

MALAYSIAN ONCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JAN - JUNE 2021 E-NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO MOS 3RD EDITION E-NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S Message **Dr M Azrif** **Honorary President,** **Malaysian Oncological Society**



Malaysia experienced another wave of Covid19 cases the last few months and we had to live through another MCO. However, the vaccines have finally arrived and we will be receiving our vaccinations over the next few months. Meanwhile, I hope that you are all practising sensible precautions to prevent infection while at work and during your free time.

ESMO has a good webpage answering common questions regarding the efficacy and safety of the Covid19 vaccines in cancer patients and I would recommend that our members visit the website for more information (<https://www.esmo.org/covid-19> and [cancer/covid-19-vaccination](https://www.esmo.org/cancer/covid-19-vaccination)).

I am happy to report that the new MOS website is up and running. It has a sleek new look with an online member application and a new member section. Please do visit the website and give us your feedback. Many thanks to Dr. Tan Chih Kiang, his website team, and

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the website developer for their work.

The 32nd MOS annual general meeting was held virtually on 12th December 2020. The members submitted many good ideas and the committee is working on the proposals at the moment.

MOS is currently in a healthy financial position and we are announcing a special CME allowance for members that will be explained in more detail later on in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Prof Dr Ng Kwan Hoong from Universiti Malaya for receiving the Merdeka Award 2020 for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement. Prof Ng has been a MOS member since 2006 and MOS has been financially supporting his research project on radiotherapy dosimetry since 2019. Congratulations also to MAKNA for receiving the Merdeka Award 2020 for Education and Community. MAKNA has collaborated with MOS many times in the past and most recently we worked together on a public awareness campaign on cervical cancer on social media. Both recipients well deserved their awards and MOS hopes to continue working together with them to improve outcomes for our patients. ~

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32nd ASCOMOS 2021 **UPDATE**



Initial Conference Dates :
29th Jan - 31 Jan 2021

Postponed Conference Dates :
29th - 31st Oct 2021

Venue:
Hilton & Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur

Scientific Chairperson :
Prof Dato' Dr. Fuad Ismail

The Organising Committee of the 32nd ASCOMOS has been monitoring the growing escalation of the outbreak of the COVID-19. The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MoH) advised to practice social distancing by postponing or cancelling mass gatherings and large community events to curb the disease from spreading. Following this recommendation, the 32nd ASCOMOS Organising Committee has decided to postpone our Annual Scientific Meeting, which was planned for 29 Jan - 31 Jan 2021 to **29-31 Oct 2021**.

Having spent months preparing for the conference, we are genuinely disappointed not to be able to continue with the event as planned. The safety and well-being of all attendees, faculty, staff, industry partners, exhibitors and other stakeholders are our top priority and we believe this is the right decision given the current circumstances.

Nevertheless, our goal remains the same, we aim to bring everyone together in an alliance for a holistic approach to cancer care for our country, which defines the conference theme – 'Forging a New Future for Oncology'.

In this age of ever-evolving oncology care, we endeavour to play a vital role in the continued education of cancer care professionals and look forward to fostering new partners and better collaborations to improve awareness, education on cancer, survivorship and access to care.

We will also be re-opening our abstract submission and registration nearer to the date. Do stay tuned for updates on our website here: <https://ascomos.com/home/>.~

32nd MOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 12th Dec 2020 - UPDATE

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Oncological Society was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, 12th December 2020. The President of MOS, Dr Muhammad Azrif began the meeting at 2.40 pm with a total of 40 members of attendance.

The reports from the President, Secretary, and Treasurer were presented and discussed. Life members who would like a copy of these reports and the minutes of the AGM can email malaysianoncologicalsociety@gmail.com.

Several motions were proposed and discussed:

- 1) A motion was passed for the MOS committee to form a working group to review and update the constitution.
- 2) Dr. Azrif, the current Vice-President of the College of Radiology (Oncology), was tasked to form an interim committee to assist in the running of the Chapter of Oncology with a view to forming a College of Oncology in the future.
- 3) MOS to appoint a Research Officer and to run a cancer clinical research registry to list all the studies in different cancer centres as this will help to raise awareness among MOS members and help in the recruitment of patients to these studies.
- 4) MOS members who are interested to participate in the City Cancer Challenge (KL and Selangor) as members of the technical committee can email Ms Norlin Ghazali, City Manager, City Cancer Challenge Greater Petaling (ghazali@citycancerchallenge.org).

MOS Life Member CME Allowance 2021

During the MOS AGM in December 2020, there were several proposals from our members that MOS should spend more of its funds on members' continuing medical education. As it is difficult for MOS to organize such events during the pandemic and since there will be many virtual meetings and conferences this year, your MOS committee has decided to allocate an RM2000 CME allowance per life member to be spent on CME activities in 2021. There are 247 life members of MOS so the committee decided on RM2000/member as a reasonable sum for CME without depleting MOS's finances too significantly.

This RM2000 can be spent on the following only:

- 1) [uptodate.com](https://www.uptodate.com) subscription for 2021 (max USD420).

This RM2000 can be spent on the following only:

2) 2021 membership fees for ESMO, ESTRO, ASCO, ASTRO, IASLC (ESMO and ESTRO discounted rates for Malaysia).

3) Registration fees for meetings/conferences (virtual/live) on oncology or cancer care held in 2021 only.

*** This RM2000 is the total per member and not for each of the three items above so please choose wisely how you spend your RM2000.

Eligibility criteria for the RM2000 CME allowance must be met

1) MOS life member on 31/12/2020 (applications in 2021 for MOS life membership will not be eligible for the RM2000 allowance)

2) member of the Academy of Medicine Malaysia (for oncologists who are not AMM members yet then you may apply this year and take advantage of full sponsorship by MOS of the registration fee and first year's annual fee. You will still be eligible for the RM2000 grant as long as you submit your application for AMM membership to MOS this year along with your claim for the RM2000 CME allowance)

3) Proof of payment of [uptodate.com](https://www.uptodate.com), society membership fee and meetings must be submitted to MOS by 31 December 2021 to receive the RM2000 CME allowance.

*** MOS will only reimburse the total amount spent on CME up to and not exceeding RM2000 in total per eligible member for 2021. Any residual amount cannot be carried over to subsequent years as this offer will only be for 2021. You may submit multiple claims during the year or in one go later on in the year. We will try to keep to a quarterly schedule to reimburse everyone who submits a claim.

*** MOS will have a separate fund for trainee members who will not be eligible for the above life member benefits. The details are still being worked out. ~

WORLD CANCER DAY



4TH FEB 2021 # I am and I will



Menara Alor Setar, Kedah



The Exchange 106, Kuala Lumpur



Komtar, Penang



Sunway Velocity Mall, Kuala Lumpur

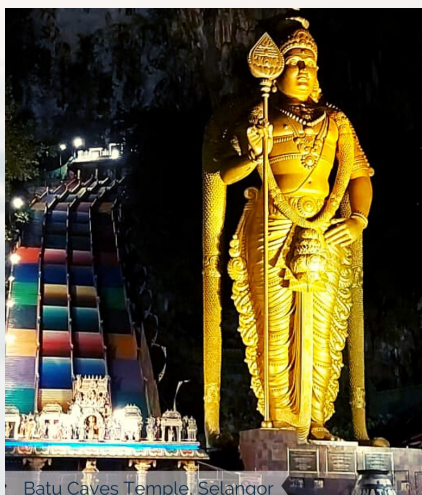
Inspired by the saying, 'Through the darkness of night, the light will lead the way', some of the historical sites and buildings in Malaysia were lighted up on the 4th February 2021 to highlight the issue of cancer control. Undoubtedly this act has emphasized the strong hope, faith and willingness one conveys to those battling cancer.

The landmarks were Menara Alor Setar (Kedah), Komtar (Penang), The Exchange 106 (Kuala Lumpur), Menara MBPJ (Petaling Jaya), A'Famosa (Melaka), Sunway Pyramid (Petaling Jaya), Sunway Velocity Mall (Kuala Lumpur), Batu Caves Temple (Selangor), Masjid Bandaraya (Kota Kinabalu) and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Malaysia.

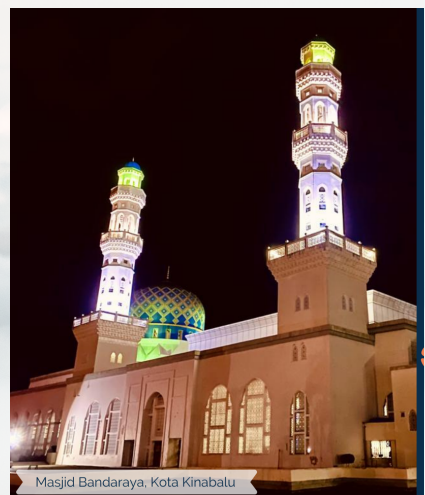
This memorable event was a collaboration between the National Cancer Society, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Malaysian Oncological Society, UICC - Union for International Cancer Control, several pharmaceutical leaders, cancer survivors and members of the public to deliver the theme message, I am and I will.



A'Famosa, Melaka



Batu Caves Temple, Selangor



Masjid Bandaraya, Kota Kinabalu



VIRTUAL AEROBICTON 2021 -

FIT FOR LIFE

27 February 2021, 9.00 am - 12.00 pm ~

In conjunction with World Cancer Day 2021, the Exercise Support Group (ESG), University of Malaya Medical Centre organised a '**Virtual Aerobicton**' via **zoom** for the very first time.

Despite a 'lockdown', many people came together virtually to celebrate the health and fitness of all Cancer Survivors at home.

CALLING OUT ALL MOS MEMBERS TO SHARE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENT/ACTIVITIES IN 2021/2022

If there is an upcoming event or activity planned in the year 2021/2022 that you would like to disseminate to all members, please email us at **malaysianoncologicalsociety@gmail.com**.

TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE COLLEAGUE DATO' DR T ALOYSIUS RAJ 1949 - 2020

On the morning of 2nd October 2020, our Oncology fraternity was saddened to hear the news that our colleague Dato' Dr T Aloysius Raj had succumbed to his surgery, which had taken place the day before. We had lost a true friend and a well-liked Oncologist.

The shock of his loss was felt by his devoted wife Jacintha, his family, his patients when they heard the news, his colleagues at Pantai Hospital Penang, all his friends, former staff who had worked with him and by all who knew him over the years.

I first met Raj in the nineties when he was working at Hospital Kuala Lumpur and then a few years later he joined me at Mount Miriam Hospital where I got to know him better. In those days we even lived next door to each other! Later he was to move into private practice at Pantai Hospital Penang and then to Adventist Hospital to further his career.

Raj enjoyed his work as a Clinical Oncologist with a keen interest in innovative Brachytherapy techniques. He kept up to date with the ever-evolving new cancer treatments and I often met him at meetings when we took the opportunity to catch up on our news.

In 2006 and 2015 we organised two successful MOS conferences in Penang and Raj was a key member of the Organising Committees. He was hard working and nothing was too much for him when we had to work late into the night on many occasions. He was always ready with a helping hand. His contributions to our Society will always be remembered.

Raj was also a long-standing, active member of the Rotary Club of Penang for many years and initiated several community projects for the benefit of the people of Penang. He devoted many hours to carrying out his voluntary work under the Rotary Club banner.

He was a gentle, kind family man at heart and leaves behind his loving wife Jacintha, adored children Julian and Shirley and four cherished grandchildren Elliott, Careena, Oliver and Gabriel whom all miss him dearly.

May He Rest in Peace.

~ By Dato' Dr Adel Zaatar ~

MALAYSIAN ONCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(M.O.S)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019-2021

PRESIDENT

Dr Muhammad Azrif Ahmad Annuar

Honorary Secretary

Dr Muthukkumaran Thiagarajan

Honorary Treasurer

Dr Matin Mellor

Committee Members

Prof Dato' Dr Fuad Ismail

Dr Mastura Md Yusof

Dr Marniza Saad

Dr Azura Deniel

Dr Malwinder Singh

Dr Tan Chih Kiang (co-opted)

MOS Website Sub-Committee

Dr Eznal Izwadi Mohd Mahidin

Dr Malwinder Singh

Dr Muthukkumaran Thiagarajan

Dr Tan Chih Kiang

Dr Khairiyah Sidek

Dr Marfu'ah Nik Eezammuddeen

~ END ~