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DECIMATE DENGUE: THE PRE-SUMMIT WEBINARS SERIES (5<sup>TH</sup> WEBINAR)

## PRE-VACCINATION SCREENING - WHAT'S NEXT

### INTRODUCTION

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Dengue Summit has been postponed to January 2022. In the meantime, the Asia Dengue Voice and Action (ADVA) Group, in collaboration with the Global Dengue and Aedes transmitted Diseases Consortium (GDAC), Fondation Merieux (FMx), International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISNTD) and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO) bring a series of online meetings titled "Decimate Dengue: The Pre-Summit Webinars." **The fifth webinar in the series titled "Pre-vaccination screening - What's next?"**

was held on November 15, 2021. **Professor Dr Zulkifli Ismail**, Consultant Pediatrician and Pediatric Cardiologist at KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital, Malaysia, and **Professor Dr Maria Rose Capeding**, Head of Medical Research Unit, Tropical Disease Foundation in Philippines, chaired the webinar. The webinar featured talks by **Professor Dr Sutee Yoksan**, Emeritus Professor of Pathobiology and Consultant of Centre for Vaccine Development at the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Mahidol University, Thailand, and **Professor Dr Usa Thisyakorn**, Executive Director of Tropical Medicine Cluster, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

### UPDATE ON DENGUE SEROPREVALENCE AND RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTS



#### Professor Dr Sutee Yoksan

Emeritus Professor of Pathobiology  
Consultant of Centre for Vaccine Development  
Institute of Molecular Biosciences  
Mahidol University and Chulabhorn Research  
Institute, Thailand

1. The efficacy and safety of the first licensed dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia (CYD-TDV) depends on dengue serostatus
  - With a seroprevalence of >70%, for every 4 severe cases prevented in seropositive individuals, 1 excess severe case in seronegative individuals per 1000 vaccinees is expected. Similarly, for every 13 hospitalizations prevented in seropositive individuals, 1 excess hospitalization in seronegative vaccine recipients is expected.<sup>2</sup>
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)
  1. The efficacy and safety of the first licensed dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia (CYD-TDV) depends on dengue serostatus
    - CYD-TDV confers protection against severe virologically confirmed dengue (VCD) and hospitalization at least 5 years to individuals who have had dengue infection before vaccination (seropositive).<sup>1</sup>
    - However, there is a higher risk of VCD and hospitalization in vaccinated individuals with no prior dengue infection (seronegative).<sup>1</sup>

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Distinguished Fellow Paediatricians,

We are at the end of 2021, yet the world is still facing unprecedented global health and socioeconomic crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over the past months, we have struggled with the delta variant that has spread across multiple countries. Now, the delta

itself has accounted for nearly all coronavirus infections globally.

However, several countries have reported decreasing COVID-19 infection over several weeks, especially in the Asia Pacific. While the restriction has been relaxed in some areas, the emergence of the omicron variant has captured the world's attention. Some regions have reported the cases and are expecting the number to increase.

There is still more to be learned about this new variant's transmission effect and the severity of diseases. Nevertheless, we must keep vigilance during these days. Wearing masks, keeping a safe distance from one another, washing hands regularly, encouraging testing and tracing, and providing the treatment are still powerful tools to prevent further transmission and save lives from the delta variant and the omicron.

Some countries have started the COVID-19 vaccination on 6-11 years old to prevent the spread of the delta variant that caused an increase of COVID-19 children over the past

months. I hope all paediatricians across the Asia Pacific can support and promote this program to their countries as soon as possible. Vaccinating our children will help protect them from getting COVID-19, hospitalizations, reduce their risk of severe disease, and developing long-term COVID-19 complications, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

On a separate note, we will have our 17<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics in March 2022. The Congress will be held at the beautiful, culturally vibrant city of Lahore, Pakistan. The theme of the Congress is "Every New Born, Every Child, Every Where." which is very timely and relevant to the Asia Pacific Region. Despite the current pandemic situation, I hope it will not lower our excitement and enthusiasm to support our Congress and make it a success.

I extend my gratitude and appreciation to our host, the Pakistan Pediatric Association, who has worked hard and done their best to put together an interesting scientific program covering all important paediatric specialities and prioritize safety for everyone participating.

Let's succeed, participate, and support our APCP 2022. See you at Lahore!

Best regards,  
**Professor Dr. Aman B Pulungan, MD, PaedConsultant, PhD, FAAP, FRCPI (Hon.)**  
**President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association**



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on immunization recommends two strategies for CYD-TDV vaccination<sup>2</sup>

- Strategy 1 - Using the vaccine only in populations with a high seroprevalence of >80%.<sup>2</sup>
- Strategy 2 - Is the preferred option, where pre-vaccination screening is performed to detect seropositivity and only dengue seropositive individuals are vaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

3. Vaccine introduction strategies need to consider population dengue seroprevalence

- Dengue seroprevalence in Thai healthcare workers (HCW) in Bangkok is very high.<sup>3</sup>
- Majority HCWs are exposed to all 4 dengue virus serotypes.<sup>3</sup>
- 95% of the participants have PRNT50 ≥10 for at least one serotype.<sup>3</sup>

4. Plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) titres are associated with protection from dengue infection

- Data from Thai cluster studies indicates association between PRNT titres and protection from infection by DENV-1, -2 and -4
- Protective neutralizing antibodies are serotype dependent.<sup>4</sup>

5. Proposed approaches to accelerate dengue vaccine introduction include:

- Policy making decision level: Seroprevalence of dengue in endemic areas should be determined by plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT50) with defined immune correlate of protection. This will define age group for vaccination without pre-vaccination screening.
- Point of care level - Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and conventional enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) to be used to determine prior dengue infection.
- Establishment of reference serum panel - A reference serum panel should be established to evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of commercially available RDTs.

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**Table 1:** Comparison of pre-vaccination screening tests

TEST	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<b>Plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most specific serological test for determining typespecific neutralizing antibodies<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laborious<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Expensive<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Inconvenient for routine surveillance<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
<b>IgG enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most widely used<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Relatively easy to perform<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time-consuming<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Need laboratory infrastructure<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Cross-reactivity with other flaviviruses<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
<b>IgG rapid diagnostic test (RDT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick and simple<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Point-of-care use<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Convenient in resource-limited setting<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• No need for specialised laboratory capacity<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low sensitivity<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Low specificity<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>

- Phase 3 efficacy trial in five Latin American countries in 20,869 healthy children aged 9 and 16 years.<sup>10</sup>
- Phase 2b, proof-of-concept trial in 4002 Thai schoolchildren aged 4-11 years.<sup>11</sup>

4. CYD TDV vaccine offers protection against severe VCD and hospitalization for VCD in seropositive individuals<sup>1</sup>

**Table 2:** Incidence of VCD in seropositive and seronegative individuals<sup>1</sup>

	ADVANTAGES		DISADVANTAGES	
	Vaccine	Control	Vaccine	Control
<b>Cumulative incidence of hospitalization for VCD (2-16 years)</b>	0.75%	2.47%	3.06%	1.87%
<b>Cumulative incidence of hospitalization for VCD (9-16 years)</b>	0.38%	1.88%	1.57%	1.09%

*“Majority of patients presenting with severe dengue are children under 15 years of age. Therefore, children should be the primary target for dengue immunization programs. Seroprevalence studies in children are urgently needed. A regional task force for establishing seroprevalence and evaluation of RDTs is required.” - Professor Dr. Sutee Yoksan*

*“In Asia Pacific region dengue seroprevalence is very high. However, each country needs to consider its own seroprevalence data, and evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of available screening tests while deciding pre-vaccination screening strategy” - Professor Dr. Usa Thiskiyorn*

**STRATEGIES FOR DENGUE PRE-VACCINATION SCREENING**



**Professor Dr Usa Thiskiyorn**  
Executive Director,  
Tropical Medicine Cluster,  
Chulalongkorn University,  
Bangkok, Thailand

1. The WHO targets to reduce the burden of dengue by 2030 include:<sup>8</sup>
  - Reduce case fatality rate to 0.
  - Reduce the burden of dengue disease and its incidence by 25% (2010-2020 as baseline).
  - 75% countries to be able to detect and respond to dengue outbreaks.
2. Continued development of preventive vaccines is one of the critical actions to achieve 2030 WHO targets of dengue control.<sup>8</sup>
3. Safety and efficacy of the CYD TDV dengue vaccine was demonstrated in 3 trials across Asia and Latin America
  - Phase 3 trial in five countries in the Asia-Pacific region in 10,275 healthy children aged 2-14 years.<sup>9</sup>

**TAKE HOME MESSAGES**

- ✓ Development of safe and effective vaccines against all 4 dengue serotypes is a critical component in reducing the dengue disease burden.<sup>8</sup>
- ✓ Pre-vaccination screening is the preferred strategy to identify and vaccinate only seropositive individuals with the CYD TDV vaccine.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Seroprevalence in endemic areas, availability, sensitivity, and specificity of pre-screening tests, dengue hospitalization rates, and cost of pre-screening tests and vaccine will determine the decision on pre-vaccination screening.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ RDTs appear to be simple, cost-effective, and convenient for pre-vaccination screening.<sup>7</sup> A reference serum panel should be established to evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of commercially available RDTs.
- ✓ A coordinated approach is needed to ensure effective immunization programs in dengue endemic countries. Development of regional task force for establishing seroprevalence and evaluating RDTs performance is essential.
- ✓ Several new candidate dengue vaccines, which may or may not need pre-vaccination screening and newer RDTs are under development and expected soon.





# Resounding Success of the 11<sup>th</sup> APPES & 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of MPA

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES) Biennial Scientific Meeting held in conjunction with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) was successfully organised as a virtual conference from 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its uncertainties delayed the original date a year later. Despite all the shortcomings due to the pandemic thrown to the organising committee, it was a resounding success. There were 1026 registered delegates with 195 abstracts, of which 160 was from overseas.

Staging APPES 2021 in Malaysia was an excellent opportunity for paediatric endocrinologists and paediatricians in general from the Asia Pacific region to gather at a commonplace and exchange their knowledge and expertise while sharing their experiences. There were four plenary sessions, ten symposiums, six “meet the expert sessions”, four satellite symposiums and four oral presentations. Registered delegates attended most of the sessions, and it generated lots of scientific and clinical discussion.

The theme of “NURTURE, EDUCATE AND BEST PRACTICES OF CARE OF CHILDREN WITH ENDOCRINE DISORDERS & DIABETES” resounded well the objectives of this 11<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting, as well with APPES mission and vision. Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar, Minister of Health, Malaysia, officially launched the conference and the first “Consensus Guideline on Screening, Diagnosis and Management of Congenital Hypothyroidism in Malaysia”.



The excellent composition of the scientific programme attracted 515 delegates from Malaysia because the topics included in the tracks had much to offer the non-paediatric endocrinologist.



Congratulations and kudos to the organising committee chairman, Professor Dr. Muhammad Yazid Jalaluddin and his team, and the scientific chairman, Professor Dr. Noriyuki Namba, for putting up an excellent programme.  
- **Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam, President, Malaysian Paediatric Association**







# Thai Pediatricians' Action on PM<sub>2.5</sub> Air Pollution



"Around 620 million children in South Asia breathe polluted, toxic air. Because they have smaller lungs, breathe twice as fast as adults, and lack the immunities that come with age, children endure its damaging health and neurological effects the most."

"Air pollution is associated with one of the biggest killers of children - pneumonia, and linked to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory infections. Air pollution damages brain tissue and undermines cognitive development in babies and young children, leading to lifelong consequences that can affect their learning outcomes and future potential. There is evidence to suggest that adolescents exposed to higher levels of air pollution are more likely to experience mental health problems."

"Children have a right to live in a clean environment and to breathe clean air. We must act now."

**The above statements were released by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on toxic air in South Asia on November 6, 2019.**

## Aware of the effects of air pollution in Thailand

The Pediatric Society of Thailand and the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand have been well aware of the effects of air pollution on children's health. In 2019, we held a press conference and delivered messages to the public. Some of them were as follows:

- Pollution exposure during pregnancy may affect unborn babies, resulting in their long-term organ dysfunction. Therefore, pregnant women whose pregnancy is less than 6 months should avoid any pollutants.
- In normal children, the air quality scale which starts to affect their health and daily activities are the air quality index (AQI) above 100, or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels (an air pollution that is a concern for people's health when levels in the air are high) over 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- In children with chronic respiratory diseases, for example, asthma, chronic pulmonary disorders, allergic rhinitis, and heart diseases, the air quality scale which starts to affect their health and daily activities are the AQI above 50, or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels over 37µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## For healthy students:

When the AQI are above 100 or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels are over 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>, students should wear face masks and should not do outdoor exercises.

When the AQI hit above 200 or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceed 90µg/m<sup>3</sup>, students should avoid being outdoor, and be allowed to take a leave.

## For students with respiratory or heart diseases.

When the AQI are above 50 or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels are over 37µg/m<sup>3</sup> students should wear face masks and should not do outdoor exercises.



Facebook:PM2.5 by the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand

When the AQI hit above 100 or the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceed 50µg/m<sup>3</sup> students should avoid being outdoor, and be allowed to take a leave.

In 2020 The Pediatric Society of Thailand and the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand invited 14 pediatric pulmonologists and pediatric allergists from medical schools, government and private hospitals across the country, as the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Working Group. Professor Dr. Aroonwan Preutthipan, M.D., FCCP. was selected as the chair.

It was our great honor that Professor Dr. Sir Stephen T. Holgate from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, UK, accepted our invitation to be an Honorary Advisor.

Thirteen scientific lecture series were held on a monthly or biweekly basis via Zoom, when PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels spiked, starting from June 2020 till March 2021. The session that Professor Dr. Sir Stephen T Holgate was the speaker had the largest audience, with more than 24,300 views. Broadcast live and rerun on platform Docquity, he delivered a lecture on "Clean Air Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

The PM<sub>2.5</sub> Working Group have received successful cooperation from the Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and also Ministry of Public Health. We discussed the approach, shared knowledge and idea how to manage the problem of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Thailand.

Several sessions were broadcast nationwide on TV and Facebook live from the Center for Air Pollution Mitigation, for example, "Increase Public Awareness of Health Effects from PM<sub>2.5</sub> Pollution", "Let's Fight with PM<sub>2.5</sub>".

## A cross sectional survey

Also of interest are the results of a cross sectional survey on Thai pediatrician's awareness and basic knowledge of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution. Among 399 participants from 57 provinces in Thailand, 99 percent agreed that pediatricians had the responsibilities to learn the health effects of PM<sub>2.5</sub> on children and provide advice to the public.

*continued on page 7 ...*





# Asia Pacific Pediatric Association, NCD Child and CLAN Child Health Regional Workshop: “The Impact of COVID-19 on Obesity and Diabetes in the Asia-Pacific Region”

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented impacts on child health globally, including the rise of obesity amongst children and adolescents as well as a disruption in diabetes care. The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), in collaboration with Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD), Child and Caring & Living as Neighbours (CLAN) Child Health, conducted the workshop, “The Impact of COVID-19 on Obesity and Diabetes in the Asia-Pacific Region” from October 23-24, 2021.

“  
**It doesn't matter when we start.  
It doesn't matter where we start.  
All that matters is that we start.**  
- Professor Dr. Aman Pulungan



Keynote Address by Mr. Budi Gunadi Sadikin  
Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia



Panel Discussion with Professor Dr. Jamal Raza from Pakistan  
(Executive Director, Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology)

**Partners**

Thank you to our partners:

Welcoming Address by Professor Dr. Aman Pulungan, President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)

Welcoming address by Dr. Kate Armstrong from CLAN Child Health

range of topics from leadership, maximizing the use of social media to intimate discussions on obesity and diabetes in the region.

### Day 1

On Day 1, the workshop was honoured to have Mr. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Indonesian Minister of Health, as the keynote speaker of the session. His keynote address was then followed by a panel discussion with Pat Spellman from New Zealand (Board member of the Diabetes Foundation), Dr. Louise Baur from Australia (Senior consultant paediatrician at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and President-Elect of the World Obesity Federation) and Professor Dr. Jamal Raza from Pakistan (Executive Director, Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology).

### Day 2

On Day 2, the workshop began with a keynote address from Dr. Rekha Harish (Professor of Pediatrics, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research India). Both days of the workshop were graced by distinguished speakers in breakout room sessions, where participants are able to select 4 out of the 6 breakout rooms offered.

Gathering speakers and participants from all over the Asia-Pacific Region, this regional workshop aims to provide a forum for focused collaboration and evidence-sharing on obesity and diabetes as well as learning opportunities for students and young people, especially those living with obesity and/or diabetes, to strengthen their advocacy efforts. Beginning the workshop with opening remarks from Professor Dr. Aman Pulungan as the President of APPA and Dr. Kate Armstrong from CLAN Child Health, the two-day workshop was then packed with two keynote speakers, a panel discussion and breakout room sessions that covered a

The first breakout session featured a discussion on NCD Champions and Leaders by Professor Dr. Aman Pulungan, a senior pediatric endocrinologist who has years of experience as a leader and advocate not only in the Asia-Pacific region, but across the globe. The second breakout session was offered by Dr. Ghaisani Fadiana, a pediatric endocrinologist from Indonesia, who shared about her diabetes education project and experience as the WHO NCD Lab Winner.

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## THAI PEDIATRICIANS' ACTION ON PM<sub>2.5</sub> AIR POLLUTION

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They believed that the source of PM<sub>2.5</sub> mainly came from the traffic, burning and constructions. Most wanted the working group to take more actions, conduct more research and create a network to fight with PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

To encourage adolescents' concerns about the harmful effect of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, a video clip contest was launched on social media urging students aged 13-22 years to submit their productions. Award winners for best video clips were announced officially in an online ceremony held by the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand and Pollution Control Department on July 26, 2021.

If you are interested in our activities please follow our Facebook, "PM<sub>2.5</sub>: by the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand" and contact e-mail: aroonwan.pre@mahidol.ac.th.

We do hope that pediatricians in Asia and around the world would like to combat PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the future of our young generations like us. The air that our children breathe must be cleaner and cleaner.

**- Professor Aroonwan Preutthipan, MD., FCCP.  
Pediatric Society of Thailand**



## COVID-19 OBESITY & DIABETES

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The third breakout session featured Dr. Mesty Ariotedjo, Founder and CEO of the child developmental platform "Tentang Anak", who shared about running a successful social media campaign. The other two breakout sessions featured discussions with participants regarding their experience on obesity and diabetes with facilitators from NCD Child. The final breakout session is a networking session for participants to connect with other young and passionate advocates in the NCD field.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts raised to child obesity and diabetes throughout the region, it is imperative to unite all parties to raise awareness of challenges for children and young people living with obesity and diabetes. Through this regional workshop, we hope that nations across Asia-Pacific are able to work together towards a future where no child with obesity or diabetes are left behind.

**- Dr. Saskia Octariza, Assistant to APPA President & Ms Helena Arnetta Putri, Content Creative, APPA Social Media**



*Running a Successful Social Media Campaign Breakout Session by Dr. Mesty Ariotedjo, Founder and CEO of "Tentang Anak"*



*Breakout Session on Challenges in Childhood Obesity in the COVID-19 Pandemic*



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial & 6<sup>th</sup> International BPA Conference 2021

It was really challenging to organize the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial & 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Bangladesh Paediatric Association (BPA) at the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this year's event curriculum, BPA decided to take a dynamic approach to host the two events on a physical location as well as to be connected virtually both nationally and internationally.

BPA is diligently working with the Bangladesh Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as well as other national and international development partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for Bangladesh within the stipulated timeline of 2030 anticipating the hindrance caused by COVID-19.

And that's why, the theme for this year's Conference was chosen as **"Ensuring Child Health for SDG during COVID-19 and Beyond"**.

The two-day conference held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021 was of a hybrid nature. The sessions and symposiums not only included world renowned Bangladeshi paediatricians but also international paediatric experts who joined virtually to provide lectures.



*Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain delivering the theme Lecture for the conference*

More than 700 paediatricians having expertise in various fields from across the country took part in the conference. The scientific committee was instrumental in organizing the mammoth program.

### Topics of the conference

The topics of the Conference included current best practice in newborn health, paediatric hemato-oncology, nephrology,

gastroenterology, neurology cardiology, respiratory medicine, rheumatology, infectious disease, endocrinology, critical care, community child health, ethical issues along with satellite symposiums on vaccinology and currents topics.

Bangladesh Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Mr. Zahid Malek MP was the Chief guest at the inaugural ceremony. Other special guests were Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Professor Dr. Md. Sharfuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Dr. Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Chief Health of UNICEF as well as Dr. Sanjana Bhardwaj and representatives from United States Agency for International Development

((USAID) and Maternal and Newborn Care Strengthening: Project of Save the Children (MaMoni MNCSP).



*Mr. Zahid Malek MP*

### Scientific activities on the first day

President of Bangladesh Paediatric Association (BPA), Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain delivered the theme lecture for the conference. The scientific activities on the first day of the conference began with a symposium on Vaccinology. Concurrent discussions were on Chronic liver disease in children, Nodular Lymphocyte Predominant Hodgkin Lymphoma (NLPHL) management in children and antithrombotic and thrombotic therapy in new born and children followed soon after.

Other notable discussions held on the first day include updates in Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) management in children, pediatric hypertension, update on treatment of nephrotic syndrome in children, epilepsy in children, diagnosis and management challenges of inborn errors of metabolism, role of genetic tests in childhood epilepsy sharing experience in Bangladesh, screening of children with poorly controlled asthma for the diagnosis of Acute Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis (ABPA), pediatric clinical radiology and imaging in the eyes of GPs, Kawasaki Disease, rational use of antibiotic in children, paediatric cardiology in developing world and paediatric cardiac interventions.

The day also included free paper submission and research abstract display for paediatric researchers. Many young researchers were delighted at the opportunity to demonstrate their research capabilities and most recent findings. Research topics of the research papers included medical education during COVID-19, diseases most commonly found in children and the impact of COVID-19 in children.

The day's presentations also included a poster session on posters prepared on various paediatric topics stemming from disease profiles to impact of COVID in children.

### Second day of the conference

The second day of the conference started with a symposium on update on Meningococcal Meningitis and Pediatric Nocturnal Enuresis. Scientific paper presentation included topics ranging from trend analyses of child diseases to treatment and drug administration methods in children. Following the paper presentations, two plenary sessions were

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# IPS' Report Activities in 2021

In 2021, Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) was focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. IPS affiliates with the government and other professional organizations to combat the COVID-19 virus, especially in children.

Several recommendations and guidelines were published to the public in response to the pandemic. IPS also supports the

COVID-19 Vaccination Program in children aged 12-17 years, by coordinating with local governments in running the program in several places in Indonesia.

IPS has also published COVID-19 Guidance for Safe School in August 2021 when schools reopened in Indonesia. Below are some of the published Guidance for schools:



▲ *IPS Guideline for quarantine and isolation of children infected with COVID-19*



▲ *IPS recommendations on reopening of schools*



▲ *IPS' Recommendation in COVID-19 Vaccination in children aged 12-17 years*

## KONIKA XVIII

This year (2021), IPS held its largest and highest legislative forum, the 18th Indonesian Congress of Pediatrics (KONIKA XVIII), with the theme "Anak Sehat, Anak Indonesia" (Children's Health is the Greatest Wealth). The Indonesian Congress of Pediatrics (KONIKA) is an annual congress held once in three years. It was postponed for a year due to the pandemic and this year IPS conducted it online to adjust with the current pandemic situation. The Indonesian Pediatric Society North Sumatera Chapter hosted the event and it drew more than 4000 participants.

The 18th KONIKA XVIII comprised pre-congress workshops that had begun in July 2021 along with organization assembly, plenary, symposium, parallel symposium, breakthrough symposium sessions, young pediatric forum, and oral & poster presentations from 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The organization assembly was held from 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021, which drew over 300 paediatricians across Indonesia. During this congress, a new president for IPS was elected. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso, MD, PaedConsultant, will serve as the new IPS President for the 2021-2024 term.

## IPS Collaborations

IPS collaborated with other international pediatric societies such as Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), the Turkish National Pediatric Society (TNPS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to strengthened relations with other pediatric societies and provide a forum for pediatricians and general practitioners to update knowledge related to child health in Indonesia, regional and international settings related to the current situation. The discussions in this event is hoped to be beneficial for Indonesian children's health.



*New elected IPS President, Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso (left) with Immediate Past President, Professor Dr. Aman B. Pulungan*



*Joint Collaboration with Turkish National Pediatric Society (TNPS) and Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) with Professor Dr. Aman B. Pulungan as moderator, Professor Dr. Hardiono Pusponegoro (IPS) and Professor Dr. Eda Utine (TNPS), Professor Dr. Tulay Guran, (TNPS) as Speakers*

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## BPA ACTIVITIES

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organized on the topics of anemia in new born and infants, infection control in NICU, quality improvement in healthcare facilities in Low-Medium Income Countries (LMICs), diagnostic criteria and the current and future therapies of MAS, pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary vascular resistance in Left and right shunt lesions, blended learning, neuroprotective therapies in Neonatal Encephalopathy in Low Middle Income Countries, Twin track approach in management of Asthma.

The conference ended with a note stressing the importance of the participation of paediatricians in ensuring child health amidst and after COVID to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN).

The conference was widely successful as paediatricians from different parts of the country as well as overseas were able to share their unique experiences and learn from other paediatricians on the latest diagnosis and treatment methods and they were also able to understand their role in the development of the nation, as it moves ever closer to achieve the SDGs set by the United Nations.

### Young medical researchers

This conference provided young medical researchers with the opportunity to present their research to a wide range of paediatricians where they could not only present their cases but also learn from other researchers and understand the



avenues of research that they could explore. The congregation of the great number of renowned faculties and speakers, both from the home country, Bangladesh as well as international faculties at the scientific session proved to benefit all who participated in this year's conference.

The paediatricians left the two-day conference rejuvenated in their endeavor to accomplish the mammoth challenge of providing health care to children during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

**-Manzoor Hussain**

**President, Bangladesh Paediatric Association (BPA)  
Standing Committee Member, International Pediatric Association (IPA)  
November 2, 2021**



## IPS ACTIVITIES

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*Joint Collaboration with Turkish National Pediatric Society (TNPS) and Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) with Dr. Rosalina Dewi Roeslani (IPS) as moderator, Dr. Yogi Prawira (IPS), Dr. Nina Dwi Putri (IPS) and Professor Dr. Hasan Tezer, (TNPS) as Speakers, discussing topics related to COVID-19*

KONIKA also invited aspiring young pediatricians across Indonesia to a Panel Discussion called Young Pediatrician Session that aims to honor young pediatricians who had excelled academically and entrepreneurship and inspired other pediatricians. Dr. Catharine Mayung Sambo, moderated this panel discussion. Prestigious panelists were also invited during this panel discussion, among them Professor Dr. Aman B. Pulungan, Professor Dr. Budi Setiabudiawan and Professor Dr. Hardiono D. Puspongoro.

Additionally, IPS held 30 pre-congress workshops, one of them was collaboration with the AAP and APPA titled: "Strengthen the Capacity of the National Pediatric Societies in Immunization Advocacy", uniting pediatricians from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

A Virtual Workshop on: "Master Training to Strengthen the Capacity of National Pediatric Societies in Immunization Advocacy" was also held from 28-29 August 2021.

**- Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso, President, Indonesian Pediatric Society, November 25, 2021**





# Global Efforts Towards Polio-Free World

**World Polio Day, observed yearly on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honour the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate Polio from every corner of the globe.**

**Through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), CDC works with partners to eradicate Polio and end the suffering from this devastating disease. GPEI is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the countries.**



Rotary International (RI) initiated World Polio Day over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Professor Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the vaccine against poliomyelitis. Today, there are only two countries where wild poliovirus transmission occurs: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Polio cases have decreased by over 99.9% since 1988.

There is no cure for Polio, but safe and effective vaccines are there. Polio can be prevented through immunisation. The strategy to eradicate Polio is therefore based on preventing infection by immunising every child until transmission stops, and the world is polio-free.

As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting Polio.

Rotary International District 3300 celebrated the World Polio Day 2021, by organising a very successful Polio Endgame Webinar. The selection of speakers was excellent. They were inspiring, informative and their story gave meaning to why we should continue supporting and advocating for Polio Eradication.

**Living Positively, PP John Seo of RC Jakarta Central :**

An inspiring speech and his emotional journey as a Polio victim since he was born. It did not deter him despite "being a nobody's child". Today he is a Rotarian and championing Polio eradication, crossing all hurdles only to be a successful individual and a source of inspiration to others.

**Dr. Musa Mohd Nordin, Senior Pediatrician at KPJ Hospital, a private hospital and who has been involved in humanitarian work internationally:**

Musa shared his thoughts on the Past, Present & Future of Polio Vaccination in Malaysia and how we should not forget the seriousness of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, like Polio and now COVID-19. We had our last major Polio outbreak in 1972 and our last case was in 1992, until 27 years we had another outbreak in 2019. He stressed that preventive efforts must continue until the last is eradicated from the face of earth.



**Dr. Hermant Shukla, WHO International Representative:**

Dr. Hermant, who Zoomed-in from Jordan, shared the WHO Polio Endgame strategy of 2019-2023, its status, challenges, and plans to eradicate Polio. The approach focuses on eradication, integration, certification, and containment.

**Mr. Patrick Teoh:**

Patrick Teoh was diagnosed with Polio at the age of 8, which affected his legs. He shared his journey since then. Despite his condition, he did allow Polio to stop him from living like an average person. He became an actor and a radio personality and was nicknamed "Voice of Malaysia", a distinctive voice we hear over three decades.

**PDG Aziz Memon, RI Trustee from Pakistan:**

PDG Aziz Memon is the voice of End Polio in our part of the world, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan. So far, Polio has taken 1.7 million lives. The good news is the last eight months, no wild poliovirus was detected; hopefully, it will remain so for the next three years.

Vice-Governor PDG Dato' Jimmy Lim closed the session, by launching our "Polio Tabung Kita", which kind of piggy bank to encourage more contributions to the End Polio Fund. Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have extended their long-term fundraising partnership which generates up to \$150 million annually for polio eradication. Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million a year over the next three years, and each dollar will be matched with an additional two dollars by the Gates Foundation.

It is a collective responsibility of every Rotarian to support this effort, and we would like to thank Rotarians who have been and are continuing to contribute Polio fund.

This successful webinar was attended by 170 attendees from all over Asia. Some members of Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) also attended this event as both Dr Musa Mohd Nordin and Dr Selva Kumar are the executive members of MPA. Dr Selva Kumar was the organising chair of the webinar.

**- Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam, MPA President 2021-2023 (The writer is an active Rotarian and currently the Polio Plus chair of RI District 3300)**





# 17<sup>TH</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics



Lahore, Pakistan 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

Theme:  
Every New Born, Every Child, Every Where



## APCP Pakistan

Countdown has begun, do plan and Join us....



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Co Chair Organising Committee, APCP



**Iqbal A. Memon**  
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APCP President Elect, APPA



**Aman B Pulungan**  
Executive-Director, IPA  
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### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- APCP Symposia
- Pre Congress Workshops
- Oral Presentations
- Plenary Sessions
- Meet the Expert
- Poster Viewing

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