

## 17<sup>th</sup> APCP REPORT

### 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics

The 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) and the 7th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing (APCPN), were held in the historic city of Lahore, Pakistan on March 10-13, 2022.

The mega hybrid event was organized by Pakistan Pediatrics Association (PPA), in partnership with the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA).

There were 1626 in-person and 745 virtual delegates from 12 countries.

The event was thoughtfully designed to serve as a perfect setting for in-depth learning, exchange of ideas and networking for practicing pediatricians, academicians, researchers, trainees and paediatric nurses from the Asia Pacific Region.

The Congress offered maximum flexibility and options, with the intention of providing an opportunity for much-needed personal connection and exchange of information. The inspiring theme of the Congress was “Every Newborn, Every child, everywhere”.

The two pre-congress days were filled with 12 skills-building workshops, focused on different sub-specialty themes, participated and greatly appreciated by interns, trainees and young pediatricians. The 7th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing (APCPN) was also held as a parallel hybrid activity on March 12-13, at the same venue.

#### **Inaugural Ceremony**

A high profile inaugural ceremony was held on the evening of 10th March that was attended by more than 1600 in-person delegates, including representatives of UNICEF, WHO, Ministry of Health, media and some child health-focused Non-Governmental Organizations.

The ceremony was addressed by **Prof Habibullah Babar**, President Pakistan Pediatric Association, who offered an enthusiastic welcome to delegates. Others who spoke at the ceremony included **Prof Aman B Pulungan.**, President of APPA, **Prof Iqbal Memon**, President-Elect APPA, **Dr Enver Hassanoglu**, President of International Pediatric Association and **Prof Yasmin Rashid**, the Minister of Health Punjab, Pakistan.

The speeches were followed by a 2-hour long colorful cultural program, showcasing the music, dance, costumes and other cultural riches from all parts of Pakistan.

Historically all Asia Pacific Pediatric Congresses have been great scientific meetings and despite the challenges posed by the Covid19 pandemic, Lahore was equally a thumping success.



**Prof. Iqbal Memon presenting an appreciation plaque to Prof. Yasmin Rashid, the Minister of Health, Punjab, Pakistan**



**Organising Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> APCP Hybrid Conference during the inaugural ceremony of the event**



**Some of the delegates who attended the 17<sup>th</sup> APCP Hybrid Conference**



**Announcing the names of recipients of the Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award (OAPA) 2022**

### **Scientific Program**

The Scientific Program so beautifully designed by the Scientific Committee was a rich mix of plenary meetings, thematic symposia, free papers, posters, skill-building workshops and Meet an Expert sessions.

Every morning started with three concurrent “Meet an Expert” sessions. These sessions featured a 45-minute dynamic discussion on topics of interest introduced and explained by an expert and engaged the attendees in the process of identifying the problem and then finding a solution in relation to clinical practice, implementation of guidelines or in relation to training and research.

These sessions were a special opportunity for attendees to meet and interact with the most renowned experts in their fields within a small group setting to connect and converse on a one-on-one level.

These sessions were followed by plenary sessions. The three plenary sessions were like scientific feasts, where world-renowned pediatric leaders made inspiring presentations on themes surrounding some common but pressing child health issues and also shared some best practices to address these problems.

Some highly prominent plenary speakers included **Zulfiqar Bhutta, Aman Pulungan, Jonathan Klein, Anshu Banerjee, Naveen Thacker, Zulkifli Ismail, Kim Mulholland, AG Billoo, Mohammad Miqdady** and others.

A total of 15 thematic symposia were held on topics capturing Infectious diseases, tropical diseases, cardiology, pulmonology, neurology and developmental pediatrics, Adolescent health, Neonatology, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, Hematology/Oncology, Emergency and Critical Care, Community Pediatrics and Child Protections.

All the symposia were conducted by renowned sub-specialty experts and had a crowded delegates’ attendance.

There was a separate stream of Free papers and posters presentations. Another segment was 2 highly charged sessions on “Controversies in Pediatric and Neonatal Practice”, generating a rich discussion from the floor.

### **Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award (OAPA) 2022**

Around 40 free papers and 38 posters were included in this stream. The 10 best young presenters of free papers/posters were given cash awards and certificates of appreciation.

The conference provided ample social and networking opportunities to the delegates. The gala dinner was attended by more than 2500 delegates and other invited guests.

A special feature of the gala dinner was the award ceremony, where 15 pediatricians were decorated with the “Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award 2022”.

These distinguished pediatricians were: **Iqbal Memon** and **Muhammad Ashraf Sultan** (Pakistan), **Jacqueline Judith Ho** (Australia/Malaysia), **Hung-Chang Lee** (Taiwan), **Piyush Gupta** (India), **Shinichi Hirose** (Japan), **Wang Tianyou** (China), **Patrick Ip** (Hong Kong), **Aman B Pulungan** (Indonesia), **Thiyagar Nadarajaw** (Malaysia), **Zenaida L Antonio** (Philippines), **T.S.D. Amarasena** (Sri Lanka), **Pham Nhat An** (Vietnam), **Baik-Lin Eun** (South Korea) and **Yong Poovorawan** (Thailand).

The Congress concluded through a graceful Closing ceremony on the evening of March 13, 2022.

**Prof. Dr Iqbal Ahmad Memon**

**President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Associations [APPA]**