. The purpose of AIOT is to ensure collaborations on the global scale to deal with national and international matters related to orthopaedics that has a global impact.

Global extension of APOA Engagement

AIOT

Alliance of International Organisations of Orthopaedics & Traumatology

				
APOA	EFORT	PAOA	SICOT	SLAOT
Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ORTHOPAEDICS & TRAUMATOLOGY	PAN ARAB ORTHOPE DIC ASSOCIATIO N	SOCIETE INTERNATIONAL DE CHIRURGIE ORTHOPEDIQUE ET DE TRAUMATOLOGIE	SOCIEDAD LATINOAMERICANA DE ORTOPEDIA Y TRAUMATOLOGIA



APOA Disaster relief effort to Lebanon following Beirut explosion (2020) from Pakistan and Turkey APOA members

In 2021, the Australian Chapter continued to provide advocacy for the betterment of the APOA and was instrumental in the formation of the Hand and Upper Limb and the WAVE Sections; with Ted Mah, and Tanya Burgess, being the respective inaugural Chairs.

To continue the theme, we also have Marinis Phipps as the immediate past Chair of the Trauma section who will be the Congress Chair for 2025 APOA Congress in Cairns; Annette Holian as the Chair of the APOA Disaster committee, and not to forget, Mark Blackney as the immediate past Chair of the Foot and Ankle section and current Member At Large.

APOA(Aus) has a very cohesive team of committed committee members who have worked hard to

continue to engage orthopaedic trainees and surgeons within Asia Pacific and beyond, as well as providing leadership support to APOA and Australian Orthopaedic Association.

In summary we are lucky to have such dedicated individuals in Australia contributing so much to the international orthopaedic community. No doubt – this is the Australian way!

Sue Liew
Chief Delegate, APOA(Aus)

Ted Mah
Hon Treasurer APOA(Aus)
Inaugural President,
APOA H&UL Society
Past president, APOA



THE CROSSROADS OF LIFE



The bus pulled up to the village and out poured the horde of tourists wrapped up in warm clothes with camera slung by their necks.

The morning air was bitterly cold with the fog hanging low and barely disturbed by the light breeze.

They had come from far away to see the beautiful, tiered rice terraces that the northern mountain range of Vietnam is known for.

A four-year-old sat alone on the cold muddy ground as his friends ran innocently around the group of strange looking humans meandering up the main street. One of his feet was bound up in a broken dirty plaster cast. The other one was severely deformed.

Both his parents had abandoned him into the care of his elderly grandmother. He dragged himself on the ground to get around and was piggybacked by his friend daily to school.

Like a curiosity, he had been offered up to one visiting surgical team after another.

Bilateral amputations had been offered by one team and rejected by his grandmother and teacher.

Soft tissue release and casting was then performed by another international team three months ago with the child left in his plaster cast without follow-up after the team left the area.

The tall middle-aged white tourist turned to his Vietnamese born wife and told her that his sister had had similar looking feet at birth and that it was treatable.

The wheel started turning as the couple took on the boy's cause.

Three years later, with the help of the whole village, the school and local volunteers, he was sponsored and underwent his surgery in Melbourne in late 2019. Four weeks later he took independent steps for the first time

in his first 7 years of life and made it home, barely escaping the arrival of the pandemic.

Three years on, he is now attending school at age-appropriate level. His school reports regularly admonished him for being too active on the playground.

Further south, on the biggest island on earth, a five-year old boy underwent a 3-hour complex surgery on his feet for the same condition. Due to the pandemic, he had missed out on simple casting treatment that would have avoided such need. He walked after 6 weeks in well-made orthotics.

Across the ocean, another four-year-old child laughed as she played in the waves of her island home, her single remaining foot looking more like the tail of a dolphin. She had lost her other leg due to post-operative complications following attempted bilateral surgical correction by an international team at the local hospital. The bone of her amputated stump protruded through the wound as she sat on the sand.

As the festive season closes in, one has the time and mind to stop and reflect on life choices, opportunities and missed chances.

Should a child born in the 21st century with a similar condition have vastly different outcome? Simply because of where and when he is born.

No choices.

Limited or no opportunities.

And chances that, if offered and taken, makes vast changes to the child's future.

The first child would have spent his entire life on the ground with no future except misery and premature death if it had not been for the tourist passing by that cold morning.

It was not appreciated by well-meaning international surgical teams that his country has a well-developed national casting program as well as metropolitan hospital facilities that are of first world standards. The problems for children like him are geographical isolation, socio-economic factors and poor medical advocacy. The success of his outcome came from deep understanding and navigating of social and cultural expectations as well as engagement of the local health care network and people.

The second child, despite being born in a well-developed country, was said to be a victim of an unexpected “act of god”. Could he have however been managed appropriately over the pandemic? Paediatric orthopaedic surgery in first world countries is well known to be short staffed even in normal times with most resources diverted to high complex low volume cases in central metropolitan services. Was the pandemic to be blamed or should it be thanked for highlighting the chronic and unaddressed shortfalls of our own paediatric services.

The last child was born into an environment where neither infrastructure nor manpower exists. Regular international visits over many decades have failed to leave a legacy locally. The reasons for this failure are local and so far, seem unexplored, and therefore unaddressed. The devastating outcome for this child brings into focus the need for the oversight and audit of activities of team visiting third world countries and

undertake complex surgery without fully appreciating the local health and social landscapes.

Would she have been just as happy on the beach with two deformed feet?

Each society has its own cultural mores.

Each health system has its own quirks that work for its environment. Attempts to transplant a foreign set of standards without an open mind to another culture will at best fail to leave a legacy, and more often than not, lead to more harms.

As we engage with other partner countries, we should come with an open mind and appreciate the wonders of how things can be done differently with not unusually, better results and cheaper equipment by our overseas colleagues.

Dr Livingstone is long dead and his approach should be buried with him.

The world is full of wonders,

And

There are no better wonders than a child’s smile!

Ton Tran
Chair, Asia Pacific Committee



MESSAGE FROM THE APOA PRESIDENT

To my dear Australian colleagues of the APOA:

Warm greetings from Manila!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion, and my friends and colleagues know me more as Lewy. I have been in the field of Orthopaedics for close to five decades now. After graduating from the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines (UP) in 1968, I continued onto my residency training program at the UP - Philippine General Hospital. I hold the distinction of being the first resident graduate and chief resident of the training program of the Department of Orthopaedics at the UP-PGH.

A few years later, I pursued further training by taking on a fellowship training in Orthopaedic trauma and arthroplasty at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, England where I started as a Registrar. I was then granted the Lord Nuffield Scholarship by the Nuffield Trust Foundation of the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and also became a supernumerary Girdlestone Scholar Awardee.

Upon my return to the Philippines in 1975, I became part of the academe at my alma mater, by joining the Department of Orthopaedics at the University

of the Philippines College of Medicine - Philippine General Hospital. For four decades, I shared my knowledge and love for Orthopaedics to the countless medical students and guided Orthopaedic residents during their training years. Starting as an Assistant Professor at the Department, I rose up the ranks and until I became a full professor and was accorded the Hans Menzi



Professor of Orthopaedics until my retirement.

All throughout my career, I actively participated and was involved with various Orthopedic associations, starting with the Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA), of which I became President of in 1987. I was also one of the founders of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association (AOA) established in 1981, and served as its 8th President in 1988. I also served as Secretary General of the AOA from 2006-2022. In addition to all these, I also served as the National Delegate of the POA to the Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de





Traumatologie (SICOT) from 1993-2014.

As for the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA), I have been actively involved since joining in 1979 and was the Chief Delegate for several terms in the past three decades. All of experiences have contributed to my breadth of knowledge and experience in running Orthopaedic associations.

Now, as your elected APOA President, I would like to share with all of you my vision and plans for the coming year. Although I may not be able to finish all of these during my one year term, it is my earnest hope that we will be able to lay the seeds for these programs and projects so that the next line of APOA Presidents will be able to continue these in the future and see them into fruition.

1. EDUCATION

- To have a unified syllabus or curriculum for the training program among all the APOA member countries, to serve as the minimum requirement guidelines for all trainees intending to practice general Orthopaedics.
- To establish an E-library that would readily facilitate online access to the different journals and the latest relevant reading materials in all subspecialties of Orthopaedics.
- To offer diploma courses in the different subspecialties (e.g. Trauma, arthroplasty, hand etc.) which could attract the young surgeons and trainees. Hopefully, we will be able to entice the different subspecialties to start one also.
- To continue to offer webinars even after the pandemic to be part of the new normal, benefiting majority of our members and trainees.

2. FELLOWSHIPS

- Identify centers of excellence in the APOA member countries, who can offer short term fellowship training in the different subspecialties where they excel in, and be offered to the resident graduates. Priorities can be given to graduates of APOA member countries with few specialists among their ranks.
- Start exchange Fellowship programs among



member countries in the different subspecialties (divided into groups of 4s), with a Fellowship program coordinator assigned to each country.

3. RESEARCH

- Strengthen the thrust of the APOA research society to pursue closer collaboration and commonality with the other APOA national research societies, further enhancing the advancement of future research projects in the region

- Start the creation of registries in the different subspecialty sections in order to have a shared data base which can be used for advancing research initiatives

- Collaborate with other regional & international research societies for joint projects/webinars & scientific meetings

4. OUTREACH PROJECTS:

- start volunteerism in pursuing outreach projects in which APOA senior members from the advanced APOA countries could go for a short period of time to the far flunked areas of less developed countries, to conduct workshops , wet clinics etc. This can be coordinated with some help from the industry & pharmaceuticals.

5. FINANCES

- To explore ways on generating more funds to finance our program and projects since membership fees alone are not sufficient.

6. YOUNG SURGEONS GROUP

- Encourage our young surgeons to get involved in activities of the APOA early in their career, keeping in mind that the future of the APOA is in their hands.

It is my fervent hope that with the help of all the



members of the APOA, we can accomplish laying the foundation for these projects. I believe that the core strength of any association lies in the UNITY of its membership.

The last APOA Congress in Manila celebrating its 60th Founding Anniversary was successful despite the fact that it was purely virtual. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the APOA Specialty sections, especially those chaired by Australians: Ted Mah for Hand & Shoulder, Marinis Pirpiris for Trauma, and Tanya Burgess of WAVES, for having contributed to the success of the Scientific program. All the APOA subspecialty sections came out with a good line

up of speakers and interesting topics in collaboration with our local POA subspecialty sections. It showed how the APOA can work together in both diversity and adversity.

Let me share with you some of the photos taken during



Congress.

I look forward to closer collaboration and cooperation between the APOA and the Australian Chapter and Federation in the coming year 2023.

Happy New Year & MABUHAY!!

ELLEWELLYN G. PASION, MD , FACS, FPOA, FPCS
President, Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association 2022-2023

*(Ret.) Professor of Orthopaedics
 University of the Philippines
 College of Medicine,
 Philippine General Hospital*

CHIEF DELEGATE'S REPORT AGM 1st Nov 2022

AOA FEDERATION AND AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER OF APOA

Thank you to Dr's Mah (Treasurer) and Reddy (Secretary) who have supported me through the year.

Welcome to the APOA EXCO and international Presidents who continue to support us by joining our APOA(Aus) AGM.

1.The COVID -19 which hit Australia in Jan/ Feb 2020 continues to provide many challenges during 2022 for our healthcare networks, patients, surgeons, and trainees. While we are now Living-with-COVID, different issues have come to the fore. It has become clear in Health that our physical infrastructure is inadequate and our workforce (particularly nurses) is tired and years of experience are walking out the door. The projected population growth translates to increased numbers of emergency patients which makes elective surgery recovery difficult.

2.The APOA(Aus) committee met virtually on 17th Jan 22 (extraordinary meeting), 4th May 22.and 3rd Aug 22. The APOA(Aus) team consisted of:

- Two Federation councillors: Dr Chris Morrey (1stVP AOA), and Dr Ton Tran (Chair of APC)
- Three Chapter councillors: Dr Graeme Mercer , Sunil Reddy and myself
- Honorary secretary: Sunil Reddy
- APOA Executives: Dr Mark Blackney (Member at Large APOA), Dr Tanya Burgess (President WAVES APOA), Dr Annette Holien (Chair of Disaster APOA), Prof Ted Mah (President Hand & UL APOA), and A/Prof Marinis Pipiris (Immediate Past President Trauma APOA)
- General Co-opted committee members: Dr John Bartlett, Prof Richard de Steiger, Dr Andreas Loeffler, Dr John North, Prof Bogdan Soloman, Dr Nick Russell (YA), and Dr Sam Adie (YA)

Thank you to all the committee for your contributions; especially those who have/will be moving on, and a warm welcome to those who have just/will be joining

3.Activities during the year include:

- An extraordinary meeting to discuss the bloc ratification of a change of APOA Congress (Philippines 2022) Chair
- Discussions of investment of Chapter funds (see Treasurer's report for update)
- Successful bid by the Australian Chapter to host the 2025 APOA congress with Marinis Pipiris as Congress president
- Discussions on the APOA(Aus) constitutional amendments following recent ratification of the constitution of the parent body
- Financial support (loan) given as seed funding to the H&UL section to support their inaugural meeting in 2023
- Ways to improve communications and collaborations with Outreach and RACS Global Health
- APOA (Aus) at the AOA Knowledge Summit in Cairns in June 2022 and the combined NZ & AOA ASM today with a special acknowledgement to Dr Margaret Fok (Asia Pacific visiting Professor), and the following Presidents who were able to attend the meeting in person; Drs Ramesh Sen (India), Edi Mustamsir (Indonesia), Hong Geun Jung (Korea), Sharifah Roohi Syed Waseem Ahmed (Malaysia), and Frederic Diyco (Philippines)

4.Forward planning:

- Revision of the APOA(Aus) constitution
- Changes to delegates: thank you to Graeme Mercer (Chapter delegate to be replaced by Marinis Pipiris) and John Bartlett (Co-opted Committee member) who are stepping down, and welcome to Dr Arvind Jain & Prof Zsolt Balough who have been co-opted as committee members
- Continued planning for the APOA congress in 2025 in Cairns

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing everyone in 2023!

Susan Liew



MY REFLECTION ON 2022 APOA ACTIVITIES



Despite COVID remained a menace and caused havoc in many countries and international organisations, APOA has not only survived the challenge but has emerged more cohesive and stronger in governance and more focus on orthopaedic education and collaborations!

2022 saw the association constitutional reviewed not once, but twice under the leadership of APOA President Prof S Kokobun. This has resulted in a more efficient management structure and a new presidential line set up in line with many other national and international organisations of a First and Second Vice Presidents structure. All council meetings were conducted on line. Despite a large number of councillors from different time zone attending via zoom; the meetings were run very efficiently and the objectives of the meeting were discussed and resolved.

Four pillars of the association: Education, Training, Research and Collaborations were exemplified by numerous free educational webinars conducted by many APOA specialty Sections and the collaborations between Sections; for example the combined webinar run by the Hand & Upper Limb and Trauma Societies. Many Society / Sections offer specialty fellowship training and it is the vision of the Education Committee of APOA to seek cooperation and collaboration from all Sections to formulate a unified approach to provide education and fellowship training to achieve minimal standards.

2022 saw the last of the Biennial Congress as the association will transit to annual congress from 2024,

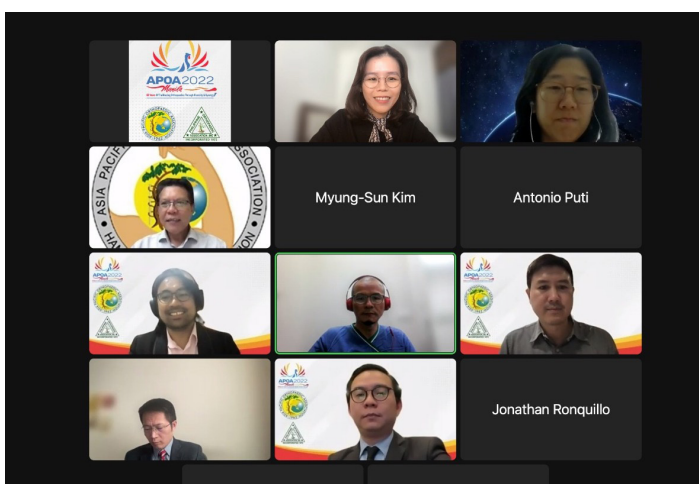
with the first Annual 23rd APOA Congress to be held in Dubai, UAE 9th-12th April 2024. The 24th APOA annual Congress will be held in Cairns, Australia.

The 22nd virtual APOA Congress in Manilla was a great success despite some challenges with COVID



restrictions and COVID induced adverse economic situations in many countries, which adversely affected the sponsorship capacity

Under the stewardship of Congress President Federic (Richie) JE Diyco, 22nd APOA Congress in Manilla attracted 1466 virtual attendance from 19 countries; 222 submitted abstracts and 204 submitted videos. The Congress also celebrated 60th anniversary of the formation of APOA with its roots as founding APOA Philippine Chapter. The Scientific programme consist of numerous plenaries, 395 lectures and other presentations conducted simultaneously in 6 halls. Despite the intricate time management and coordination numerous concurrent sessions and on the volume of presentations; as well as the demand on high speed internet connectivity, the IT team for the congress has shown their professionalism by ensuring little hiccups. At the Congress Prof Ellewelyn Passion was inducted as new APOA President (2022-24), whilst Jamal Ashraf (India) as 1st VP and Nicolaas Budhiparama (Indonesia) as 2nd VP.





ANZOA ASM

Future APOA Congress will undergo major structural changes from 2024. The Congress will be centrally run by the Congress committee, supported by local Congress President and supporting team. APOA central office will shoulder financial liability of the congress in an open transparent manner. The test run for such a new approach will be at the Dubai Congress in 2024.

APOA Australia has been actively involved and indeed been an active driver of the many recent changes within APOA. Andreas Loeffler contributed in the first constitutional review; Mark Blackney as the chair of Foot and Ankle Section and later as member at large within the APOA Executive. Marinis Pipiris as Trauma Section President promoting trauma care. Tanya Burgess as the inaugural chair of the WAVES section, promoting and advocating women participation in many leadership roles within APOA. Ted Mah as the inaugural President of Hand & Upper Limb Section, promoting and collaborating with many national and regional societies to advance the education, training, clinical service and research in

hand, elbow and shoulder surgery. Annette Holian as Chair of Disaster Committee facilitating disaster management. Within Australia, APOA(Aus) has been actively participating at the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) Knowledge Summit and at the combined ANZ ASM in Christchurch.

Two senior members of the APOA(Aus) Committee members will retire after a long and memorable service not just to the Australian chapter, but globally to the APOA movement as well. Assoc Prof Graham Mercer served as APOA VP (2014-6) and John Bartlett as 19th APOA Congress President in Melbourne. Both distinguished gentlemen have provided over 40 years of combined service to APOA, and a well-deserved retirement from the committee. Two new co-opted members, Prof Balogh Zsolt and Dr Arvin Jain have joined the APOA(Aus) committee to replace GM and JB.

Since 22nd APOA Congress only just finished in



Graham Mercer



John Bartlett

November 2022, there is no congress in 2023 and the 23rd Congress will be held in Dubai in 2024. Hence, the APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society and Trauma Section are taking advantage of the “void” to hold their respective meetings in Seoul (H&ULS) and Antalya (Trauma) in 2023.

We are all looking forward to many new activities in advocacy, education, collaboration and camaraderie within the APOA movement in 2023.

Ted Mah
Hon Treasurer, APOA(Aus)
Inaugural President, APOA Hand & Upper Limb Society
Past president, APOA



JOURNAL OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY (JOS) UPDATE

The official Journal of the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association is the Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery (<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/osj>). Currently ranked as 68th Orthopaedic and 168th surgical journal of the world. It is a PubMed/Scopus/Clarivate indexed peer-reviewed open access Scientific Journal published by SAGE. Our Editor-in-Chief is Professor Kenneth Cheung and the editorial Assistant is Ms Cecilia Zhai.

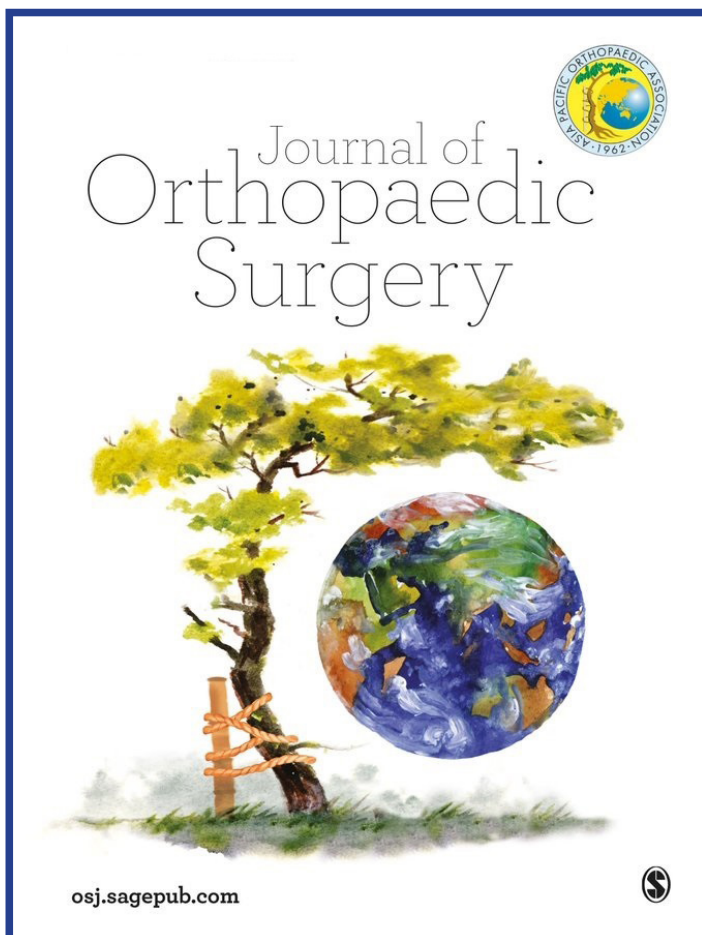
The JOS increased its impact factor for the 4th consecutive year and is currently at 1.482. Many are contributing to the success of JOS from Australia: 2 Section Editors, 10 Editorial board members and 47 active reviewers. Our national all time top reviewers are Seth Tarrant (72), Paul Allcock (67) and Steven Kent (27). I would like to express my special appreciation to all our hardworking reviewers who regularly contribute to the improvements of our Journal.

I am most proud of our recent major improvements in turnaround time, currently the average time to final decision is under 50 days. This figure, in my view is the single most important, easily modifiable performance measure for a scientific journal. The faster the review process, more likely authors are to submit their quality work to the journal and it means we have a larger scope for selecting the highest quality papers, which in return will improve our rankings in a very competitive environment.

In 2021 JOS received and managed 842 article submissions and 11 were from Australia. In the same year from the 124 accepted articles 5 were from Australia. The JOS acceptance rate is around 16% but about half of the Australian submissions get accepted. Our contribution to submissions is consistently around or below 2% of the total. I strongly believe we can and need to improve on this figure. Given its indexed status, steadily improving impact factor and relatively fast turnaround time with open access policy, it is a great opportunity to utilise this channel for our mentored trainees' publications. They will get valuable feedback on their work and if they are successful, their publication will be in an attractive universally accessible format. Many of our Australian Universities have ongoing contract for covering the open access publication fees with SAGE, publisher of JOS. Open access publication is also the policy of our National Health and Medical Research Council. The article processing charges are discounted for AOPA member first or corresponding authors by 33%. This is very attractive to Australian authors since we are both federation and Chapter member of APOA.

In case you would like to know more about our official APA Journal, would like to contribute more as a reviewer, or have questions related to the review and publication process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Zsolt J. Balogh
Associate Editor - Trauma
Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery



JOS Cover

APOA - ASIA PACIFIC TRAUMA SOCIETY REPORT 2021/2022



It has been a pleasure and a privilege to represent the APTS as its President.

Whilst the pandemic brought many challenges, it also resulted in the greatest digital transformation of our lifetimes thus far. The APTS remained active during the pandemic. The APTS continued to run the Big Ideas in Trauma Care conferences. Sunday evening proved to be a hit with the membership. On Sunday 21 November 2021 we ran a seminar titled the Management of Knee Injuries and this saw 2714 participants with 1519 on Direct Relay, 631 on OrthoTV and 564 on Facebook and Twitter. We held a Revision in Trauma seminar on Sunday 23 January 2022 and there were 2586 participants with 938 on Direct Relay, 417 on OrthoTV and 1231 on Facebook and Twitter. On Sunday 27 February 2022 we ran a seminar on Managing paediatric Fractures and there were 2038 participants with 881 on Direct Relay, 245 of OrthoTV and 912 on Facebook and Twitter. On Sunday 26 June 2022 we ran a seminar titled Tibial Plateau Fractures with 2411 participants with 1226 on Direct Relay, 341 on OrthoTV and 804 on Facebook and Twitter. On Sunday 24 July 2022 the seminar was titled Distal femur fractures and we had 3055 participants with 992 on Direct Relay, 509 on OrthoTV, and 1624 on Facebook and Twitter. The APTS also ran a Combined Webinar with the Hand and Upper Limb Society on Saturday 19 March 2022. This was a Case based APOA Trauma and Upper Limb Society Combined Webinar and provides a great model for collaborative modules on areas of overlap between the many societies.

The APTS also organised the trauma section of the APOA Congress in the Philippines. This was held between Thursday November 24th – November 26th, 2022. The Congress provided everyone with an opportunity to connect in a very interesting series of case-based talks. The meeting was hosted from the Philippines.

The next APOA Congress will be taking place in 2024 in Dubai. This is being organised by Saeed Al Thani and will provide an interesting series of current concepts in Trauma talks

Australia will be hosting the 2025 APOA Congress in Cairns, the gateway to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, between April 9th- April 12th 2025 at the Convention Centre. As Congress Chair, I would like to invite you all to participate in the organisation of the Congress and/or the case-based discussions. Please contact me with your ideas. There will be a series of case-based discussion, tips and tricks and current concept lectures presented by some of the world's leaders in orthopaedic care. There will also be a series of social events highlighting the unparalleled natural beauty of Cairns. We look forward to the AOA membership contributing to this wonderful event, which provides us a great opportunity to interact with the APOA's @65,000 membership.

The APTS AGM occurred on the 25th November 2022. Dr Anup Agarwal from India is now the President of the Asia Pacific Trauma Society, Wael Taha from Saudi Arabia is the President elect and Christian Farnig from Hong Kong is the Vice President. Ji Wan Kim from Korea was elected Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Trauma Society.

The APTS is also organising its APTS Trauma Congress Wednesday May 3rd- May 7th 2022. This will be occurring in Antalya, Turkey. It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us at the Maritim Pine Beach Hotel. Antalya is the gateway to Turkey's southern Mediterranean region and is known for its beautiful Turquoise Coast, and yacht-filled old harbour. The shopping and the nightlife are exceptional. There are many opportunities to visit the many historical sites, museum spaces and



waterparks. We have a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and make new friends as we enjoy a meeting full of educational events and social experiences. The meeting has a great balance of science and recreation. It will include a series of current concepts and case-based lectures, along with debates on the controversies in trauma surgery. There will be an opportunity to learn from the “tips and tricks” seminars and the latest global research in the

free papers and posters. There will also be a large exhibition area to experience the latest technological, pharmaceutical and imaging developments. Please mark your diaries. We look forward to seeing you there.

Marinis Pirpiris
Past President APTS

MY EXPERIENCE ON THE APOA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

My experience as a co-opted member of the APOA Australian chapter Management Committee has been valuable and eye-opening. We meet quarterly, via video link-up, and have a variety of members with diverse backgrounds and locations, representing a wealth of experience and knowledge not only in orthopaedics, but also in the cultural and geopolitical issues which arise in the management of the Association.

I was first exposed to the APOA as a young ambassador in 2010 when I attended the Taiwan Congress, and again at the Thailand Congress in 2014. I was impressed by the sheer scale and diversity of the Association, and the opportunities provided. I was fortunate to be invited as a co-opted member to the Management Committee in 2018.

The APOA’s core mission is to promote education, research and fellowship, and the Association runs regular conferences and training fellowships. It provides access to a vast network of surgeons, with 65,000 members from 26 countries.

During the Management Committee meetings, agenda items range from congress and meeting planning and reporting, membership, governance, strategic

planning, to constitutional issues and changes. Response to the Myanmar unrest, the Lebanon explosion, and of course navigating COVID have been debated. Discussions have been robust and informative, and I have been exposed to challenging situations to be navigated, in an evolving multicultural organisation, in rapidly changing times, sometimes with complex geopolitical situations to negotiate. As a junior committee member, the learning curve has been valuable, particularly in the understanding and navigation of international matters, and I would encourage fellow members to become involved.

My position has also highlighted to me the breadth and importance of the activities that the APOA carries out. Younger members of the APOA should seriously consider the many opportunities available in the pacific region as a viable alternative to the more traditional regions of USA and UK.

Nick Russell
Co-opted member, APOA (Aus)
Orthopaedic Surgeon, Warrnambool, Victoria



APOA WAVES:

INAUGURAL APOA CONGRESS REPORT 2022



On Saturday the 26th of November 2022, APOA Women's Advocacy (WAVES) held its first congress session as a section at the APOA Congress in the Philippines. Held as a purely virtual congress it provided a platform to generate greater exposure of WAVES to a wide orthopaedic community. More importantly it allowed us to showcase the incredible talents, experience and expertise of a breadth of women in orthopaedics across a broad wealth of specialities.

The guest speaker Dr Annette Holian, provided a fascinating talk on her experience in collaborative trauma care in developing countries. There were a number of excellent and confronting talks on the challenges and bias in accessing appropriate gender specific health care for our adult and paediatric female patients. We would like to thank Dr Holian, Dr Evelyn Kuong, Dr Azlina Amir Abbas, Dr Lia Marliana and Dr Antonio Chen for their invaluable time and contribution.

A forum moderated by Dr Emel Gonen from Turkey and Dr Natsumi Saka allowed the audience to benefit from the wisdom and experience of the incredible female pioneers of orthopaedic surgery who have been trailblazers in their own countries and across the Asia Pacific Region. We are indebted to Dr Teresita Altre, Dr Ping Ching Chye, Dr Rujuta Mehta and Dr Kanwaljit Soin for their time and candor. These talks will soon be available as a recording if you wish to watch them.

The congress was preceded by the inaugural AGM. The executive that was formed initially to create

the section were chosen by recommendations and suggestions of members that may be interested and capable.

The lack of transparency and appointment by merit in this approach is irreconcilable to the ideals which we uphold. The executive therefore saw themselves as caretakers until the appropriate elections could take place. Subsequently a leadership spill occurred and a new executive was voted in.

I would like to warmly welcome our new APOA WAVES Section executive:

President: Dr Rujuta Mehta - India

Vice President: Dr Annette Holian - Australia

Secretary: Dr Erica Kholinne - Indonesia

Treasurer: Dr Emel Gonen - Turkey

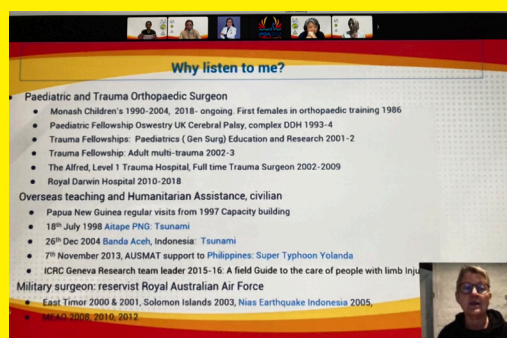
Committee Members:

Dr Tunka Sara Ahmad - Malaysia

Dr Sema Ertan - Turkey

Dr Chasanal Rathod - India

Dr Tanya Burgess - Australia



Finally, I would like to thank Dr Janis Ann Espino - de Vera and the members of the Philippine Society of Women Orthopaedic Surgeons who hosted and collaborated with APOA WAVES for a successful inaugural meeting.

We look forward to welcoming everyone at the next congress.

*Dr Tanya Burgess
Immediate Past President
APOA WAVES*

