



MY EXPERIENCE AT THE 9TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS OF HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY ASSOCIATION (A-PHPBA).

By Anuradha Valan



Figure 1: Speech by the organising chairman: Dr Shailesh V. Shrikhande.

The venue itself was impressive, providing a conducive environment for learning and networking. The conference halls were abuzz with discussions, presentations, and workshops covering a wide spectrum of topics. Moreover, the exhibition area was bustling with pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, and healthcare organizations showcasing their latest products, technologies, and services.



Figure 2: Exhibition hall.



Figure 3: Lecture by Prof. Dr. Markus Buechler.

Renowned speakers and the pioneering fathers in HPB surgery namely Prof. Dr. Markus Buechler of Germany and Prof Yuji Nimura of Japan delivered insightful speeches on their journey in HPB surgery. Not to forget, Dr C. Palanivelu from India who shed light into his journey in minimally invasive HPB surgery. There were also many more upcoming and leading surgeons who shared their innovative treatment modalities, and emerging trends in the field.

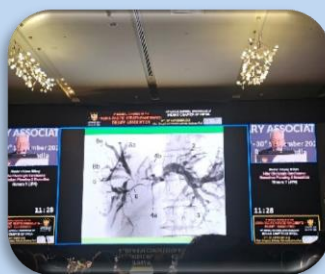


Figure 4: Lecture by Prof Yuji Nimura.



Figure 5: Lecture by Dr C. Palanivelu.



Figure 6: Oral presentations.

This congress was an indeed an enlightening experience full of knowledge and memorable moments which brought together delegates and leading experts in the HPB fraternity from across the Asia Pacific region and beyond, creating a dynamic platform for sharing knowledge and advancements in the HPB field.



Figure 8: Social gathering with other delegates

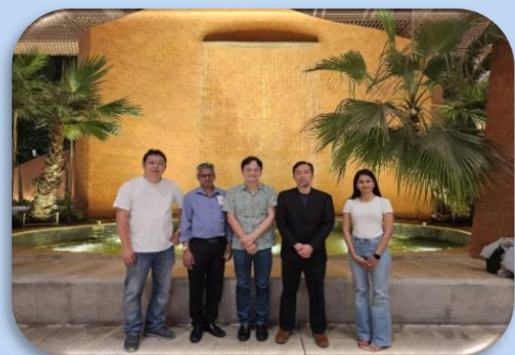
Overall, attending the A-PHPBA congress 2023 in Bengaluru was indeed an invaluable experience. The wealth and knowledge gained, connections made, and cultural immersion combined to create a memorable and impactful event, contributing significantly to my professional growth in the field of HPB surgery.

I had the opportunity to represent the HPB fraternity of Ministry of Health Malaysia and The Malaysian Society of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgeons (MyHPBS) to present two oral presentations during the conference. The topics that I presented on were “The 5 Year Outcomes of Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography In A High Volume Training Center In South East Asia” and “The Enigma of Juvenile Tropical Pancreatitis- A South East Asian Experience” which were well received and manage to churn a robust discussion among the panel and delegates from various continents.



**Figure 7: With the Malaysian and Singaporean speakers
Mr Manisekar S, Prof Pierce Chow and Assc Prof Koh PS.**

Besides, sharing knowledge and sharing experiences in HPB surgery, this congress also enabled the HPB surgeons to relax, unwind and catch up with peers in a social gathering. I was also able to meet and connect with Malaysian HPB surgeons working abroad. After 4 days and 3 nights full of insightful lectures, time has come to bid adieu to the 9th Biennial Congress of A-PHPBA Bengaluru, India.



**Figure 9: With MyHBS committee Assc Prof Koh PS,
Mr Vasu P, Dr Yoong BK and Assc. Prof A. Ramzi.**