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The News Magazine of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons **APACRS**

Standing at the crossroads of techniques and technology

Choosing the right path in cataract and refractive surgery

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Crossroads in techniques and technology

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Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract
and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS)

Letters from the Editors



Dear Colleagues and friends

This issue of *EyeWorld Asia-Pacific* contains articles from our recent annual APACRS meeting held in conjunction with the 22nd Congress of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand.

You will all be familiar with the crisis which unfortunately coincided with our meeting in Thailand and which certainly created challenges for our executive team and the local organizing committee. I am so proud of the APACRS team and our local hosts, who rose to the challenge and managed to create a high quality, stimulating educational program. Delegates and speakers put aside their concerns and immersed themselves in the spirit of shared knowledge and friendship that is the hallmark of our annual meeting.

During the meeting we held the APACRS-ASCRS-ESCRS joint plenary symposium with speakers from around the world. Our panel of international experts discussed their approach to "Choosing the right path" when faced with controversial choices in cataract and refractive surgery. Details of the session can be found on page 8.

The APACRS LIM lecture was another highlight of the meeting and a special thanks to Michael Knorz who exerted extraordinary efforts to be present despite many obstacles.

We also held our inaugural APACRS Film Festival in Bangkok. We had over 30 submissions of the highest standard. The winning videos can be viewed online at our website (www.apacrs.org), which has been revamped to serve as a resource center for anterior segment surgeons in the Asia-Pacific.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to all who attended our meeting, particularly Dr. Prin RojanaPongpun and his organizing committee and all who were undaunted by the difficult circumstances and, together with our APACRS executive team, managed to hold a successful meeting.

I hope this issue provides a taste of the learning we experienced as well as the friendship we shared especially for those who were unable to be with us in Bangkok.

Warmest regards

Associate Professor Graham Barrett, MD
President, APACRS
Chief Medical Editor, *EyeWorld Asia-Pacific*



Dear Friends

It has always been a pleasure to pen down my thoughts as the regional managing editor. It was really an achievement and triumph in adversity when, undaunted by the difficult circumstances, the local organizing committee, together with the APACRS executive

team, managed to hold a successful meeting. This issue contains articles from the recent annual APACRS meeting held in conjunction with the 22nd Congress of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand.

The cover feature of the issue is "Crossroads in techniques and technology". It aims to help all of us in choosing the right path when faced with difficult and controversial situations in cataract and refractive surgery. All technological progress has three kinds of effects: the desired, the foreseen, and the unforeseen. We have to be more aware and not let a situation where technology and techniques are "in the saddle and ride mankind," thus capturing the notion of a topsy-turvy world where technology has run amok.

We are now more focused on patient-centered care, which is healthcare that is responsive to the patient's wants, needs and preferences. This shift in paradigm from disease treatment and management to patient satisfaction requires that the patient be actively involved in the decisions regarding which techniques may be required to enhance their visual outcome in both refractive and cataract surgery. Patient involvement in these decisions is critical in establishing realistic expectations and ultimately in patient satisfaction with the postoperative refractive outcome.

There are numerous other articles encompassing other specialties and interests. I really hope that this issue will enrich our knowledge and also make us more aware of the great efforts put together for a successful meeting.

I will end with an ageless quote:

The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.
- Rabindranath Tagore

With Warmest regards

Dr S Natarajan
Regional Managing Editor
EyeWorld Asia-Pacific (For circulation in India)

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11 Third Hospital Avenue,
Singapore 168751

Fax: (65) 6327 8640

apacrs@smc.com.sg

www.apacrs.org