



# BERITA ORTOPEDIK

THE NEWSLETTER OF MALAYSIAN ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



My dear fellow colleagues,

We are already in February 2020 and well into a decade that is sure to be full of challenges for everyone. I hope 2020 is treating all of you well so far.

As we look forward to the rest of 2020 and beyond, let us strive first to be a better human being, a better son/daughter, parent, friend, colleagues, boss and doctor. Let us value and learn from the lessons and experiences we had and gear up, continuously adapt and improve ourselves and change for the better to work in and through whatever that lies ahead. Let us open our arms and heart to each other and be thankful and cherish our many talents, diversities and uniqueness which is the strength of our beloved country. Every one of us is important and together we will be strong and have a better future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Faculty of Medicine University Malaya with Prof Saw Aik from the Department of Orthopaedics as the director, for their

commendable effort in running the Silent Mentor Programme in affiliation with Tzu-Chi University in Hualien Taiwan. The Silent Mentor Programme has now 111 donors who donated their bodies after death for the use of medical education, research and training since 2012. In average, four multidisciplinary workshops were conducted annually with the bodies donated by the deceased silent mentors. In January 2020, the 29th Silent Mentor Workshop was held from 7th to 12th January and the programme benefitted both undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Anaesthesia, ENT, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and Plastic Surgery.

In the face of global Coronavirus outbreak, I pray for the safety and wellness for all. As medical professionals, I am sure we will do our best to help keep each other and our country safe.  
Carpe Diem !

**Dr Chye Ping Ching,**  
President,  
Malaysian Orthopaedic Association

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## ■ Silent Mentors & Orthopaedic Surgery

The Silent Mentors have been mentoring Orthopaedic Surgeons from 2012 since the inception of the Silent Mentor Program (SMP). Hundreds of surgeons from Malaysia and abroad have benefitted from this programme through the availability of pledged donated bodies. A write-up on the SMP was published in 2017 to introduce the programme to Malaysian Orthopaedic Surgeons and since then an average of two orthopaedic-related courses are organized during each SMP session (3-4 per year). It has continued to benefit the Malaysian orthopaedic fraternity as more bodies are donated and better management & coordination of each session. Activities conducted during each SMP session includes surgical training courses and research activities.

Two of the longest running courses are the limb deformity correction course (started in 2014) and the limb salvage course (Figure 1) (started in 2015). Various other sub-specialty courses have also been conducted through the SMP, such as orthopaedic trauma courses, hip & knee arthroplasty



Figure 1: Participants during a limb salvage course

(Figure 2), knee arthroscopy (Figure 3), pelvic sarcoma, spine surgery and wrist arthroscopy. As there is an average of 3-4 mentors per session, teams consisting of 2-3 people on each limb (Figure 4) can benefit during each course. In Malaysia, where the availability of cadaveric specimens are limited and expensive, this concept of body donation provides a good alternative. Research activities involving the mentors have also been conducted with research mainly exploring the biomechanics of the limbs. More opportunities

to explore other avenues of orthopaedic research would be possible in the future with an increase of interested individuals.

The SMP stands apart from other body donation programmes because the trainers and trainees are required to know the mentors prior to the start of any training session/ activity. This is achieved through a short video presentation prior to each training session/ activity showing the mentor's life (prior to death) and even a personal message from the mentor. On the



Figure 2: Participants during a knee arthroplasty course



Figure 3: Participants during a knee arthroscopy course





Figure 4: Two different teams training on different limbs at the same time

final day of each SMP session, a 'Gratitude & Sending-off Ceremony' is held together with family members of the mentors and participants involved in the training sessions conducted throughout each SMP session. Feedback from trainees, trainers, faculty and family members can be seen on the SMP website (Figure 5) ([www.silentmentor.org](http://www.silentmentor.org)). To date, there has been 112 mentors.

Current development into the SMP is to explore the possibilities of tissue donation for transplantation into suitable patients. Plans are already underway to start on cornea donation in the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) as roughly half the patients may be suitable donors. Other areas of tissue donation involving bone, tendon and ligaments can be considered in the future. However, many factors will need to be considered such as proper 'Operating Theatre like' set-up for harvesting and also the viability of such tissues for organ donation. Other considerations such as adequate number of donors to sustain a tissue donation programme would also need to be considered.

Figure 5: Screenshot of the Silent Mentor Programme Website.

Looking to the future, it is safe to say that the presence of the Silent Mentor Program will continue to benefit Orthopaedic Surgeons in Malaysia and improve the quality of surgical training to future Orthopaedic Surgeons and others in the medical field. BO

**Prepared By:**  
**Dr Shams Amir Shamsul Bahar**  
 NOCERAL,  
 Department of Orthopaedic  
 Surgery,  
 Faculty of Medicine,  
 University of Malaya.

## ■ Event

# 7th National Foot & Ankle Trauma Symposium 2018

**Date** 2nd & 3rd August 2018


**Venue** Kinta River View Hotel & Suites, Ipoh, Perak.

The 'Foot and Ankle Subspecialty Interest Group' is one of the batches formed under the umbrella of Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA) in 2010.

This Special Interest Group was initially headed by Dr Low Tze Choong until 2015 and was handed over to Dr Mohd Asni Alias. Starting from 2017, the members of this Special Interest Group have decided that the president of Malaysian Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (MOFAS) should also be the head of Foot and Ankle Subspecialty Interest Group to pursue a same degree of framework and standardisation.

This group serve to coordinate teaching and training activities for orthopaedic surgeons interested in foot and ankle surgery, and to support the regional CME programs by providing speakers and teaching materials.

## Our purposes include:

- To encourage interest in foot and ankle surgery among general orthopaedic surgeons.
- To encourage both basic science and clinical research in foot and ankle surgery.
- To contribute to postgraduate training and continuing medical education.
- To encourage members to take up fellowship in both Malaysia and abroad on foot and ankle surgery.
- To represent foot and ankle surgeons in the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association and to other professional and health-related bodies.
- To encourage links with foot and ankle surgeons in other countries.
- At the moment (2017), the number of orthopaedic surgeons with special interest in foot & ankle surgery in this country is estimated to be around 30. 



by Dr Khairul Rizal Zayzan

## Prepared By:

**Dr Mohd Asni Alias**

Head of Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Subspecialty Group  
MOA

## Event Summary

**Orthopaedic Subspecialty Interest Group**  
Foot & Ankle

**Number Of Participants**  
106 (doctors and paramedics)

**Speaker / Coordinator / Convenor Of The Event-**  
Speakers – Foot & Ankle Surgeons From Multiple Medical Institutions Whole Of - Malaysia And Singapore (As Attached Below)

**Coordinator/Convenor**  
Doctors and Paramedics from HRPB Orthopaedic Department with MOFAS support

## Short Account Of What Happened During The Event

The course went on smoothly and well as planned. However there was a problem in the process of acquiring the CPD points from MMA due to unintentional mistake by the committee resulting the participants unable to claim CPD points.

## The Outcome Achieved From The Event

Otherwise other plans and the symposium managed to get participants were who actively involved in questioning speakers and discussing

problematic cases during case discussion session.

**Cost Of Conducting The Event**  
RM 40,622.40 (before adding commission to MOFAS of a cost of 10% of profit- because still waiting for the latest bank statement)

**Profit Obtained From The Event**  
RM53,862.65 – RM40,622.40 = RM13,240.25  
(This is according to the latest bank account statement of the month of July. We are still waiting for the latest statement of the month of August).

## A Brief Experience in the Fellowship of Advanced Musculoskeletal Trauma (AMT) Program

A year has passed and I find myself utterly dumbfounded on how much I had to learn, techniques to master, and the extra miles that I have gone through. And perhaps, I am just scratching the surface of the real deal.

A short rewind into the past, I never saw myself pursuing the AMT program. It was probably less popular then. Following my Master's graduation in late 2016, I was placed to serve the community at Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Najihah, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan. Happy times indeed. People were courteous and benign. Life was never on the fast lane. Eventually, reality kicked in. And the small community had great expectations to the attending surgeons. Severe and complex trauma had to be managed locally and tactfully as the majority were not willing to travel elsewhere for advanced trauma management. Having taken the oath to serve the community, I brazened myself into performing Ilizarov surgery for implant related infections,

open fracture with bone loss, peri-articular wound management and joint fusions. Complex cases were discussed with AMT surgeons and university lecturers back then. More than a year down the path, I decided that I had to be better in Ilizarov surgery to serve the ever needing community. Following kind encouragement and support from far experienced surgeons, I enrolled in the AMT program.

A lot of us may not be conscious of what AMT surgeons really do. Most would think AMT surgeons are purely Ilizarov surgeons. Some would say they are pelvic surgeons (not wrong either). Allow me to shine some light unto the reality of this fellowship program, with the hope to grow the fraternity and boost the interest of young orthopaedic surgeons. The program generally trains the fellows to master the art of limb lengthening and reconstruction, pelvic ring and acetabular surgeries, and a few supplementary skills (as the icing on the cake). We shall dwell into the supplementary skills later.

Approximately three decades ago in the 1990's, Ilizarov surgery was made popular and injected into the hearts of Malaysian orthopaedic surgeons. The flow of knowledge and honing of skills therefore gave birth to the practise of Ilizarov surgery in this country. Fast-forward to today, the advancement and methods of Ilizarov are being utilised for severe open/closed fractures, limb reconstructions (bone lengthening and transport), deformity corrections, treatment of joint contractures, arthrodesis following prosthetic joint infections, stabilisation of large peri-articular wounds, and osteomyelitis. Understanding the mechanics of our limbs are imperative to master complex trauma and its reconstruction. The fellows are trained to apply various types of external fixators namely Ilizarov external fixators, monolaterals, and ortho-SUVs. Ortho-SUV is a hexapod external device which utilises computer

..... continue on page 6



*The Advance Trauma Team, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar, Seremban. Dato' Paduka Abdul Rauf is third from the right.*



## ■ Event

navigation for simultaneous three-dimensional correction. That summarises a fairly big chunk of the fellowship program.

The next part of the program involves pelvic ring and acetabular surgeries. As the number of these injuries are on the rise in our country, we would require more orthopaedic surgeons that are well trained in this region of expertise. Under the wing of Dato' Paduka Dr Abdul Rauf Ahmad (Head of the Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar Seremban), the fellows are trained to master and manage complex pelvic ring injuries and acetabular fractures. The learning curve of this sub-speciality is rather steep. However, the mechanism of these injuries were made simple to understand, and strategies of management were executed intelligently to minimise physical and physiological damages. Mind you, there won't be one patient that is exactly the same with another. Sticking to the principles of management ensures a safe


treatment pathway no matter how complex the injuries are.

Besides limb reconstruction, pelvic and acetabular surgeries, the fellows are also trained with a few supplementary advanced surgical skills. These skills include surgeries for complex scapular fractures, posterior instrumentation for spine trauma and spino-pelvic dissociation, post-traumatic total hip arthroplasty, and surgical dislocation via Ganz trochanteric osteotomy to manage various patterns of femoral head fractures (with or without acetabular involvement).

The advanced musculoskeletal trauma services are only available in a few centres in Malaysia. From north to south of the peninsular, we have Mr (Dr) Kamarul Izham Kamarudin in Alor Setar, Mr (Dr) Kamarul Al Haqq Abdul Ghani in Klang, Mr (Dr) Basir Towil (also the current head of AMT program Malaysia) in Sg. Buloh, Mr (Dr) Rohaman Tasarib in Serdang, Dato' Paduka Dr Abdul Rauf Hj Ahmad and

Miss (Dr) Norhaslinda Bahaudin in Seremban. In East Malaysia, the services are provided by Mr (Dr) Nazari Ahmad Tarmuzi in Kuching, and Mr (Dr) Gerry Maxmillan Pang in Kota Kinabalu. The fellows are currently scattered throughout these centres with a yearly rotation for the first two years. During the final year, fellows are required to undergo overseas attachment in a centre of their choice. Inevitably, the viva examinations are set at the end of year 1 and year 3 before completing the AMT program.

Finally, I would like to assert that Advanced Musculoskeletal Trauma sub-specialty is going to be an ever-growing field of knowledge, learning, and new advancement in years to come. Therefore, I would call upon those interested to enrol, commit to the program, and grow the fraternity together.

Thank you. 


**Prepared By:**  
**Dr Khairul Rizal Zayzan**



*The "gang" in OT*

## 8th Limb Deformity Correction Course Report for MOA

The 8th Limb Deformity Correction Course (LCDD) was successfully organised from 9th to 12th April 2019. Our foreign faculty were Dr Lo Chieh Sheng from Taiwan, Dr Juanito Javier from Philippines, and Dr Andy Yeo from Singapore. The course was attended by 40 participants. There were 14 foreign participants, and they came from Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. This is the first time we have a total of 8 sawbone workshops on various procedures, which includes acute and gradual correction of deformity. Time for lecture sessions has been reduced to accommodate four hours of sawbone workshops every day. It was also the first time we have an operating room live transmission for two procedures. On the last day, we were able to conduct silent cadaveric training with our silent mentors on four procedures: high tibia osteotomy, Low femur osteotomy, dome supra-malleolar osteotomy / locking plate fixation, and tibia shaft corticotomy.

The feedback was encouraging, and we are now planning for the 9th LDCC from 13th April to 16th April 2020. Based on recommendations from some of the participants and faculty members, we will split the main course into a two-day Basic Deformity Correction Course (BDCC), and one-day Advanced Deformity Correction Course (ADCC), followed by one full-day Silent Mentor cadaveric workshop. This will allow more participants to register shorter courses more aligned to their level of training. We would like to thank Malaysian Orthopaedic Association, ASAMI Malaysia, and our commercial partners for supporting the course over the last few years. 

### Prepared By:

**Dr Saw Aik**

NOCERAL / University Malaya Medical Centre.



*First half of the participants after completing the Ilizarov angular correction workshop*



*Visit to LLRS clinical resource centre of University Malaya Medical Centre*



*With participants for the cadaver workshop on the last day of the course*



*Ilizarov Clubfoot Correction Workshop*



## Event

## Report on 1st Borneo Deformity Planning Course

The Paediatric Orthopaedic team in Sabah Women's and Children's Hospital organised the first of its kind course on deformity planning in Sabah last year. It was held over 2 days between July 7th and 8th. This course was intended on teaching medical officers and young surgeons in orthopaedics on the deformity planning. The aim was to impart basic knowledge on axes of the limb, the CORA, the ACA and how to plan corticotomies. In addition to short lectures, we had long hours working on specially made workbooks based on simulated and real cases for the participants to plan out their reconstructive surgery. We also conducted saw bones workshop in the afternoon to simulate the planned correction and to see the effects of the planning. 2 workshops were conducted, one

using the Ilizarov frame and the other the Orthofix LRS system. These workshops were supported by the medical devices company.

Participants came from all over Malaysia ranging from medical officers, young surgeons, paediatric orthopaedic fellow trainee, advanced trauma fellow trainee and one consultant orthopaedic surgeon. We subsidised the course for our local medical officers, many of whom helped in the planning and organisation of the course – they were given a free ticket. In all we had around 24 participants.

Facilitators were from Universiti Malaya Medical Centre limb reconstruction unit, headed by Professor Saw Aik and assisted by Dr Rukmanikanthan and Dr Roshan Gunalan. While Dr Gerry Maximilian

Pang and I, Dr Luvan Markandan were the local facilitators.

From the feedback we received from the participants and facilitators, this course was an overwhelming success. Factors that contributed to this were the specifically designed workbooks, long hours spent on practical exercises on workbook for deformity planning, transferring these plans onto practical sessions with saw bones and frames and the facilitators.

Thanks to the grant from MOA, we broke almost even. We made a small profit which will be used to start the next course.

Thank you.

**Prepared By:**  
**Dr Luvan Markandan**  
Course chairperson





# Ganga Hospital-Carl Zeiss Fellowship In Hand And Trauma Reconstructive Surgery 2019

**My Ganga Hospital Experience (November 2019-January 2020)**

I have been privileged to obtain the Ganga Hospital-Carl Zeiss Fellowship Award 2019 allowing me to spend two months in Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India. I had great opportunities to be exposed with varieties of simple to complex hand and trauma reconstructive cases. I was impressed with the high volume of cases averaging between 15-25 cases per day with 6 dedicated operation theatres for hand, microsurgery and trauma reconstructive cases. In these two months period, I have observed and assisted more than 120 cases ranging from simple to complex hand, microsurgery and trauma reconstructive cases. Apart from that, there is a high volume of free flap surgery that I can observe almost every day.

In my first week in Ganga Hospital, I attended a microsurgery course. During this microsurgery course, I learned new techniques and had opportunities to perform end-to-end and end-to-side anastomoses on the rat femoral artery and veins using a microscope.



*Microsurgical training*



*Certification after completion of microsurgical course with Ganga Hospital Director.*



*Observing operation with local and international hand fellows*



Throughout the next 5 weeks, I had attached myself to Dr Praveen in the operation theatre and outpatient clinic because most of my work in hand and microsurgery is similar to Dr Praveen's work. I learnt many new things and approaches to obstetric and adult brachial plexus injury, peripheral nerve injury exploration and repair, many tendon transfer techniques, derotational osteotomy of the humerus and forearm, claw hand deformity correction, wrist surgery and arthroscopy and varieties of hand trauma like scaphoid fracture, scapholunate dissociation, perilunate dislocation, metacarpal fracture, ulnar collateral ligament repair thumb, fingers flap, wrist and fingers deformity correction techniques, flexor and extensor tendon injuries.

For the final 2 weeks of my attachment, I focused on trauma reconstructive surgery cases like medial gastrocnemius flap for knee and proximal leg critical defect, soleus flap, gracilis flap, ALT flap for leg critical defect, for foot and leg critical defect coverage, critical hand and forearm defect coverage using PIA flap, groin flap, hypogastric flap and paraumbilical flap, and fingertip amputation coverage using oblique triangular flap, V-Y flap or cross-finger flap.

Apart from that, I had also opportunity to observe emergency cases through this 2 months period like finger replantation cases, trans-metacarpal replantation cases, forearm replantation cases, and traumatic limb vascular injuries. I also learned a lot from Dr Raja Sabapathy, Dr Hari, Dr Ravindra, Dr Senthil, Dr Madhu and Dr Sanjai for replantation cases, trauma reconstructive surgery, burn contracture release/reconstruction and brachial plexus injury.

I had the opportunity to learn during the morning teaching sessions which included consultant lectures, trauma review, journal club presentation, case presentation and common surgical techniques/ procedures. I also had the opportunity to attend a monthly plastic surgery & trauma reconstructive meeting attended by surgeons from all over India.



*Daily morning teaching at 7.30 a.m.*

## ■ Event



*Teaching and learning at outpatient clinic*



*Attending monthly plastic, hand, microsurgery and trauma reconstructive meeting at the Grand Regent Hotel, Coimbatore, India*

I was fortunate also to meet many friendly and helpful hand fellows from all over the world from the US, UK, Bangladesh, Philippines, Netherlands, India, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Nepal to build networking for future collaborations. We also had a good time together, sharing our experiences, intraoperative pictures, and notes. It is also a great opportunity to know different cultures and have mutual respect towards each other.

I would like to thank Dr Ravindra Bharathi that brought the International fellows with his family to visit Isha Yoga Centre, Siruvani waterfalls, Ooty, Mudumalai waterpark, Benchmark tea factory, pine forest, boathouse Pykara and so on during our one day free weekend. We also had a great dinner together with Dr Ravindra's family during our stay here. In the last week, I was invited as a guest to attend the Pongal celebration. It

was a very good experience for me to know more about Indian culture and tradition.

All-in-all, I had an eye-opening encounter and a wonderful time visiting Ganga Hospital. I would like to thank the entire Ganga family including all the consultants, staffs, all the fellows (specially) and my co-visitors who helped make both my Ganga visits a memorable experience, for life. As the main building gets renovated and the new block shapes up, I pray for more power to Ganga Hospital to keep inspiring generations of surgeons. I hope to be able to visit this centre again in the future.

**Prepared By:**

**Dr Mohd Hanifah Jusoh**

Orthopaedic Surgeon & Lecturer,  
Hand & Microsurgery Unit,  
Orthopaedics Department,  
School of Medical Sciences,  
Universiti Sains Malaysia,  
Kelantan, Malaysia.



*Certificate giving ceremony on completion of Ganga Hospital-Carl Zeiss Fellowship in Hand and Trauma Reconstructive Surgery 2019*



*Souvenir presented to Dr Praveen*



*With India, UK, USA, Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia Hand fellows*





## International Society for Orthopaedics & Traumatology (SICOT) Congress, December 2019 (Muscat, Oman)

I have been a member of SICOT for a few years now (since 2012). At that time, I sat for the SICOT diploma in preparation for the FRCS (Trauma & Orthopaedic) examinations. Since then, I have attended most SICOT annual meetings and presented at them numerous times. Since 2016, I have the honour of examining candidates from all around the world for the SICOT diploma examinations and have the opportunity to meet many world renowned surgeons.

This meeting was held in Muscat between the 4th to the 7th of December 2019. At this congress, I was fortunate to be involved in many activities. On the day I arrived, I was invited (as part of faculty) for dinner at the house of the congress president (Dr. Mohamed Darwish) which was reminiscent of the White House. It was great to many other prominent surgeons from all over the world, some whom I have met before through the years

The next day, I was placed on the Basic science table and proceeded to examine many candidates throughout the day. It was a good

experience and I enjoy examining (as it forces you to read up beforehand). That night, we had the congress dinner at the Muscat Convention Centre attended by many delegates

The days following were pretty busy. There was a great scientific schedule and I attended many sessions especially in sports surgery. I also presented at the Complex Hip symposium discussing a complex revision hip arthroplasty case we had done in Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar. Also, as a member of the Young Surgeons Committee (SICOT) and editorial board member for the SICOT newsletter, there were a few meetings to attend and it was great catching up and planning for 2020 with the other committee members.

It was good to see many fellow Malaysians who attended the event. Though this list may not be exhaustive, I was glad to meet Prof. David Choon & Prof. Jamal (representing APOA) and Dato' Badrul Shah (representing MSHKS) at the conference. Examining with

me was senior SICOT member Dr. Kandiah Raveendran, a senior surgeon and one-time Vice President of SICOT. It was good to catch up with other surgeons such as Prof. Wan Hazmy, Dr. Chua Hwa Sen, Dr. Teo Seow Hui and the ever busy Prof. Saw Aik. Prof Saw has been a highly regarded member of SICOT and ASAMI and it was great to meet him there. Apologies if I left out any other fellow Malaysians here.

Interestingly, Malaysia (lead by our national representative, Dr. Sureshan Sivananthan) was successful in bidding to host the SICOT Congress in 2022 (it will be held in Budapest 2020 and Zagreb 2021). I believe this will be a great opportunity to showcase Malaysia to the Orthopaedic community and in particular, the SICOT Diploma would be an invaluable addition for young Orthopaedic Malaysian trainees to hone their examination skills. Great meeting all round and, God-willing, I will be able to attend the next one in Budapest!

**Prepared By:**

A/Prof. Dr. Gandhi Nathan Solayar



*The SICOT Diploma Examiners, Muscat 2019*

## ■ Event

## Re : Article Processing Charge and General update on Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal

Members of Malaysian Orthopaedic Association,

Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal (MOJ) has started continuous editing process since the middle of last year. Following this, we noted an increase in the rate of submission; for the last six months, the rate has reached an average of one submission a day. Although we consider this a positive development, we also noted that some authors "recycled" articles that had been rejected, and they were being resubmitted with minimal or no change in the content except for slight modification of the title. Some articles that required major revisions were also resubmitted in a similar manner, in the hope that the journal office would assign them to a different manuscript editor. We estimated that it will cost Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA, our publisher) about USD 50.00 to process a new submission, and this comes in the form of editing program and various evaluation soft-ware. The issue has been discussed in the recent editorial board meeting (Figure 1), and a proposal of imposing an article processing charge (APC) was made. The editorial board feel that USD 50.00 would be appropriate. The matter was also discussed and accepted

by the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association board meeting in Jakarta (22 Nov 2019). Finally, the proposal was approved by the MOA board in January 2020. We hope to implement the APC most probably on 1st April 2020.

MOJ would also like to encourage our national or regional professional societies to consider publishing their conference proceedings as supplement issues of the journal. We can publish the material (preferably abstracts) online before the conference, with facilities to search the material by either the title or the author name. The material will also be available from Google / Bing search engines. With this online resource, conference organisers may not need to print hard copy abstract books, or prepare CDs for circulation. MOJ will need to charge a nominal fee for the service, and this would be based on the number of abstracts to be published.

MOJ would like to encourage our readers to share interesting findings through the letters to the editor column. Write ups on interesting clinical findings that do not qualify for a case report, comments on published articles, and clinical innovations are all welcome. Although these write

ups will not be indexed, they will be shared with international readers and searchable by general search engines like Google.

Finally, in the upcoming Annual general meeting of Malaysian Orthopaedic Association, we would like the members to discuss on the need to publish printed hard copy of the journal. With the advancement of internet technology, more and more readers are accessing the journal articles through their computers and mobile phones. The annual budget for publishing the journal (online and printed copies) including the salaries of our editorial staffs is coming close to RM 150,000.00. Cost of printing and sending the journals has come close to RM 20,000.00 per issue, and we are publishing three issues a year.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to wish everyone happy new year. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



**Dr Saw Aik**  
Chief Editor  
Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal



Figure 1 : Editorial board members and MOA ex-officio at the end of Board meeting in Kuantan