Hello everyone. It’s been six months since I last reached out to you and there have been so many activities that I, as your President, have been involved which I am happy to share with you.

We had our 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists and the College of Anaesthesiologists, held at the Le Meridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The report for the meeting is in this edition as well. We had a good discussion among the speakers from the Malaysian Medical Association and Mr Saravana Kumar, a prominent tax lawyer, on the current issues with LHDN. The last couple of months has been a rather unsettling period for doctors in private practice. The sudden application of a ruling has caught many doctors off guard. We hope to see an amicable solution soon.

This year’s National Anaesthesia Day will be celebrated in the month of October with the theme “Safe Anaesthesia: Safe-T for Everybody Today”. This is a common theme that the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists is advocating and the Malaysian Society has echoed their call to have activities that share the same focus. We hope all hospitals will link with the WFSA and share their activities with the rest of the anaesthesia community worldwide.

Talking about the WFSA, we will also be taking part in the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Hong Kong at the end of the month of August. I am glad to say that we will be putting in a bid to organise the WCA for 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. We will be competing with the likes of Singapore and Dubai for the coveted role and with the support of MyCEB, we hope we will be successful.

There will be many more meetings and events that we will be helping to host in the coming months and we will keep all members posted.

Dr Raveenthiran Rasiah

Message from the President of the MSA
Welcoming the New Anaesthesiologists
MMed Anaesthesiology May 2016

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
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Dr Diyana Binti Azmi
Dr Izwah Azzyati Binti Azmuddin
Dr Lee Ai Hwa
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Dr Lydia @ Lily Chua
Dr Mohd Shahir Bin Anuar
Dr Muhamad Rahmat Bin Ali Hassan
Dr Nahemah Binti Hasanally
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Dr Nur Fariza Binti Ramly
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Dr Phang Shiang Ling
Dr Selvakumari Anbazhagan
Dr Suhaana Binti Zainal Abidin
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Dr Teh Yew Wei
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Dr Leong Kok Weng
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Dr Lim Wei Tat
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Dr Al Jadidi Bin Sulaiman
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Dr Mohd Azmi Bin Yaacob
Dr Halimatul Nadia Binti M.Hashim
Dr Lim Wei Keong
Dr Rozila Binti Aziz
Dr Bahiah Binti Ismail

Editor’s note:
We would like to apologise for the inadvertent error in the initial publication of the name list in the January 2016 edition of the Berita Anestesiologi.
Recent advances in perfusion technology have made extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), or extracorporeal life support (ECLS), an increasingly reasonable treatment option for failure of the cardiopulmonary system, either as a bridge to recovery, transplant or decision making. The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) and several other universities and private hospitals in the country are embarking on providing ECMO service. Presently in the MOH, ECMO service is available at Serdang Hospital and Penang Hospital.

The Penang Perfusion Society, in collaboration with MOH Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Perfusion Service and Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists, had organised three national level workshops on ECMO since 2014. The first and second were held as pre-congress workshops during the 8th Biennial Conference on Cardiopulmonary Bypass 2014 and the MSA / CoA ASC / ASPA Congress 2015, respectively. The third was held on 6th November 2015, jointly with the MOH 2nd National Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia and Perfusion Meeting on 6th November 2015 at the Equatorial Hotel, Penang.

Usually, an ECMO workshop will require several days to conduct. Unfortunately, our constant need to keep to budget required us to compact our workshops into a series of one-day 8.00 am to 6.30 pm events. In the first two workshops, we introduced ECMO to the participants who mostly have not seen a patient on ECMO. Topics were kept general with comprehensive overviews covering pertinent technical and clinical applications with lectures delivered by clinical and industry specialists from experienced European ECMO centres. These were reinforced by regular in-house training in Penang Hospital and Serdang Hospital. With increasing clinical experience, we now have a core group of Malaysian consultant anaesthesiologists, surgeons, intensivists, perfusionists and intensive care nurses from Penang Hospital and Serdang Hospital who are able to deliver lectures and conduct practical training sessions, and participated with some experience in ECMO.

Hence, in the last workshop on 6th November 2015, we focused on clinical and technical details, including management of complications. Lectures were delivered by our core ECMO group, with valuable input from Ms Angela Grunhagen, a paediatric ECMO nurse from Germany. The topics we had covered included evidence, patient selection, outcome, ECMO physiology, ECMO equipment, cannulation, initiation of ECMO, anti-coagulation, circuit management, nursing care, monitoring, ECMO pharmacology, weaning, decannulation and management of complications. The practical sessions focused on cannula selection, circuit configuration, circuit assembly, priming and understanding ECMO machine interface.
ECMO is necessarily a multi-disciplinary service, requiring close cooperation of a group of skilled ECMO specialists which is reflected in our workshops attendance by anaesthesiologists, adult and paediatric intensivists, cardiac surgeons, respiratory physicians, intensive care nurses and perfusionists. In each workshop, the attendance was limited to 30 participants but we had to accept extra registrants who badly wanted to attend, paying for full-day but forfeit their practical sessions as we had to keep the group small for hands-on sessions. The last ECMO workshop on 6th November 2015 was attended by 47 participants and 11 speakers/facilitators. We had the pleasure of the participation of Dr Patimah Amin, Ketua Unit Perkhidmatan Pembedahan dan Kecemasan, Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan, MOH, who wanted to learn more about a service she is supporting.

In order to ensure full attendance till evening, we made two arrangements, first was a dictator style “feedback form at the end of the day in exchange for certificate of participation” situation, and second, all-day free flow of tea/coffee and refreshments. The day after the workshop, we started off with a grueling morning of what we call our First MOH ECMO Case Series Discussion, during which we presented the challenges and outcome of all MOH ECMO patients to date and discussed pitfalls and solutions.

It was the organisers’ hope that the workshop was able to fulfill the learning objectives it set out to achieve, met the expectations of the participants and gave satisfaction to the trainers. In future, we hope to be able to respond to the participants’ constructive feedbacks which included having the intensely compact programme expanded to two or three days, smaller groups, more practical sessions, more problem solving and regular workshops to include others who were not able to register, especially those from non-cardiothoracic disciplines. The overall feedback was decidedly positive, the best being “It changed the myth about ECMO for me”, which we hope to do so for many more of our interested colleagues in the future.
The Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Unit, Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), in collaboration with the Post-graduate Medical Education Society of Sarawak General Hospital (PGMS SGH), organised a Basic Ultrasound in Critical Care Workshop on 16th January 2016. It aimed to equip fellow anaesthesiologists and medical officers on knowledge and skills in ultrasonography. This is in line with our objective to improve delivery of critical care to our patients.

The event planning was chaired by Dr Ng Poh Nee and together with her steadfast committee members. Allocation of funding was applied from the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists (MSA) and the PGMS SGH. Speakers were invited and accommodation booked. The event was publicised to anaesthesiologists, medical officers and MSA members in Sarawak; venue prepared, food catered and souvenirs wrapped.

On the event day, committee members arrived early at 7.00 am to Dewan Persona SGH. Public address system was set up and registration began. A total of 44 participants attended the workshop. An assigned committee member was sent to accompany our invited speakers from their accommodation and guide them to the event hall.

The event started off sharply at 8.00 am with a welcoming speech from our consultant paediatric anaesthesiologist, Dr Teo Shu Ching. It was then followed by a brief introduction of our speakers, who were Dr Foong Kit Weng and Dr Ramzuzaman Bin Ismail from Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun Ipoh, Dr Mohammad Fadhly Bin Yahya from Hospital Malacca, and Dr Faizal Amri Bin Hamzah from Pusat Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The four-member group then took turn gearing the participants on the basics of ultrasound. Among the topics covered were echodynamics, lung ultrasound, as well as central and peripheral cannulation under ultrasound guidance. The lectures were made interesting with video clips of ultrasound and case interactive discussion.

After the lectures, participants were divided into four groups for hands-on session. We then moved to the main operating theatre of SGH. There were two stations which focused on the echocardiography and one for lung ultrasound. After initial demonstration by the speakers, all the participants had a chance to do the ultrasound scanning themselves on our invited models. Everyone was excited to try and reproduce the shown images or measurements. There was also one station for practising cannulation under ultrasound guidance.

Lunch was served at 12.30 pm in between the skills stations. Since the second half of the event was practical, this provided ample of time for the participants to ask questions and clear up any uncertainty regarding this topic.

At 4.30 pm, we all gathered again for a short tea break and summary of the event. Most of the participants were appreciative of the concise lectures with adequate time for hands-on. Speakers were thanked and souvenirs given. Certificates were handed out to all participants.

Finally, the Basic Ultrasound in Critical Care Workshop was a success. We are grateful to our sponsors, MSA and PGMS SGH. Special thanks to the invited speakers for allocating their time to attend our event, fellow participants, anaesthetists and medical officers.
In keeping with the safe practice of Anaesthesia in the paediatric population, the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Hospital Sultanah Aminah Johor Bahru (HSAJB), in collaboration with the College of Anaesthesiologists and the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists, recently conducted a seminar titled “Understanding Paediatric Anaesthesia” on 2nd April 2016.

Speakers from the Paediatric Anaesthesia SIG converged at the Monash Lecture Hall situated within the grounds of HSAJB. They travelled across the peninsula from the northern most region (Dr Ruwaida Isa), the heart of Kuala Lumpur (Professor Dr Felicia Lim) and joining those from the southern tip (Dr Lakshmi and myself).

The objective of this seminar was to establish the understanding of the physical, physiological and applied clinical aspects of the paediatric patient presenting for Anaesthesia and Surgery which will also help bolster the confidence of the healthcare worker in handling the paediatric patient presenting for the same.

83 participants (doctors and paramedics) from eight hospitals in the Southern region, namely Hospitals Kulai, Sultan Ismail, Muar, Segamat, Batu Pahat, Kluang, HSAJB, and as far as Malacca, contributed to the success of this seminar. Topics included Paediatric Psychological Aspects in Anaesthesia, Anatomy and Physiology, Preparation and Management in the OR, Fluid Therapy, Pain Management, Crisis Management and Resuscitation.

Professor Dr Felicia Lim was the invited speaker for our Department CME the next day and she shared her experiences with us and also managed to do some hands-on in the OR. In summary, it was an event that was well received, judging from the analysis of the participants feedback and comments with a majority stating that they would recommend such seminars to others in the future. I look forward to organising this sharing of knowledge on a yearly basis in the coming years.
The ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia practice in Malaysia has broadened its horizon. After a successful first UGRA workshop in year 2011, the Department of Anaesthesiology & Intensive Care, Hospital Ampang, had never failed in providing continuous training by hosting one after another, successful UGRA workshops. Beginning with a minor in-house workshop, it progressed subsequently to become a regular annual UGRA training activity to cater for Hospitals in Selangor under the Ministry of Health.

On 25th & 26th April 2016, a successful 6th UGRA workshop was conducted in Hospital Ampang, which also marked a chapter in history of regional anaesthesia training as the first ever training done specifically under the Zone System. The training for the central zone of Peninsular Malaysia was attended by 31 participants. The idea of conducting training according to region has been mooted by Special Interest Group in Regional Anaesthesia (SIGRA) under the College of Anaesthesiologists, in 2015. The central zone consist of four states including Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Negeri Sembilan.

It was a one-and-a-half-day workshop packed with all the basic knowledge and skills training needed to conduct ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia. The workshop was jointly organised by the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Hospital Ampang, Pertubuhan Pendidikan Perubatan Lepasan Ijazah Hospital Ampang (PPPLIHA), and the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists (MSA). It was also supported by the participating healthcare industries and chaired by Dr Mohd Sany Shoib, a Senior Consultant Anaesthesiologist from Ampang Hospital with special interest in Regional Anaesthesia.

The event was officiated with a warm welcome speech by Dr Melor bin Mohd Mansor, Head of Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Ampang Hospital, who is also the advisor for this course.

The first day was filled with theory sessions in the morning. The lectures began with the topic “Introduction to Regional Anaesthesia” by the invited speaker who is a Consultant Anaesthesiologist from Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), Dr Azrin Mohd Azidin. Other topics were given by the in-hospital resident speakers including “Anatomy/Landmarks and Sonoanatomy for Common Upper Limb Plexus and Nerve Blocks” by Dr Mohd Sany Shoib, “Anatomy/Landmarks and Sonoanatomy for Common Lower Limb Plexus and Nerve Blocks” by Dr Raziman Abdul Razak, and “Monitoring and Risk Reduction in Regional Anaesthesia” by Dr Normah Abdullah.

In the afternoon, the participants were divided into five small groups for the hands-on training. Dr Amiruddin bin Nik Mohamed Kamil’s quote, “Some of you can handle the probe quite well. I can see more people are getting familiar with using the ultrasound for regional anaesthesia, not like when we first started UGRA courses.”

Continued on page 8
session on live models. These stations were facilitated by the respective speakers together with another invited Consultant Anaesthesiologist from Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Dr Amiruddin bin Nik Mohamed Kamil.

In these stations, participants were taught on sono-anatomical landmarks and hands-on skills in identifying the nerves of interest in most upper limb, lower limb and central neuro-axial region. There was also a ‘Phantom Limb’ station for identifying nerves/vessels.

The second day of the course brought more excitement to all participants as it opened opportunities for them to practise their skills on real patients under the supervision of experienced facilitators. All consented patients were cooperative and happy to participate on that day.

Many participants had the chance to either perform or assist in administering regional anaesthesia. A total of eight to nine cases were selected during that half-day period. Among the types of regional anaesthesia performed were femoral, sciatic, axillary, supraclavicular, isolated median and ulnar nerve/bundle blocks, and also not to forget ultrasound-guidance for central neuro-axial blockade.

A question and answer session was held during the closing ceremony before the presentation of certificate to all participants and token of appreciations to all facilitators and participating industries representatives.

The Organising Committee hopes that this course will contribute to enhancement and future development of ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia practice in Malaysia with more anaesthesiologists being credentialed in this field.
An historic event took place on Wednesday, 27th April 2016, in the Ministry of Health Putrajaya. After months of discussions and negotiations, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the College of Anaesthesiologists (CoA), Academy of Medicine of Malaysia and the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (CAI) was finally inked. The MoU was as a result of recognition that more anaesthesiologists will need to be trained in the country and among the many steps to ensure this is to make available, parallel pathways for specialists training alongside our popular Masters programme. The MoU was for both parties to work together to maintain the highest standards of anaesthesia practice through education, training and examinations. It was indeed a very grand occasion, well attended by many dignitaries from the MOH, fellow colleagues and the FCAI trainees. The signing was followed by a press conference. The event was well received and publicised by all national media.

The MoU was signed by Dr Sushila Sivasubramaniam, President, CoA, and Dr Kevin Carson, President, CAI. It was witnessed by the Master of Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Professor Dato’ Dr P Kandasami, and the Chief Executive Officer of CAI, Mr Fintan Foy, in the presence of the Minister of Health, the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam and the Director-General of Health Malaysia, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

As of 1st April 2016, there are 822 anaesthesiologists in the country of which 460 (56%) are in the public sector and 362 (44%) in the private sector. In addition, there are 1024 medical officers in the Anaesthesiology departments and 199 Master’s trainees in the public hospitals. As can be seen from these figures, it is imperative that ample opportunities are provided to the medical officers to pursue their interest in the field of anaesthesiology and critical care.

In 2015, 391,150 anaesthetic procedures were performed in the public hospitals of which 57.51% were in emergency surgeries. In addition, there are 703 ICU beds and 186 high dependency beds available in the public hospitals with 40,793 admissions to the intensive care units. However, the country is still facing a shortage of anaesthesiologists with the current ratio of 1:37,000 anaesthetic provider per population. The Ministry of Health is targeting a modest ratio of 1:30,000 by 2020.
The Masters programme in Anaesthesia commenced in 1985 in University of Malaya. Currently, the Master of Anaesthesia programme is offered by five public universities i.e. UM, UKM, USM, UPM, UIAM. Most of our anaesthesiologists are produced via the local Master’s programme and the current output is between 40 to 50 new anaesthesiologists per annum. The MOH has also provided opportunities for medical officers to pursue specialty training via ‘parallel pathways’. These ‘parallel pathways’ or membership programmes are conducted either partially or fully in Malaysia but the qualifications or certificates are issued by the recognised overseas organisations.

The signing of the MoU will enable the College of Anaesthesiologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia and the CAI to achieve the following:

a) Accredit suitable centres in Malaysia to deliver training in anaesthesiology
b) Accredit local trainers in anaesthesiology
c) Implement a curriculum for training in anaesthesiology to meet the healthcare needs of the population
d) Ensure competent high quality anaesthesiologists who will provide efficient anaesthetic services for the community

It is hoped that the current and future medical officers who have an interest in pursuing postgraduate training in Anaesthesiology will consider the availability of the programme offered by the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland.
The Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists and the College of Anaesthesiologists, AMM, conducted their Annual General Meeting at the Le Meridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Sunday, 22nd May 2016. A total of 38 members attended both meetings.

The first meeting of the day was the College of Anaesthesiologists AGM where Professor Dr Raha Abd Rahman presented the Annual Report in depth. An interesting exchange of views took place with regards to the recent signing of MoU between our College and the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland. Subsequent to the presentation of the Annual Report, as well as the audited Financial Statement of 2015, election of the new Council Members was done.

After a short tea break, the AGM of the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists began with Professor Dr Marzida Mansor reading the Annual Report followed by Dato’ Dr V Kathiresan who presented the Annual Financial Statement of 2015. As per previous years, members raised a lot of pertinent questions in relation to the Anaesthetic Fee Schedule which were well answered by Dr Mohamed Namazie Ibrahim. He highlighted that the increase was 14.4% which was decided by the Ministry of Health in December 2014 and the Ministry has gathered all the new procedures and would be passing the list to Dr Raveenthiran Rasiah who represents the MSA and the College of Anaesthesiologists. Dr Raveenthiran added that the Ministry of Health has consulted the specialist societies on the new procedures which were not in the 13th Schedule. When this list has been finalised, it would be added as an addendum to the 13th Schedule. Dr Namazie took the opportunity to inform the members that the MMA Fee Committee has also completed its revision of the Fee Schedule which will be uploaded on the MMA website.

As per our meetings in previous years, we had invited speakers from a variety of backgrounds to update members on a variety of topics of interest for the year. Over the last few years, this has been mainly on Medico-legal Issues where the Medical Protection Society and lawyers from the main law firms give an update. For this year, a number of our members have indicated their concern on the ongoing issues with Inland Revenue Board and the Executive Council of the MSA strongly felt a need to address this. We invited both the Malaysian Medical Association, as well as the legal team which they are working with to address this issue. Dr Ravindran Naidu, Honorary General Secretary of MMA, and Mr Saravana Kumar who is the lead counsel kindly accepted our invitation and briefed our members. Based on the discussions, our members were able to understand the issues better and were able to seek clarifications on the steps to take in moving forward.

In summary, both AGMs went well and to end a fruitful meeting, the members were treated to a sumptuous buffet lunch before travelling back.
Recently, the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Hospital Sultanah Aminah Johor Bahru (HSAJB) organised a one-day workshop on TIVA (Total Intravenous Anaesthesia) in the paediatric patient. Abbvie’s (pharmaceutical company) unwavering support, in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists, saw an enthusiastic crowd of anaesthetists from both the public and private sectors coming together on 29th May 2016. This workshop was initiated as the heat from the previous workshop titled “Update in Paediatric Anaesthesia” at HSA was settling. The mooting of the idea of conducting this workshop was received with much enthusiasm from our colleagues and that is how the story goes…

To kick start the event, a concise lecture on the why’s and know how’s of TIVA in the young ones was presented by Dr Sanah Mohtar, a Paediatric Anaesthetist from HKL. Then the very much anticipated hands-on swung into action with a fulfilling and enriching experience for the participants. The modalities and practical applications were expertly handled by the duo who are no strangers to this field, namely Professor Dr Felicia Lim, our senior Paediatric Anaesthetist, as well as Dr Sanah.

There was ample opportunity to learn the A to Z of this form of anaesthesia in the child as we had three Operating Rooms running in unprecedented coordination, to anaesthetise a total of eight Paediatric Surgical, Paediatric Dental and the Paediatric Plastic Surgical patients, respectively. There was a continuous flow of questions and answers and active learning all at once. In short, the workshop was well received and we trust that it fulfilled its objective of teaching the practical applications of TIVA in the paediatric group to our anaesthetists. We were let in early on a little secret that a guideline for TIVA in paediatric patients would be launched at the upcoming Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists Annual Scientific Meeting and we look forward to seeing publication.
Regional Anaesthesia is a very interesting area in anaesthesia practice. It has become a remarkably helpful anaesthesia technique, as an alternative to general anaesthesia and also for opioid sparing surgery. I had the opportunity to attend the 5th Annual RA ASIA meeting which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28th and 29th May 2016 recently. The two-day meeting consist of full day symposium on the first day and parallel workshops on the last day. Very renowned faculties who are experts in regional anaesthesia from all over Asia had shared their vast knowledge, tips, and tricks in 14 lecture topics. We were also given the opportunity on hands-on workshop which consists of four parallel topics that represent different regions of the human body.

The next challenges of regional anaesthesia in Indonesia & Asia were discussed by Dr Darto Satoto from Indonesia. Sedation strategy for surgery under peripheral nerve block talk was given by Dr Victor Chee from Singapore where he emphasised three key points. First, start low and go slow. Second, two drugs usually better than one and infusion drug delivery provides better titratability. Third, regarding hypnosis and amnesia where prompt emergence determines good sedation. Update in local anaesthetic drugs talk was given by Dr Pryambodho from Indonesia. Among drugs discussed were multivesicular liposomal drugs (Exparel), microsomal drugs, cyclodextrine in liposomes and encapsulated slow release LA.

Update in treatment for local anaesthetic systemic toxicity was presented by Dr Ling Kwong Ung from Malaysia. He suggested to reduce LA dosage in liver and renal failure, old age and paediatric patients. He also discussed regarding the benefits of intravenous lipid emulsion (ILE) and adrenaline for rescue treatment. Dr Pankaj Kundra from India talked on additives to local anaesthetics. Issues were discussed regarding the quality of block, the onset and duration, and speed and selectivity of block. Among the additives to PNB are Alpha-adrenergic agonist, adrenaline, opioids like tramadol and buprenorphine, sodium bicarbonate and magnesium sulphate, anti-inflammatory agents and vanilloids.

Apart from upper and lower limbs block, spine and trunk block has shown more benefits for body intraoperative and post-operative pain control. This was discussed further by Dr Petchara Sundaramthiti from Thailand. In addition, paravertebral, PECS, serratus plane (SAP) block is among the most interesting topics for breast surgery by Dr Manoj Kumar from Hong Kong.

During the learning curve of doing nerve block, we were very careful not to hit intraneural injection. However, studies have shown that most of PNB, especially using landmark with nerve stimulation, were intraneural and very few developed nerve injury. These were discussed in the topic "Where to put the tip of needle in ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blocks: Perineural, Subparaneural, Intracortical or Intraneural Injection?" by Dr Manoj Kumar Karmakar from Hong Kong. He also discussed the different architecture of peripheral nerve. Later, peripheral nerve blocks for shoulder and clavicular surgery was given by Dr Shahridan Fathil from Malaysia who focused on interscalene, supraclavicular block and superficial cervical nerve block.

New approach in ultrasound-guided lumbar plexus block was presented by Dr Penafrenancia Cano from Philippines, where he discussed the pathophysiology of poorly controlled pain and the use of lumbar plexus and fascia iliaca block. Other topics were neuraxial technique for labour analgesia by Dr Alfan Mahdi from Indonesia, regional anaesthesia in patients with pre-existing neurologic disease by Dr Shinichi Sakura from Japan and preventing chronic pain after surgery by Dr Aida Rosida Tantri from Indonesia.

On the next day, we were given an opportunity for hands-on workshop for upper and lower extremities, paediatric, spine, body and trunk. I chose body and trunk workshop, where I was able to gain new experience on paravertebral block, PECS1 and 2 block and SAP block mainly for breast and thoracic surgery. We were able to share experience on doing TAP block, subcostal block and rectus block and ilioinguinal block.

There is a quote saying "Regional anaesthesia is an art. Remembering that even experts may fail, we should try often and again, observing scrupulously its principles, until we succeed." This is indeed a very valuable experience whereby we can go back to our hospital and correct our technique and further practise it until we become an expert, and later, able to share our knowledge and experience with others.
Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists &
College of Anaesthesiologists, AMM
Annual Scientific Congress
2017
Zon Regency Hotel
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27th to 30th
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THE AMAZING ANAESTHESIA RACE
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VENUE : KEPONG BOTANI GARDEN
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TIME : 7.30AM - 11.30AM
FEE : RM 150.00 [a group of 5 persons]

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Professional documents

The guideline “Anaesthesia for the Obese Patient Coming for Surgery” has been distributed by slow mail. The guideline “Inter-facility Transfer of the Critically Ill Patient” will be launched next month at the Annual Scientific Congress, MSA/CoA 2016. This guideline is developed in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Intensive Care and the College of Emergency Physicians, AMM. The SIG Paediatric Anaesthesia has produced the “TIVA/TCI for Paediatrics” guideline which is in print and will be ready for distribution soon. The next guideline discussed may be on Obstructive Sleep Apnoea. Our College has been invited to collaborate for the POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound) by the College of Emergency Physicians, AMM.

ANZCA 2016

I had the opportunity to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the ANZCA and it was not my first time. The difference this time was that I was part of the stage party. I had meetings with the President concerning the exit of ANZCA training in 2017 and the way forward. I did explore the possibility of the Masters’ programme being still recognised after 2017. The ANZCA hopes to continue their ties with Malaysia.

The Annual Scientific Meeting, ANZCA 2018, will be held in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in April. It will definitely be a meeting worth attending.

National Registry for Regional Anaesthesia (MyRRA)

This is a national registry under the auspices of our College. It has been up and running since April 2016. Eight-five MOH hospitals, three university hospitals and one private hospital are participating in this registry.

Special Interest Groups

The SIGs have been busy with teaching, training and conducting workshops. The Airway SIG concluded two workshops, “Advance Airway Management Course” on 28th and 29th February 2016 at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, and a “Difficult Airway Workshop” on 4th and 5th March at Kuala Lumpur Hospital. The Paediatric Anaesthesia SIG conducted the “Paediatric Anaesthesia Workshop, Crash Course for Master of Anaesthesiology” at University of Malaya on 7th March 2016 and “Understanding Paediatric Anaesthesia” at the Monash University, Johor Bahru on 2nd March 2016.

Upcoming Meetings

• 50th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine & 3rd AMM-AMS-HKAM Tripartite Congress, incorporating the 1st Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting, 19th to 21st August 2016, Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.
  As mentioned in the last Berita, the Regional SIG is conducting an UGRA Workshop on 19th August, parallel with the scientific sessions at this conference. Registration for the workshop can be done as a non-registrant of the main conference. Please take this opportunity to attend this workshop led by experts in this field.

• MSA/CoA Annual Scientific Congress 2016 & Satellite Symposium on Obstetric Anaesthesia (WFSA), Berjaya Times Square, 25th to 27th August 2016. The Obstetric SIG prepared the scientific content for the satellite symposium.

• 9th Biennial Conference on Cardiopulmonary Bypass, The Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur, 21st to 24th July 2016. The Cardiac SIG is fully involved in this meeting.

• 4th National Daycare Symposium, Selayang Hospital Auditorium, Selangor, 4th and 5th August 2016. The Convenor of the SIG Daycare is the Scientific Chairperson for the Symposium.

• ISPP 2017 Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, 6th and 7th July 2017

I urge all of you who have yet to join our College to do so as there will be many exciting changes in the near horizon.

I would like to thank the SIG Convenors for their hard work and good reports for the AGM. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Kong and the Secretariat for their continuous support.

Best wishes

Sushila Sivasubramaniam

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Message from the President of the College of Anaesthesiologists, AMM

Dear Colleagues and Friends

‘Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri’ to you and your families. I wish my Muslim colleagues and friends a blessed and joyous celebration.

Annual General Meeting on 22nd May 2016

The College has a new Council for 2016–2017. I wish to thank the outgoing Council members for their support, advice and wisdom. It was indeed a busy 2015–2016. A lot of intense meetings with brainstorming sessions were held mainly to discuss the FCAI programme. I am pleased to inform you that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland.

One of the main discussions during the AGM was also on the FCAI programme. There was a lot of healthy discussion and clarifications. The trainees from the FCAI programme will undergo a gazettement of 18 months. Our College will be monitoring the FCAI programme. This is in tandem with the vision of the Ministry of Health Malaysia on a parallel pathway.

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CAI and COA
27th April 2016

The MoU between the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland and our College was signed on 27th April 2016 by myself and Dr Kevin Carson, President, CAI. It was witnessed by the Master of Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Professor Dato’ Dr P Kandasami, and the Chief Executive Officer of CAI, Mr Fintan Foy, in the presence of the Minister of Health, the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam and the Director-General of Health Malaysia, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. The MoU was for both parties to work together to maintain the highest standards of anaesthesia practice through education, training and examinations. It was indeed a very grand occasion, well attended by many dignitaries from the MOH, fellow colleagues and the FCAI trainees. The signing was followed by a press conference. The event was well received and publicised by all national media.

I must acknowledge the effort and hard-work contributed by Datuk Dr Haji Rohaizat Haji Yon and team, especially Dr Fairoz Azlim Muslim, and the Minister’s office without whom this event would not have been a success. I also thank the AMM secretariat and my colleagues from Council and the MSA for their support and attendance at the signing. It was truly appreciated.

The College of Anaesthetists of Ireland team will be in Malaysia from 18th to 24th July 2016 for the accreditation of the Klang Valley Hospitals for recognition of training. There will also be meetings to finalise the curriculum and the log book for trainees.

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