

Report on Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2016
29th – 31st July 2016
Hotel Equatorial Penang

The Annual Congress was held in Hotel Equatorial Penang from 29th to 31st July 2016 and was co-organised with the Lung Foundation Malaysia (LFM). The Organising committee was headed by Dr. Irphan Ali Hyder Ali. The Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Dr Helmy Haja Mydin and Dr Rus Anida Awang. A total of 349 delegates registered for the congress.

Two congress workshops were held on the first day; the first one on Pulmonary Rehabilitation was attended by 56 participants and 63 participants attended the second workshop on Cardio-Pulmonary Exercise Testing (CPET).

The main congress comprised 4 plenary lectures and 16 symposia covering a wide spectrum of respiratory diseases in adults and children. There were 9 symposia sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. The Grand rounds included a Radiology Grand Round and there was interactive voting using the conference app. The downloadable Congress app used for the first time for the MTS Congress is one step towards going paperless sometime in the future.

Altogether there were 5 oral Paper presentations, 29 poster presentations on scientific papers and 43 poster presentation on case reports. All 5 oral presenters were awarded prizes and the best 6 posters for scientific papers and best case report were awarded prizes which were announced during the Gala Dinner. Three consolation book prizes were awarded to case report presenters.

The pharmaceutical and equipment companies were invited to become platinum, gold, silver and pewter partners. There were 2 platinum plus pewter sponsors, 2 platinum sponsors and 1 silver sponsor. A total of 30 companies provided sponsorship. There were 37 exhibition booths, 2 hospitality suites and 4 display tables. LFM had a display table to sell souvenirs and collect donations. A local painter also displayed local paintings for sale and she donated 30% of her sales to the LFM.

The Gala Dinner was held on Saturday evening. It was attended by Organising Committee members, members of the board of trustees of LFM, past presidents, faculty of speakers and delegates. The evening was themed “Come as You Are” and prizes were given to the best dressed guests. Entertainment was provided in the form of the games by a local entertainer. It was an enjoyable evening celebrating the 30th anniversary of MTS.