

**MTS 2023 Annual Congress**  
**Connexion Conference & Event Centre, Nexus, Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur**  
**Organising Chairperson's Report**

The MTS 2023 Annual Congress was held at Connexion Conference & Event Centre, Nexus, Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023. After more than 2 years of attending educational events virtually or on hybrid platforms, MTS 2023 gave delegates an opportunity to attend educational events physically and was a good social gathering for the respiratory fraternity in Malaysia.

The MTS 2023 Organising Committee was led by Dr. Asiah Kassim and the Business Manager was Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh. The Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Associate Professor Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail (adult programme), Dr Noor Ain Noor Affendi (paediatric programme). They, with the help from another nine members of the Scientific Committee, produced excellent topics for the Congress and skill workshops. Nineteen other members were actively involved in the Organising Committee.

The MTS 2023 recorded the highest number of registered participants (738) from all around Malaysia and a few international delegates came from Sri Lanka, Australia, Thailand and Indonesia. The programme comprised scientific symposia, case presentations, plenary sessions and quizzes. Two additional events were the Lung Foundation of Malaysia "Art for Charity" Programme and a Mini-symposium on Pulmonary Rehabilitation organised by another six Committee members.

Three full-day workshops on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were well attended i.e., Thoracic Imaging (51), Inhalers and Devices (53) and Respiratory Support for Paediatric Acute Respiratory Failure (66). All three workshops received excellent feedback from at least 75% of the attendees.

There was a plenary lecture every day from 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Almost all respondents gave good and excellent feedback on the plenary lectures which were presented by Dr Helmy Haja Mydin and Dr Bridgette Fauroux. The plenary session was a Forum on Lung Transplantation on the last day.

A vast spectrum of respiratory topics was covered in a total of fifteen symposia such as respiratory infection e.g., Tuberculosis, sleep disordered breathing, non-invasive ventilation, pleural disease, chronic respiratory diseases e.g., COPD, Asthma, Bronchiectasis, Bronchiolitis obliterans, acute critical respiratory care, interstitial lung disease and lung cancer. Additional events on the last day that managed to ensure the crowd stayed until the end of the congress were Respiratory Jeopardy, Lungs on Fire, Multidisciplinary Paediatric Case Discussions and Respiratory Quiz. Almost all respondents gave good and excellent feedback on the topics and the additional events including the Mini-symposium on Pulmonary Rehabilitation and "Art for Charity" event by the Lung Foundation of Malaysia.

The MTS 2023 received 105 abstracts and these were presented in a new format i.e., best oral presentations (6), thematic oral presentations (24), case report posters (62) and poster presentations (13). For the first time, there were joint winners for the first prize for the oral presentations. The prizes were supported by the Lung Foundation of Malaysia. More than 90% of respondents found the new format good and excellent. However, some delegates were not too happy that their posters were not presented to and reviewed by judges.

Other than the scientific events, the Malaysian Thoracic Society's 33rd Annual General Meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and a new Executive Committee was elected for the term 2023 – 2025 including a new President (Associate Professor Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail). The secretary's report and financial statement were presented and approved by the members.

The Congress would not possible without the full support and collaboration of the 37 industry partners and vendors who either participated in sponsored symposia or sponsored exhibition booths.

Organisation of the MTS 2023 including venue, and social events like congress dinner, congress workshops and congress arrangements received mixed feedback. Although the majority gave good and excellent feedback, there is still space to improve in the organisation of future congresses. The MTS 2023 Organising Committee members exhibited high commitment, devotion, contribution and sacrifice and delivered a successful event in the post-pandemic era. May the good spirit of teamwork continue in MTS for future events.

**Prepared By:**

Dr Asiah Kassim

Organising Chairperson

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