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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Doctors, how are all of you doing?

I have been busy with numerous meetings, events, and appointments to attend as the President, sometimes even a few in a day. Let me share a few in this month's Berita.



Scan to share your voice!

The Malaysia Book of Records

On 5 November 2023, Adjunct Assoc Prof Dr Murallitharan Munisamy (Director, National Cancer Society Malaysia [NCSM]) invited me to an event at KL Sentral. It was "The Malaysia Book of Records - Pink Unity 6600 Breast-a-Thon" where NCSM recorded an achievement of 6,772 free breast screening examinations for the Malaysian public.

The aim was to raise awareness of breast cancer and to provide essential screening (e.g. clinical breast examinations, mammograms, etc) within a month! To achieve this, NCSM operated seven days a week and collaborated with 14 hospitals across Malaysia; 33 GP clinics were engaged, with 22 actively contributing to the screening efforts.

Over 60% of these screenings were solely conducted by NCSM, showcasing their commitment to the cause. Approximately 15% of screened individuals tested positive, which led to immediate referrals for further screening.

Breast Cancer is the most common cancer in Malaysia, followed by Colorectal (colon) cancer, lung cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer and liver cancer. Lung cancer (17%) is the most frequent in men and breast cancer (32.9%) in women.



With Dr Noraryana Binti Hasan (far right) at the Pink Unity 6600 Breast-a-Thon event

Meeting with DG of Health

On 7 November 2023, I as the President along with Datuk Dr Arasu (MMA Hon Gen Secretary), Dr Sivabala (SCHOMOS Chairman), Dr Timothy (SCHOMOS Vice-Chairman), and Datin Dr Gowri (SCHOMOS Treasurer), met with the Director General of Health, Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan. We discussed SCHOMOS-related issues with the top MOH officials.

During the meeting, we raised concerns about contract doctors' work environment, relocation, bullying, and career pathways. Bringing up issues to MOH needs regular follow-ups by MMA as dealing with such a large and complex ministry within the healthcare sector presents significant challenges.



At the UPM Convocation

UPM Convocation

I was invited to University Putra Malaysia's Convocation Ceremony on 24 November 2023 to give away the Gold Medal Award to the Best Student in Medicine 2021/22, worth RM1,000! MMA has been the sponsor of this award since 2001. You could feel the happy environment of the graduates with their parents on this wonderful day.

On 25 November 2023, I attended MMA Johor Branch's Annual Dinner. It was organised by Chairman Datuk Dr Mohan Kandasamy and his committee members. It was an opportunity to meet fellow MMA members and Monash medical students and lecturers who also attended the dinner.

World Medical Association (WMA)

As a member of WMA, I had the opportunity to serve on the Ethics committee. Recently, WMA's Regional Expert Meeting in Pacific on the WMA Declaration of Helsinki (DoH) was held in Tokyo between 30 November – 1 December 2023.

I had the chance to chair a session on "Case studies in Ethical Challenges during COVID-19: On Research with Vulnerable Populations".

The WMA has developed the DoH as a statement of ethical principles to provide guidance to physicians and other participants in medical research involving human subjects.

Till the next issue, I wish all of you the best in providing quality patient care and taking good care of yourself with work-life balance in place! Bye!



With Dr Nurain Mohd Noor at the WMA event in Tokyo



With Datuk Dr Mohan Kandasamy and Dr Mohtar Pungut at the MMA Johor Dinner