



22nd Asia-Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology Virtual Congress

24-29 October 2020

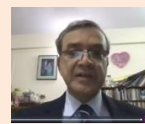
The convention catered exciting topics: 50+ live sessions, 1,000+ hours recorded content, 700+ accepted abstract, 100+ invited speakers and virtual exhibition. Although, due to SARS-COV 2 pandemic, it was held virtually instead at Kyoto, Japan, however, the delegates could view the convention right at the comfort of their homes and offices.

To maximize the learning, the discussions were divided into 4 channels - the delegates could choose the plenaries of their interest.

The pregress workshop Biomechanics and Movement Workshop with BJC Health, Dr. Irwin Lim and the rest of the team.



The convention was opened by the welcome remarks from Dr. Syed Atiqul Haq from Bangladesh, the APLAR president.



Dr. Syed Atiqul Haq
APLAR President



Dr. Tsutomu Takeuchi
APLAR Vice-president

The first plenary entitled Management of rheumatic diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic, was chaired by Dr. Tsutomu Takeuchi from Japan, the APLAR vice-president, and Dr. Rohini Handa. The topics that were included were COVID-19 in rheumatology practice in Japan, American College of Rheumatology Guidance for the Management of Rheumatic Disease in Adult Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic, and RMD and COVID19: The EULAR perspective. These were hot topics during this pandemic.

For SLE-1 session: Progress and perspectives on SLE in the APLAR region, Dr. Evan Vista joined with Drs. Laniyati Hamijoyo, Vista, Chi Chiu Mok, and Dr. Eric Morand. The panel discussion were chaired by Dr. Sandra T. Navarra and Dr. Yoshiya Tanaka. Dr. Hamijoyo talked about patient education as vital to improving outcomes. Dr. Vista discussed about progress and perspectives on SLE in the APLAR region. Dr. Mok tackled about the APLAR consensus statements on the management of SLE. And finally, Dr. Morand discussed about updates on the Asia Pacific Lupus Collaboration (APLC) cohort. Those were vital lectures coming from these experts.



Dr. Sandra T. Navarra



Dr. Yoshiya Tanaka

Chairpersons



Dr. Hamijoyo.



Dr. Vista



Dr. Mok.



Dr. Morand

On the abstract session of that day, Dr. Sandra Navarra chaired the Joint Q and A portion.

On the third day of the convention, the channel two tackled about the past, present, and future of rheumatology. In relationship to this, Dr. Sandra Navarra discussed on the management of SLE during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. She emphasized the essential “C’s” during and beyond COVID-19:

***Clear, up-to-date and correct Communication
Creativity, resourcefulness, adaptability to Change
Competent and compassionate patient Care.***

On the fourth day of the convention, the well-known editor-in-chief of the latest edition of our textbook in rheumatology - Dr. Gary Firestein, discussed about how the epigenome determines synovial pathology in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). It was amazing to know the advancement of research in RA.



Dr. Gary Firestein

On the latter part of the fourth day, channel 1 focused on the update on challenges in osteoporosis management. Dr. Julie Li-Yu discussed about the guidance on management of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIOP). In here, she emphasized that evaluation of fracture risk, FRAX, be recommended around the time of treatment initiation, and that pharmacologic intervention be warranted among moderate- to high-risk individuals.



Dr. Julie Li-Yu

On the sixth day of the convention, several breakthrough topics were still gained. One of this was the ILD in focus: time to prioritize the lung in CTDs. This was chaired by Dr. Masataka Kuwana. The three involved experts: Dr. Marco Matucci-Cerinic, Dr. Yannick Allanore, and Masataka Kuwana shared each of their experiences in the management. Dr. Matucci-cerinic mentioned that RA-ILD and psSS-ILD are both progressive diseases, hence treatment should be emphasized to patients. Dr. Allanore gave importance to the placement of nintedanib in the treatment armamentarium as CTDs shared some pathomechanisms. Dr. Kuwana wanted to emphasized that indication for pharmacologic treatment should be decided based on quality of life, severity of disease, risk factors for progression of ILD and efficacy and safety of the treatment.



Yannick Allanore



Masataka Kuwana



Marco Matucci-Cerinic

Even in the last day of the convention, essential topics in advancement on the management of rheumatologic diseases were still shared by the respective experts. In the morning, the aspects of vasculitis were tackled - it's update and recent trends in vasculitis clinic. In the afternoon, the was Joint APLAR SIG business meeting was carried out, and the updates on APLAR COPCORD epidemiology, pediatric rheumatology and AYR were also conveyed.

The convention was officially closed by Dr. Haq with great satisfaction among delegates as the richness in knowledge could then be applied to their patients.

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