



THE MALAYSIAN THORACIC SOCIETY

Organising Chairperson's Report

The MTS2022 Annual Congress was held at Setia SPICE Convention Centre, Penang from 13th till 16th October 2022. Penang has always had its charm as a holiday and a congress destination. MTS2022 was a meeting everyone was looking forward to, as we unleashed our fears and embraced the new norms moving into the endemic phase of COVID-19.

The MTS2022 Organising Committee was led by Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy, while the Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Dato' Dr Rusanida Awang (paediatric programme) and Dr Tan Jiunn Liang (adult programme). The congress recorded an astounding total of 561 participants, from all around Malaysia. It was certainly an exciting event to meet, learn and exchange ideas with friends and colleagues within the fraternity.

The congress kick started with three full-day workshops on 13th October 2022, which were attended by 136 participants in total. The adult track had 2 workshops addressing Pulmonary Hypertension and Respiratory Support for Acute Respiratory Failure. "The Colourful World of Paediatric Thoracic Radiology" was the unique title for the paediatric workshop.

The main congress comprised of 3 plenary lectures and 8 symposiums, covering a wide spectrum of topics on respiratory diseases in both adults and children. The topics addressed various updates in respiratory medicine and aimed to cater for the needs of all delegates ranging from general physicians to respiratory subspecialists. The faculty of speakers consisted of eminent local and overseas experts. Although MTS2022 was essentially a physical event for delegates, the virtual platform was maximised for international experts. In addition to the topic symposia, there were 2 sunrise sessions in the adult track, and multidisciplinary case discussions. The congress concluded with a debate addressing the controversies on treating mild asymptomatic patients with obstructive sleep apnoea.

MTS2022 marked another milestone in supporting the Penang state governments' green initiative by introducing E-poster stations and we went completely digital! Paper poster and banner printing were totally avoided. Delegates prepared e-posters, while presentation and judging took place at the E-poster terminals for the very first time. There was a total of 28 original scientific poster papers, 56 case reports and 5 oral presentations. The Lung Foundation of Malaysia supported the prize money and awards were given to all 5 oral presenters, the best 6 scientific poster paper presentations and 1 best case report.

The Malaysian Thoracic Society's Annual General Meeting was held on 14th October 2022. This year was a non-election year. The secretary's report and financial statement were presented and discussed thoroughly during the meeting with members of the society.

MTS2022 had huge support from industry sponsor companies and partner organisations. There were 30 sponsor companies and the 46 exhibition booths onsite at the congress venue displayed a wide range of products and equipment. The Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MYCEB) and the Penang Convention and Exhibition Bureau (PCEB) provided sponsorship and experiential support respectively. Our congress participants enjoyed substantial discounts for all Malaysia Airlines flights, flying to and from Penang to attend MTS2022. It was an initiative to promote travel and tourism after a two-year hiatus.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". Well, certainly the MTS committee believes in this proverb hence MTS2022 Gala Night was held on 15th October 2022 in Amari SPICE Hotel. It was a "Bollywood" themed party and was attended by 130 delegates who were simply dressed to kill. The MTS2022 Congress

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awards, lucky draw prizes and best dressed awards were generously given away. It was a fun night and one which all of us will remember for a long time.

MTS2022 Annual Congress concluded on 16th October 2022. The organising committee this year deserve a special mention. Each and every person on the committee was highly dedicated and worked very hard to ensure a successful congress. We shall continue the good work and look forward to MTS2023 with new hopes, updates and highlights.

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MTS 2022

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