

Report on Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2021
2nd – 5th December 2021
One World Hotel

The MTS Annual Congress 2021 was held at the One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, from 2nd to 5th December 2021. It was the first major congress that was held in Malaysia since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019. The Congress was well attended by 532 participants from all over Malaysia, and it was a successful and fruitful meeting despite the strict Standard Operating Procedures which had to be put in place to ensure safety of all participants. The Organising Committee was chaired by Dr Tan Jiunn Liang, and the Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail (adult programme), and Dr Su Siew Choo (paediatric programme).

The congress started off with three full-day workshops on the 2nd December 2021, which were well attended by over 120 participants. This year's workshops covered the topics of Pleural Diseases, Sleep Scoring and Remote Monitoring and Home Respiratory Care in Children. All workshops involved hands-on sessions which the attendees participated in.

The main congress comprised of 3 plenary lectures and 21 symposia covering a wide spectrum of respiratory diseases in adults and children. The topics covered various updates in respiratory medicine and aimed to cater for the needs of all participants ranging from general physicians to respiratory subspecialists. The faculty of speakers consisted of eminent local and overseas experts. For the first time, all our overseas experts delivered their lectures and took part in the Question & Answer session virtually due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 13 symposia sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, there were Multidisciplinary Case Discussions for paediatric and adult respiratory medicine and a Debate on the hot topic of tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were 5 oral paper presentations, 33 poster presentations on scientific papers and 52 poster presentations on case reports. The delegates presented their paper/poster on the second day of the congress. All 5 oral presenters were awarded prizes while the best 6 posters for scientific papers and best 7 case reports were also awarded prizes during the Gala Dinner. The Lung Foundation of Malaysia provided cash prizes for the scientific paper awards and best case report poster award.

The Annual General Meeting of the MTS was held on Friday evening 3rd December, 2021. The pharmaceutical and equipment companies were invited to become platinum, gold, silver, and pewter partners. A total of 29 companies provided sponsorship. Altogether there were 39 exhibition booths. To ensure safety of all participants, we also registered all exhibitors and sponsor company personnel who were on-site during the congress.

The Gala Dinner was held on Saturday evening 4th December, 2021. It was well attended by the Organising Committee members, past presidents, speakers, and delegates. "Bringing you the 60s groove" was the theme for this year's Gala Dinner. There was a live band, singing, photobooth and lucky draw session. Best dressed delegates were chosen and were accorded prizes.

The annual congress concluded on 5th December 2021 with a lively debate session between the Public Health Expert and the Economist.