
EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE (Y-APAGE)

ASIAN PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY



The Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC), APAGE (abbreviated as Young APAGE “Y-APAGE”) was established in late 2022 to leverage the core competencies of APAGE to provide support, mentorship, networking opportunities and leadership development for emerging leaders in digestive health from the Asia-Pacific region. The Founding Co-Chairs are Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali (Malaysia) and Dr Rashid Lui (Hong Kong, China), and the Vice-Chair is Dr Tsevelnorov Khurelbaatar (Mongolia). The Committee members are drawn from 17 different regions or countries in the Asia-Pacific (Figure 1) and are officially appointed by the APAGE Council. In addition, the Committee has established 12 Focus Groups, comprising both ELC members and non-members to allow for more flexibility and dynamism when pursuing developments in the respective subspecialties, as well as identifying potential emerging leaders in the field (Figure 2).

Since its inception, the Committee has held four meetings and the first in-person meeting has been planned to be held at the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. We have a social media presence on platforms such as X (formally known as Twitter) and Facebook. An official Wechat (Weixin) account has been set up and could be the first of its

kind amongst the major regional societies in the Gastroenterology field providing a unique platform

to engage young scholars in China and worldwide. The Committee had co-organised a webinar with the Chinese Youth Club of Crohn’s and Colitis (CYCCC) in May 2023 and there are several other events in the pipeline.

The Committee also plans to work closely with APAGE’s official publication, the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, to enhance the members’ exposure to the editorial and publication process, and to promote the exchange of scientific ideas. Y-APAGE also hopes to foster ties with other young chapters of international and global organisations to strengthen international engagement. Utilising the ELC network as a platform, the group has endorsed surveys on the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* in Asia, and another on paediatric gastroenterology training in the region. A dedicated website is being set up to introduce the members and their accomplishments, and also to highlight the future directions for the ELC.

The ultimate aim is through this deliberate, structured and strategic development of a digestive health community, we can identify and nurture future leaders calling from the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Rashid Lui and Professor Raja Affendi Raja Ali

Founding Co-Chairs

Emerging Leaders Committee, Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology

