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MYANMAR



APPA CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL SITUATION IN MYANMAR

Dear All APPA members,

Greetings from the APPA Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.

APPA is concerned about the political situation in Myanmar and hope that our members, colleagues, paediatricians and children in Myanmar are safe and protected.

Although APPA practises non-political

involvement, we are always concerned when children's lives and health are at risk.

We in APPA view this with sadness and hope that peace will prevail in Myanmar soon.

May God bless us all.

Kind regards,

Dr. Zulkifli Ismail
Secretary General, APPA



Myanmar security forces have killed 51 children out of 710 people since the military overthrew an elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, 2021. (AFP Photo/Free Burma Rangers).

Note: On February 1, 2021, Myanmar's military detained State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint in the country's first coup since 1988, bringing an end to a decade of civilian rule.

At least 710 civilians have been killed as of late Tuesday (April 13, 2021), including 51 children since the military overthrew an elected government led by Suu Kyi on February 1, 2021, according to a local monitoring group.

Reports also stated that more than 3000 people have been arrested by security forces in connection with the anti-coup demonstrations while thousands of refugees fleeing into Thailand and India.



APPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Distinguished fellow pediatricians,

A new year is an excellent time to start something new. However, as the pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 is still lurking around the corner, things were different at the start of this year. There are still high numbers of COVID-19 cases in some regions despite the vaccination that has

been started since last year. Travel restrictions are still going on across countries, local lockdowns, and limitations of public gatherings. Nonetheless, there is no more urgent time than now to work together with all stakeholders to address this public health crisis.

As we go deeper into 2021, several countries in Asia Pacific Region have already vaccinated their health workers as their priority. However, until at least mid-2021, the vaccine still not evenly distributed amongst the adult population, and vaccines for children will still undergo trials. This would create a great issue since some countries in our region start re-opening the school and the "tipping point" of herd immunity has not been reached yet. Several areas have reported rising infection rates among the children following the return to school, raising concerns over the third wave. We have no choice but to keep the children safe by teaching them how to properly wash their hands and wear masks (for older children and adolescents).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the midst of the pandemic, we urge pediatricians across the Asia Pacific region to advise parents on the importance of completing their children's vaccinations. During this pandemic, we must prevent the occurrence of another outbreak.

These recent events have brought home the gravity of the pandemic, and I'd like to extend my heartfelt encouragement and prayers to all of us. We must maintain our vigilance. For all of us, wearing masks, keeping a safe distance from one another, and washing hands on a regular basis are still the main keys to breaking the chain of transmission although the vaccine is readily available. Remember to stay away from crowded areas, close quarters, and poorly ventilated rooms. For those of you who are still visiting clinics and hospitals, remember to examine our patients carefully: test, trace, and treat as needed.

It is critical that we take care of our own health at this time; there should be no more pediatricians who become infected and ill as a result of SARS-CoV-2. In our fight against COVID-19, I hope we remain sharp and vigilant. Keep yourself healthy and safe first while delivering healthcare by wearing PPE, even if it's scarce. May God continue to bless us all!

Best regards,

Professor Dr. Aman B Pulungan, MD, PaedConsultant, PhD, FAAP, FRCPI (Hon.)

President of APPA



CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

DR. AMAN BAKHTI PULUNGAN!

Congratulations to APPA President, Dr. Aman Bakhti Pulungan, on his election as the Executive Director Elect of the International Pediatric Association (IPA).

APPA would like to wish Dr. Aman, All The Very Best and may IPA achieve greater success in the field of child health care and paediatrics under his tenure.

Kind regards,
The APPA Executive Committee Members
APPA Secretariat
APPA Standing Committee (SC) Members
APPA Affiliate Member Countries



**International
Pediatric
Association**

Every Child · Every Age · Everywhere



Two Infants Inhaled Cancer Cells From Mothers During Birth

It's extremely rare for cancer to transfer from mothers to babies, but not unheard of

Two infants in Japan may have developed lung cancer after inhaling cancer cells from their mothers at birth, according to a new case report.

About 1 in 1,000 babies are born to mothers who have cancer, but only about one in 500,000 of these newborns develops cancer from their mother. Though these cases are extremely rare, researchers had known that the transfer can happen if cancer cells, traveling in the mother's blood, get into the placenta.

Now, researchers in Japan have identified a previously unknown route of transmission: Two infants who were born to mothers with cervical cancer may have developed lung cancer after "aspirating" tumor cells that were present in the amniotic fluid, secretions or blood from the cervix, the authors wrote in a case study published January 7 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

The cases involved a 23-month-old boy who went to a local hospital in Japan with a cough that didn't subside for two weeks and a 6-year-old boy who went to the hospital with chest pain. Both boys were diagnosed with lung cancer.

The mother of the 23-month-old boy was diagnosed with cervical cancer three months after the boy was born, but likely had a tumor at the time of his birth. The boy and the mother were treated with chemotherapy, different medications and surgeries to remove cancerous tissue; and while the boy's cancer disappeared, the mother's progressed and led to her death five months later.

The mother of the 6-year-old boy had a known cervical tumor during her pregnancy but one that was thought to be stable and so wasn't treated at the time, according to the report. After delivery, a biopsy revealed she had cervical cancer; she died two years after surgery to remove the tumor. The boy underwent chemotherapy among other treatments and had his left lung removed; he was followed for 15 months after his surgery and remained cancer-free, according to the report.

Comparing Tumor Tissues and Normal Tissues from the Two Young Patients and Their Mothers

To understand the relationship between the tumors in the mothers and their children, the researchers compared tumor tissues and normal tissues from the two young patients and their mothers, specifically looking for mutations in 114 cancer-related genes. They found that the boys' lung tumors had many genetic similarities to the mothers' cervical tumors.

The boys' tumors both lacked the Y chromosome - one of two sex chromosomes passed down from father to son - meaning that the tumor was likely inherited from the mothers. They also

discovered that the tumors had similar characteristics to the tumors found in each of the boys' mothers, such as mutations that occur in cells called somatic cells that aren't typically passed down to children. The lung tumors also contained small genetic mutations similar to those in the mother that were not found in the child's other tissues. Both boys' tumors also held DNA from the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is thought to cause most cases of cervical cancer.

The "detailed genomic scrutiny and comparison of the cancer cells from mother and child provide unambiguous evidence" that the two tumors are from the same clone, or group of identical cells, said Sir Mel Greaves, founding director of The Centre for Evolution and Cancer at The Institute of Cancer Research in London, who was not a part of the study. "The story is very credible."



Image: © Shutterstock

A baby's hand resting on a mother's hand.

The Infants Likely "Aspirated" their Tumor Cells from their Mothers During Birth

Because these patients developed tumors specifically in the lungs and not across the body as is common in most other documented cases of mother-to-child cancer spread, the infants likely "aspirated" their tumor cells from their mothers during birth, the authors wrote.

It is "rather likely though not provable" that this is what happened, Greaves told Live Science in an email. Though extremely rare, these cases indicate that it's possible to transfer cancer to infants during birth, and so the authors recommend C-sections for mothers with cervical cancer.

"This is a very interesting report," said Dr. Theodore Laetsch, a pediatric oncologist and director of the Very Rare Malignant Tumors Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who was also not involved in the study. It is "clear from the genetic data that both infants' cancers came from the cancer in their mothers."

But "I still think it is possible the cancer crossed the placenta as has been described in other patients and that the cancer cells only grew in the lungs for other reasons," Laetsch wrote in an email to Live Science.

- Originally published on Live Science.com, January 15, 2021



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[The International Pediatric Association](#) (IPA) expresses deep concern regarding the impact of the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, Syria, and Yemen on children's wellbeing. Children are the future of every country and it's each and everyone's responsibility to protect them and help them to flourish for the betterment of tomorrow.

Social research findings show that children's earliest experiences significantly influence their future development. The course of their development determines their contribution, or cost, to society over the course of their lives.

Despite much progress in recent decades, millions of children are still living without their basic rights. Now more than ever, children's lives are being touched by violence, conflict, and the impacts of climate change.

IPA believes that every child regardless of their age, race, gender, wealth, or birthplace deserves all the basic fundamental rights. These rights are enshrined in international law in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#). It recognizes all children must be treated fairly, equally, and with dignity. The child rights convention laws are non-discriminatory and are always in the best interests of the child.

Looking at the current situation which the children are facing in Myanmar, Syria, and Yemen, IPA calls for/advocates its member societies, governments and parents to take action to ensure child rights are protected, respected, and fulfilled.

IPA: working for Every Child, Every Age, Everywhere



Errol R Alden

Dr. Errol Alden
President, IPA



NThacker

Dr. Naveen Thacker
Executive Director, IPA

On behalf of
Standing Committee, IPA

Wishing everyone a

Happy Ramadan

May the spirit of Ramadan illuminate the world and show us the way to peace and harmony.



Pandemic Measures Indirectly Killed Over A Quarter Million South Asian Children, Says UN Report

The full effect of the pandemic lockdowns is just starting to become clear as countries take stock of their public health programmes.



A volunteer hands out free face masks to children in Lalitpur, Nepal. Side effects of COVID-19 lockdowns in the country include an 80% drop in the number of young children treated for severe acute malnutrition, a new UN report says. Photo: AP

The investigation focused on South Asia's six most populous countries: Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, together home to nearly two billion people.

The report, commissioned by UNICEF and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), cites examples of the more severe service disruptions and their tragic results.

"Direct and Indirect Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia" found that women, children and adolescents were the worst-hit.

Lockdown side effects include an 80% drop in the number of young children treated for severe acute malnutrition in Nepal and Bangladesh, and a sharp drop in childhood immunisations in Pakistan and India.

"The fall-off of these critical services has had a devastating impact on the health and nutrition of the poorest families," said Unicef regional director for South Asia George Laryea-Adjei.

"It is absolutely vital that these services are fully restored for children and mothers who are in desperate need of them, and that everything possible is done to ensure that people feel safe to use them."

South Asia Reported Nearly 13 Million COVID Cases and Nearly 200,000 Deaths So Far

South Asia has reported nearly 13 million COVID cases and nearly 200,000 deaths so far, says Reliefweb International.

Many countries, including those in South Asia, responded to the pandemic with stringent lockdowns in which hospitals, pharmacies and grocers remained open, but almost everything else shut down. The report examines the effect of these government strategies on healthcare, social services, including schools, and the economy.

It estimates that there have been 228,000 additional deaths of children under five in the six countries due to crucial services, ranging from nutrition benefits to immunisation, being halted.

It also estimates that there have been some 3.5 million additional unwanted pregnancies, including 400,000 among teenagers, due to poor or no access to contraception.

The full effect of the pandemic and lockdowns is just starting to become clear as countries take stock of their public health and education programmes.

Experts in India already fear that malnutrition rates will be significantly worse across the country when the statistics are totted up over the next few months.

The interruption to health services also affected those suffering from other diseases - the report predicts an additional 6,000 deaths across the region among adolescents who couldn't get treated for tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid and HIV/Aids.

- Reliefweb International/malaysianow.com, March 17, 2021



Bats Carrying Viruses Similar To SARS-CoV-2 Found Outside China

This implies virus could have come to Wuhan from elsewhere, says co-author of new study

Horseshoe bats carrying coronaviruses very similar to the one that causes COVID-19 have been found outside China, new research has found.

This implies that the virus could have arrived at the Chinese city of Wuhan from elsewhere, said one of the study's co-authors, Professor Wang Linfa from Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore.

The study, which was published yesterday (February 9, 2021) in the Nature Communications journal, had found a coronavirus in the horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus acuminatus* in Thailand that was 91.5 per cent similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

So far, the closest relative to SARS-CoV-2 has been detected in the horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus affinis* in China's Yunnan province - with a genetic similarity of 96.2 per cent.

In another study published as a pre-print pending peer review last month, researchers had also found - in the horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus shameli* in Cambodia - coronaviruses 92.6 per cent similar to SARS-CoV-2. All three are horseshoe bats from the genus *Rhinolophus*.

Some 100 Species in this Group

There are more than 100 species in this group, which is widespread from Australia to Europe.

The authors of the latest paper said their findings show that cross-border surveillance is needed to unearth the original host of the virus.

Professor Wang said that to determine this, there has to be a genetic similarity of more than 99 per cent between the genomes of SARS-CoV-2 and the virus in the animal.

The researchers also used serological tests to determine if bats and pangolins - another animal shown to carry coronaviruses similar to SARS-CoV-2 - had neutralising antibodies against the virus.

Neutralising antibodies are a special group of antibodies that can help to prevent the virus from latching on to the host cell and beginning its invasion.

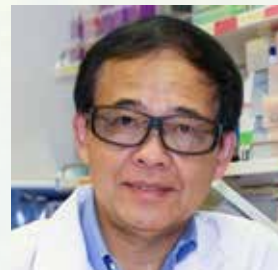
The researchers took samples from bats and pangolins in Thailand and tested them for the presence of neutralising antibodies using cPass - a neutralising antibody kit developed by Professor Wang.

For the bats, four out of 98 serum samples showed the presence of strong positive neutralising antibodies. The high level of neutralising antibodies detected among them suggests that there might be a more closely related virus in Thai bats, said Professor Wang.

As for the 10 pangolins - whose countries of origin are unclear as they had been confiscated by the Thai authorities from the illegal wildlife trade - molecular tests that look for the presence of viral genetic material all turned up negative, indicating that none of them were currently infected.

However, one pangolin tested positive for neutralising antibodies.

Professor Wang said this shows that pangolins are highly susceptible to such coronaviruses, but it is not clear yet whether they could have acted as the intermediate or transmitting host.



Duke-NUS Medical School Professor Wang Linfa is one of the co-authors of the study published February 9, 2021.

Denmark Decided to Cull all the Minks being Farmed for Fur

Last November, Denmark decided to cull all the minks being farmed for fur in the country, fearing a mutated form of coronavirus found in the animal could potentially hamper the effectiveness of a future vaccine.

But Professor Wang said culling should not be an option for wildlife.

"Active surveillance and monitoring will be the way to go," he added.

National University of Singapore mammal researcher Marcus Chua agreed.

He said that compared with the risk of large-scale animal farming, where many animals are in close proximity to humans, the chance of diseases being transmitted from wild animals to humans is lower.

"Extermination of bats is no good because studies have shown that disturbing bat habitats and attempting to cull them could result in a change in their behaviour and may also stress them out - which could cause increased virus prevalence and shedding," said Mr. Chua.

It is important for humans to avoid disturbing wildlife habitats and keep a respectful distance from wild animals.

He added: "Bats perform important ecosystem services such as being bug busters that keep the insect population in the ecosystem in balance, and many are also important seed dispersers."

- straitstimes.com, February 10, 2021



OBITUARY

APPA Accounts Administrator Passed Away



Hayati Ramli

Dear All APPA members,

The APPA Secretariat with profound sadness would like to inform that its Account Administrator, Hayati Ramli, 50, has passed away on April 5, 2021.

She was the Account Administrator of APPA from January 2018 - April 2021.

The late Hayati Ramli was a dedicated professional and a loving friend.

May Allah bless her soul and may she be among the righteous. Aameen.

Kind regards,
The APPA Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Childhood Cancer Care Heavily Impacted By Pandemic

A global assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on paediatric cancer care showed that care was affected at more than three-quarters of hospitals

The pandemic has had a "substantial" impact on childhood cancer care worldwide, with a marked rise in the number of patients abandoning treatment altogether, new research showed Thursday (March 4, 2021).

COVID-19 has placed huge pressure on hospitals and healthcare systems, particularly in developing nations, as most medical facilities have been inundated with COVID-19 patients.

A global assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on paediatric cancer care showed that care was affected at more than three-quarters (78%) of hospitals.

Almost half (43%) reported diagnosing fewer new cases than expected, while 34% reported a rise in the number of patients who stopped treatment.

Perhaps most worryingly, 7% of hospitals surveyed reported having to close their paediatric cancer units entirely at some stage during the pandemic.

Vast Majority were in Low and Middle Income Countries

The vast majority of these - 87% - were in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).



"Hospitals in LMICs were under strain even before the pandemic, with fewer resources and less access to care for children with cancer," said Daniel Moreira, managing director of the US's St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"So our results seem to reflect the relative strength of different healthcare systems around the world."

Among the more than 200 hospitals contacted in 79 countries for the survey, 79 percent reported a reduction in child cancer surgery.

More than half noted shortages in blood products and 57 percent reported shortages of chemotherapy treatment.

The pandemic also diverted resources such as funding and bed base from childhood cancer care, according to the survey results published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal.

Around one third (32 percent) of hospitals surveyed reported decreased financial support, while 19 percent reported a reduction in available beds.

Writing in a linked comment article to the survey, Soad Fuentes-Alabi, of El Salvador's Ayudame a Vivir Foundation Medical Center said the research showed the struggles experienced by childhood cancer patients in less-developed countries.

"The common issues of late diagnosis and treatment abandonment or interruptions have worsened during the pandemic," she said.

- AFP, Paris, March 4, 2021



23rd Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 30th & 31st January 2021

For the first time in the history of Annual Scientific Congresses of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP), the 23rd Annual Congress was held as a hybrid conference adhering to the government regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet for all the constraints imposed, it was a most successfully conducted venture.

In addition to the limited maximum of in-person 100 physical participants, nearly 500 Paediatricians, trainees and other grades of doctors joined virtually for this conference. The cost-free virtual conference was a remarkable opportunity for the participants across the country to meet an expert panel of both local and overseas speakers while enjoying a cup of tea at home.

It was truly a magnificent spread of new knowledge in Paediatrics with contributions from world renowned resource persons from the United Kingdom, United States of America, India and Sri Lanka. This conference included an Inauguration Ceremony, 3 prestigious Orations, 3 Plenary Lectures, 7 Symposia and 12 Free Paper Oral Platform Presentations. Although, some adjustments were made to the Scientific Programme in comparison to previous conferences exclusively due to the prevailing pandemic situation, all the essential components were preserved and traditions were maintained during this year as well.



President of SLCP- Professor Vasantha Devasiri addressing the gathering at the Inauguration Ceremony

This conference commenced with 12 free scientific paper oral presentations which had been selected from over 175 research papers, case series and case reports submitted by the members and trainees. In addition, 103 submissions among them were selected for poster presentations. Adding another novel experience to the presenters, e-poster presentations and evaluation for the awards were undertaken virtually.

The first Plenary Lecture was delivered by Professor Shaman Rajindrajith, Chair Professor of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo on "Crohn's Disease in Children: Current Status and Future Perspectives".

Adding more value to this conference the second plenary was presented by Dr. Errol R. Alden, the President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA). By joining virtually from USA, he delivered a lecture on "Children's Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Dr. Alden shared his vast experience in this field and discussed how Paediatricians and Paediatric Societies can continue to promote the rights of the child on local, national and global stage by utilizing the SDGs.

The other Plenary Lecture was delivered by Professor Mohamed Rela, Consultant Liver Transplant Surgeon from India. As a world-renowned expert in liver transplantation he discussed surgical aspects of management of biliary atresia from Kasai porto-enterostomy to liver transplantation.

The prestigious Inauguration Ceremony was held in the traditional way and the key component of this ceremony, the Professor C.C. de Silva Memorial Oration was delivered by Professor Gitanjali Sathiadas on "Challenges in childhood nutrition - A Sri Lankan perspective".

On the second day of the conference Dr. Stella G. de Silva Memorial Oration was delivered on "Fostering clinician-led research" by Professor Sarath Lekamwasam while, Dr. B.J.C. Perera Research Prize Oration on "The child is a person" was delivered by Professor Susirith Mendis.



Dr. Errol R. Alden, the President IPA delivering a plenary lecture



A part of physical participants who adhered to the COVID-19 preventive measures

Rest of the congress included 7 Symposia. Dr. Cheryl Hemingway, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist from UK discussed an overview on autoimmune encephalitis during the Symposium on Paediatric Neurology, while Professor Sudhin Thayyil, Professor of Perinatal Neuroscience of The Imperial College, London, elaborated on the important aspects of cooling babies in low and middle income countries in the Symposium on Neonatology. In addition, Dr. Vaman V. Khadilkar, Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist from India joined the Symposium on Growth and Nutrition and discussed the use of growth charts for assessing and monitoring growth.

Paediatric nephro-urology, infections, immunology, eye, ear and emergency paediatrics were the other topics which were discussed in several other symposia in this conference. Apart from the foreign faculty mentioned above, an eminent local faculty has contributed to those symposia as resource persons.

A wide variety of academic materials discussed in this conference opened up many avenues for the participants to uplift their



End The Exploitation Of Children

THE United Nations (UN) has declared 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) believes that decent jobs for adults, full respect for workers’ rights, universal social protection, and free, quality education for all children are the keys to achieving the elimination of child labour and meeting UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 by 2025.

(The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals adopted by the UN’s General Assembly that form a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. Goal 8.7 is about eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and child labour in all its forms by 2025.)



Child street singers in Asia

Mandating due diligence in global supply chains, including in agriculture, where more than 70% of child labourers work, is also essential to ending the scourge of child exploitation.

“Progress has been made in recent years, but even before the economic and social destruction of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were still more than 150 million children at work instead of in school.

Child Labour Still Exists in Every Region

Child labour still exists in every region due to the failure to ensure jobs for adults, insufficient investment in education, and the lack of social protection for households.

“Children’s right to protection from exploitation is enshrined in International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 182, which has been ratified by every ILO member state (including Malaysia). Just 14 countries have yet to ratify the ILO minimum working age under Convention 138, and pressure for them to do so will intensify this year.

“We call on all countries to meet the obligations of these conventions, to protect children, and enable them to build their future,” says ITUC general-secretary Sharan Burrow in a press release.

Existing faults in the global economy have been brutally exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic, and reconstruction and resilience must pay attention to getting the tens of millions of child workers out of work and into school. Continued failure to guarantee decent wages for adults and to ensure respect for rights at work will risk undoing the progress that has been made and leaving behind another generation of at-risk children.

Many governments have stepped-up their social protection systems in response to the crisis, but efforts have been uneven, with many low-income countries lacking the fiscal space to do enough.

Crucial in Establishing a Global Social Protection Floor

That is why establishing a global social protection floor is crucial, with the establishment of a global fund for social protection as an urgent first step to avoid a surge in child labour in developing countries.

The vast majority of child labour can be found in agriculture, where most work is informal, labour inspection is often non-existent, fundamental rights are denied, and wages and working conditions frequently dismal. Targeted efforts from governments are urgently needed to promote inclusive rural development through the promotion of decent work in agriculture and the expansion of the scope of services provided by the state, such as accessible and quality health care and schooling.

“The 14 remaining governments that have not ratified ILO Convention 138 on the minimum working age should do so this year, and all governments should resolve not to allow the world to slide back into 19th century exploitation.

“A new social contract will provide the hope and the pathway to realising the aim of the UN Year for the Elimination of Child Labour,” says Burrow.

- **thestar.com.my, January, 24, 2021**



... continued from page 8

knowledge on a variegated spectrum of childhood conditions from simple growth assessment to more sophisticated techniques like brain cooling and robotic liver transplantation surgery.

As every dark cloud has a silver lining, rapidly expanded facilities for virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic which broke

the entire geographical barrier, gave an opportunity for more people to join this conference and hence, it has ended recording the highest number of total participants in the history of the Annual Scientific Conferences of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians.

- **Formulated and presented by Dr. Channa de Silva and Dr. B. J. C. Perera**



National Online Symposium Indonesian Pediatric Society Bangka Belitung Chapter



Each year, the Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) holds a National Symposium in collaboration with IPS chapters. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Symposium in 2020 have to be postponed. This year, IPS held its very first online national symposium together with the newest chapter of IPS, the Bangka Belitung chapter from January 23-24, 2021. Approximately 1127 participants attended this two-day event.

Panel Discussion - Telemedicine



Panelist: Dr. Antonius H. Pudjiadi,
Prof. Dr. Bambang Supriyatno,
Prof. Dr. Agus Firmansyah
Moderator: Prof. Dr. Jose RL Batubara

The first day of the National Online Symposium consists of a discussion about telemedicine and about child health where IPS invited the Minister of Health of Indonesia, Budi Gunadi Sadikin and Senior Advisor of Director-General of WHO Headquarter, Geneva, Diah Satyani Saminarsih, M.Sc.

The session then continued to the symposium sessions about Endocrinology and Neurology. The lecture sessions were

Panel Discussion - Children Future Are At Risk



Panelist: Dr. Aman B. Pulungan,
Diah Satyani Saminarsih,
Budi Gunadi Sadikin

previously recorded but the discussions were live where participants can ask the speakers through the Q and A column.

The last session for the first day is the virtual workshop for Endocrinology and Neurology. This session is limited to participants who signed up for the workshop.

The following day was also the last day of the National Online Symposium. The sessions were about Infection and Tropical Diseases followed by Pediatric Emergency and Intensive Care. This time there were speakers from Malaysia and India.

The workshop marks the closing of the first National Online Symposium of the Indonesian Pediatric Society. See you at the second of the National Online Symposium of IPS that will be held in Jambi

- **Dr. Ayu Utami, Assistant to APPA President**



INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EVENTS

2021

The 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) Hybrid Conference Organised and hosted by the Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA)

Theme: "Every New Born, Every Child, Every Where"

Date: October 28-31, 2021 **Venue:** Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan

Email: ppa.apcp2021@gmail.com / apcp21sc@gmail.com

Website: www.ppa.org.pk

PAKISTAN

72nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Paediatric Society of New Zealand Inc.

Date: November 2-5, 2021 **Venue:** Rotarua, New Zealand

Website: www.paediatrics.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND

12th ISTP of International Society of Tropical Pediatrics (ISTP)

Date: November 23-27, 2021

Venue: Intercontinental City Stars Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

E-mail: contact@iccgroupp.com / operations@iccgroupp.com

Latest Information: www.ictp.2020.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ictp2020

EGYPT

Note:

These paediatric events are for information purposes and does not constitute any endorsements from the APPA Secretariat.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, conferences in many countries have either been re-scheduled, postponed to 2021, 2022, cancelled or will be held as scheduled. Please confirm with organisers.

11th Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES) Biennial Scientific Meeting in conjunction with the 43rd Annual Conference of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA)

Theme: "Towards Best Practices in Paediatric Endocrine Disorders & Diabetes."

Date: November 25-28, 2021

Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

E-mail: secretariat@appes2020.org **Website:** www.appes2020.org

Tel: 603-7931 2131 **Fax:** 603-7932 2132

MALAYSIA

2022

The 17th ASEAN Pediatric Federation Congress (APFC) 2020 & The 23rd Annual Congress of Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA)

Theme: "Assuring Equal Access To Quality Healthcare Services For All Children"

Hosted by the: Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA)

Date: (To be confirmed) **Venue:** Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: secretariat.apfc2020@gmail.com

VIETNAM

- Updated and compiled by Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA



Study: Children More Likely To Catch COVID-19 At Family Gatherings Than At School

Research from the US suggests that parents can breathe a sigh of relief, as school may not be the most likely source of COVID-19 infection among children and teenagers - on the contrary. According to the study, children have a greater risk of being infected by a family member than by their classmates at school.

Led by researchers at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, in United States (US) in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the study is based on interviews with around 400 parents and on a list of children under the age of 18 who were tested for COVID-19 between September and November 2020.

First, the study shows that the continuous efforts carried out in schools and childcare programs to prevent the spread of COVID-19 seem to be paying off, since schools were not found to be the principal source of infection. That news could prove reassuring for many parents, especially since children have been back in school for several months in certain countries, while others are preparing to reopen progressively.

Several reasons could explain this. Children could be more likely to catch the virus from family members who might not be as strict with safety precautions - unlike at school. However,

it could also be linked to lower rates of infection in children, making for a lower risk of infection in school settings.

In detail, the study reveals that children and teenagers who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 were more likely to have attended family gatherings or had visitors to their homes, and their parents were less likely to wear masks. Similarly, children attending school who tested positive generally reported that other children or staff members were not taking safety measures like mask wearing.

Finally, children who tested positive were more likely to have attended gatherings such as weddings, parties, playdates or funerals. While the study is not without limitations - such as the sample size and limited geographical zone - it nevertheless shows how appropriate safety measures, when they are applied, remain essential in limiting the spread of the virus.
- **AFP-Relaxnews, January 6, 2021**



Children less likely to catch COVID-19 at school than at a family gathering, the study suggests. - Getty Images via AFP



One In Every 100 Newborns Suffers From Congenital Heart Disease, Says Malaysian Health Ministry

About one in every 100 newborn babies in the country suffer from congenital heart disease or from Congenital Heart Defects (CHD), says the Malaysian Health Ministry. This means that about 5,000 babies are born with this condition, based on the 500,000 births every year.

The ministry said that 95% of cases have unknown causes, but the risks increase with the use of banned drugs and alcohol during pregnancies, smoking, gestational diabetes, getting viral infections (Rubella) during pregnancies, and genetic problems such as chromosomal abnormalities (Down Syndrome).

“Early detection can reduce the complications to the baby and prepare the parents to accept their baby’s condition,” it said in a Facebook post on Sunday (February 14) in conjunction with the Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day.

According to the American-based Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CHDs are the most common type of birth defect. It however said that as medical care and treatment have advanced, babies with CHDs are living longer and healthier lives.

It added that CHD affects the structure of a baby’s heart and the way the heart works. According to CDC, CHD affects how blood flows through the heart, and to the rest of the body. The CDC also said that the condition can vary from mild such as a small hole in the heart to severe such as missing or poorly formed parts of the heart.

It also said that one in four babies with the condition is considered critical, and needs surgery or other procedures in the first year of life.
- **themalaysiannews.com, February 14, 2021**





17TH Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics

Hybrid Conference

Lahore, Pakistan 28th to 31st October, 2021



Theme:
Every New Born, Every Child, Every Where



Dr. Khalid Shafi
Secretary General, PPA



Prof. Dr. Habibullah Babar
President, PPA



Prof. Iqbal A. Memon
Chairman Organising Committee, APCP
President Elect, APPA



Dr. Aman B Pulungan
Executive-Director, IPA
President, APPA



Prof. Gohar Rehman
General Secretary, APCP



Dr. Zulkifli Ismail
Secretary General, APPA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

PRE CONGRESS WORKSHOPS ON

- Vaccine Hesitancy • Appa Workshop
- Anti-microbial Resistance

Registration Fees

International Delegate	USD. 400/-
International Delegate Accompanying person with Registration	USD. 250/-
Special Rates for SAARC Countries	USD. 300/-
For Overseas participants attending Virtually	USD. 100/-
Pakistan Rates for Consultant & General Physician	PKR. 15,000/-
Pakistan Rates for PG's	PKR. 7,000/-
Skill Building Workshop	PKR. 3,000/-
Gala Dinner	PKR. 4,000/-
Accompanying person with Gala Dinner	PKR. 7,000

CONCURRENT SYMPOSIA

Infectious Diseases	Cardiology	Pulmonology
Neonatology	Gastroenterology	Endocrinology
Neurology	Nephrology	COVID-19
Neglected Tropical Diseases	Hematology / Oncology	Community Pediatrics
Child Protection	Adolescent Health	Emergency and Critical care

Web: www.apcp-pak.live

Email: apcp21sc@gmail.com | ppa.apcp2021@gmail.com

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