

# **College of Ophthalmologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia**

## **Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

### **1. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the College was held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 2.30 pm at Meeting room 2, Academy of Medicine Malaysia, Unit 2.6, Level 2, Enterprise 3B, Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), Jalan Inovasi 1, Lebuhraya Puchong-Sungai Besi, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur.

Twelve members of the College attended the meeting:

1. Dr Hajjah Nor Fariza Ngah
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah
3. Dr Elias Hussein
4. Datin Dr Thayanithi Sandragasu
5. Dr Pall Singh
6. Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Tan Khian Khoon
7. Dr Anusiah Selvathurai
8. Assoc. Prof. Dr Nurliza Khaliddin
9. Prof. Dr Mimiwati Zahari
10. Dr Fazilawati A. Qamarruddin
11. Prof. Dr Shatriah Ismail
12. Dr Puneet Agarwal

### **2. Election of Council Members:**

There were four vacancies from the previous Council. After the closing date on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, there were a total of 7 nominations received. As the number of nominations exceeded the number of vacancies, an election was carried out by postal ballot.

The nominations were:

1. Prof Dr Abdul Mutalib
2. Assoc Prof Dr Andrew Tan Khian Khoon
3. Dr Anusiah Selvathurai
4. Assoc Prof Dr Azhany Yaakub
5. Assoc Prof Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah
6. Dr Jelinar Binti Mohamed Noor
7. Dr Nor Fariza Ngah

Prof. Dr Mimiwati, Assoc. Prof. Dr Nurliza and Datin Dr Thayanithi were appointed as Election Officers to conduct the vote count on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (the date of the earlier proposed AGM which had to be postponed due to an insufficient quorum).

The 4 nominations with the highest number of votes (in no particular order) were announced by Prof. Dr Mimiwati the Chair of the Election Committee, as follows:

1. Prof Dr Abdul Mutalib
2. Dr Anusiah Selvathurai
3. Assoc Prof Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah
4. Dr Nor Fariza Ngah

The floor gave a round of applause to the winners.

### **3. Amendment of the By-Laws**

There were no amendments to the By-Laws and no Resolutions had been received by the Council Secretariat for the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM of the College.

### **4. Update on Current Membership**

Total number of members: 171 (an addition of 9 members from last year)  
Fellows: 21 (from 16)  
Life members: 70 (from 64)

### **5. Appointment of Honorary Auditors**

Dr Kamala Devi S D Lingam and Dr Pall Singh were appointed as Honorary Auditors for the year 2020 – 2021 at the previous AGM in 2020.

### **6. Council Meetings**

Four council meetings were held during the term 2020 - 2021. At the first council meeting for this term the post of President, Vice President and Hon Treasurer was elected unanimously by the council with no objections recorded. Two names were proposed for Hon Secretary Prof Dr Mimiwati Zahari and Dr Elias Hussein. A vote determined that Dr Elias would remain as Hon Secretary. The attendance of the council members at the Council Meetings for the current term was as follows:

Dr Hajjah Nor Fariza Binti Ngah	President	(4/4)
Assoc Prof Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah	Vice President	(3/4)
Dr Elias Hussein	Hon Secretary	(4/4)
Datin Dr Thayanithi d/o Sandragasu	Hon Treasurer	(4/4)
Prof Dr Mohtar Ibrahim	Council member	(3/4)
Dr Anusiah a/p Selvathurai	Council member	(3/4)
Prof Dr Mae-Lynn Catherine Bastion	Council member	(3/4)
Assoc Prof Dr Nurliza Binti Khaliddin	Council member	(4/4)
Prof Dr Mimiwati Zahari	Council member	(4/4)
Dr Mohd Aziz Husni	Council member	(4/4)

Dr Fazilawati A. Qamarruddin	Council member	(4/4)
Prof Dr Abdul Mutalib Othman	Council member	(1/4)
Assoc Prof Dr Norshamsiah Md. Din	Coopted member (UKM)	(3/4)
Assoc Prof Datin Dr Norlina Mohd Ramli	Coopted member (UM)	(3/4)
Prof Dr Shatriah Ismail	Coopted member (USM)	(4/4)
Dato' Dr Raja Norliza Raja Omar	Coopted member (MOH)	(3/4)
Dr Fang Seng Kheong	Coopted member (MSO)	(3/4)

## 7. Chapters of the College

The College has six Chapters headed by the respective Chairs as follows:

1. Retina - Prof Dr Mae-Lynn Catherine Bastion
2. Cataract and Refraction - Assoc Prof Dr Khairidzan Mohd Kamal
3. Glaucoma - Datin Dr Thayanithi Sandragasu
4. Cornea - Prof Dr Mohtar Ibrahim
5. Oculoplasty - Dr Kamala Devi S D Lingam
6. Paediatric Ophthalmology - Dr Fazilawati A. Qamarruddin

Prof Dr Mae-Lynn has been appointed by the Council to lead and coordinate the various Chapters with the pro-term chairpersons.

An initial meeting with the pro-term chairpersons, was held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to review and endorse the final Terms of Reference (TOR) and Guidelines of the various Chapters.

The following had been agreed on by the Council with regards to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for admittance to Chapters of the College of Ophthalmologists.

- i. Registered with NSR and a Member of the Academy of Medicine/College of Ophthalmologists **AND**
- ii. Three years fellowship in the subspecialty from an established center under a subspecialist in the area\* **AND**
- iii. At least one year of active clinical practice in the subspecialty in the preceding year **AND**
- iv. Any other criteria as deemed appropriate by the individual Chapters

\*exception for those who underwent sub specialty training in Malaysia before 2007 **OR** on a case-to-case basis as assessed by the respective subspecialty chapter with final approval granted by the Council.

As guidelines for those applying, the following would need to be submitted:

- i. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- ii. Copy of the latest Annual Practicing Certificate (APC)
- iii. Copy of Academy of Medicine Membership/ Fellowship scroll
- iv. Evidence of training (e.g: Sub-specialty certificate)

## 8. Activities of the various Sub-Committees

A summary of the activities of the various Sub-committees for 2020/2021 is as follows:

### i. Community Engagement

Members:

- Dr Hjh Nor Fariza Ngah (Chairperson)
- Prof Dr Mae-Lynn Catherine Bastion (member)
- Assoc Prof Dr Norlina Mohd Ramli (member)
- Prof Dr Mimiwati Zahari (member)

#### The #OphthalmologyCaresForSabah Project

The highlight of the committee's activity over 2020-2021 was the highly successful #OphthalmologyCaresForSabah #OftalmologiJagaSabah Project.

Thanks to the generosity of College Members, the Ophthalmic Fraternity and the associated Ophthalmic Industry a grand total of RM 65,389.83 cash was collected for this project. This EXCLUDES direct donations of value in materiel items (masks, PPE, subsidised milk and food) donated. It is estimated that the project in total value managed to collect and hand over in excess of **one hundred-thousand-ringgit** worth of food and PPE to recipients in Sabah.

A total of RM 30,900 has been utilised for Phase I of the project up till January 2021. All shipments have safely arrived at their destinations and food pack distribution has been completed in the respective areas for this phase.

This was achieved with the help and co-operation by:

1. Rotary Club of Damansara West
2. Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu Pearl
3. Rotary Club of Tawau
4. Rotary Club of Tawau Tanjung
5. Tentera Udara Malaysia (TUDM)

As the state of Sabah continued to be in crisis, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council of the College together with the Rotary has, with the

availability of the remaining funds, decided to use it to carry on with Phase II of the Project which would consist mainly of distribute mainly milk powder, to families with very young children. This was because it was noted by the Rotary teams entering the poorer areas in Sabah, that the practice of using condensed milk to feed babies and young children was prevalent due to economic hardship. The remaining funds was estimated to be able to cover approximately 200 children over the next 6 months. Dutch Lady played a substantial role in supplying the project with highly subsidised milk powder enabling a longer period of supply to the 200 children.

The Council officially ended the collection of donations on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and targets to complete the distribution of milk for Phase II, with the aid of Rotarians in Sabah, by the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2021.

#### World Sight Day/National Cataract Camp 2020

The other major activity carried out was the World Sight Day-National Cataract Camp 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic throughout the period of 2020-2021, World sight Day Celebrations and activities were understandably subdued.

The College in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Universities nevertheless decided to carry out a National Cataract Camp in conjunction with World Sight Day 2020. It involved the free distribution of IOLs to the B40 group with Centers participating being allocated 50 free IOLs each. A total of 5 hospitals were involved nationwide. The Rotary and Lions Club were also involved with a contribution of RM 100 to 180 per patient operated.

The National Level Cataract Camp - World Sight Day 2020 was launched on the 10 October 2020, 10.00 am at Hospital Shah Alam.

These cataract surgeries are still being carried out at the time of writing, at various hospitals and institutions as of April 2021, as the pace of the surgeries had to be slowed down considerably due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Community Awareness for Diabetes and Retinal Blindness

The Council has embarked on a project to develop community Awareness for Diabetes and Retinal Blindness. Prof Dr Mimiwati is leading the production of

material to be shared on social media. This is to be a collaborative effort among the universities. The College will financially support this project.

### E-module for training of Diabetic Screening

The College is presently running an E-Module for training for diabetic screening. The target is to empower primary care providers in the community to be able to effectively assess fundus images for community screening. To date a total of 161 applications have been received to use the e-module for training of Diabetic Screening. Participants include Medical officers (trainee/non trainee), Paramedics, Nursing Staff and Optometrists.

## **ii. Ethics and Professionalism**

Members:

- Dr Anusia Selvathurai (Chairperson)
- Dr Hjh Nor Fariza Ngah (Member)
- Dr Elias Hussein (Member)

Various complaints and ethical issues were discussed during Council meetings. A lot of this centered around blatant and untrue claims about cures for eye conditions on social media. It was a general consensus that the best way to overcome this was to educate the public.

## **iii. Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

Members:

- Assoc Prof Dr Nurliza Khaliddin (Chairperson)
- Prof Dr Mae-Lynn Catherine Bastion (member)
- Dr Hjh Nor Fariza Ngah (Member)
- Dr Anusiah Selvathurai (Member)
- Assoc Prof Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah (Member)
- Dr Fazilawati A. Qamarruddin (Member)
- Dato' Dr Raja Norliza Raja Omar (Member)

### CPD Points

The CPD subcommittee had a meeting with a main CPD committee on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to discuss the new grading system from MMC.

According to the grading system, the CPD subcommittee would review the events under 3 main core activities which were:

A1 - scientific meetings/ congress (face to face or online)  
A2 - workshop/ courses (face to face or online)  
A7(c) - external lecture/ topic seminar (this is where most of the online webinar talk will be lumped into)

Other categories could be applied for individually through the Medical Specialist CPD system. The Academy will perform a random audit on evidence that has been submitted for attendance.

### CPD for Competency

The implementation for CPD for competency was in the process of being studied and developed. Challenges were in ensuring a sufficiently comprehensive system.

The Council is in the process of considering the development of a privileging and credentialing committee under the College with committee members from the MOH, private sector, the universities and the MSO. Among the avenues being considered is the use of online systems such as NOTeD which is already in use by postgraduate candidates.

### Evaluation and Education Committee

The members of these committee are as follows:

Evaluation Committee (New Committee as of 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021)

1. Dr Nor Fariza Ngah
2. Dr Chieng Lee Ling
3. Prof Dr Shatriah Ismail
4. Dr Nor Anita Omar
5. Assoc Prof Datin Dr Norlina Mohd Ramli

Training and Education Committee (until end of 2021)

1. Assoc Prof Dr Nurliza Khaliddin (Chairperson)
2. Dr Shamala Retnasabapathy
3. Dr Elias Hussein
4. Dr Jamalia Rahmat
5. Dr Mohd Aziz Husni
6. Dr Choong Yean Yaw

Issues which these committees are looking at include Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training. The guideline for Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training is still in the final stages of preparation.

#### Regulations for Daycare Surgery for Ophthalmology

Guidelines for this should be unveiled in its first draft by the middle of 2021. It will be reviewed by all stakeholders, which would include the MSO, standalone private practices as well as the universities.

#### iv. **Fund Raising/Finance**

##### Members

- Prof Dr Abdul Mutalib Othman (Chairman)
- Datin Dr Thayanithi Sandragasu (Member)
- Dr Elias Hussein (Member)
- Dr Hajjah Nor Fariza Ngah (Member)

The mainstay of fund raising over the 2020-2021 period centered around the #OphthalmologyCaresForSabah #OftalmologiJagaSabah Project. As reported previously a total of RM 65,389.83 cash was collected for this project.

In the coming years this committee will be looking at fund raising for the space/office the College is planning to purchase in the upcoming Academy of Medicine Building in Putrajaya.

#### v. **Research and Publication**

##### Members

- Prof Dr Mohtar Ibrahim (Chairman)
- Prof Dr Liza Sharmini Ahmad Tajudin (Member)
- Prof Dr Sushil Kumar A/L Vasudevan (Member)
- Assoc Prof Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah (Member)
- Assoc Prof Dr Norlina Mohd Ramli (Member)

#### College of Ophthalmologists, Excellence Award for Ophthalmology Research and Publication

The College received 27 applications for the “College of Ophthalmologists, Excellence Award for Ophthalmology Research and Publication”. The applications were closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Judging of the applications was in progress at the time of writing the Annual Report.



## The Malaysian Journal of Ophthalmology (MyJO)

Malaysian Journal of Ophthalmology (MyJO) was established in 2019. MyJO is an official journal to Malaysia Society of Ophthalmology, College of Ophthalmologists (Malaysia) and Malaysian Universities Conjoint Committee in Ophthalmology (MUCCO). MyJO is an online journal with 4 issues per year (quarterly publication).

In 2020, the editorial team has increased the number of articles to 9 per issue (including editorial comments). A total 36 articles were published in 2020. We also have successfully registered under MyJurnal, the database of journals originating from Malaysia. The majority of submissions have been from Malaysia, but manuscripts from Indonesia, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Egypt were also received. The quality of articles submitted have also improved with an increasing number of citations from our published articles.

There are plans to apply for indexation in PubMed and Scopus this year.

### **9. List of College participation in Events / Talks / Workshops / Seminars / Webinars / Scientific Meeting in 2020-2021**

#### **a) Workshops**

- i. NCBM Awareness Program on Visual Impairment & Community Rehabilitation  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021  
Venue: NCBM, Unit 13-8, 13th Floor, Menara Sentral Vista, No. 150, Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad, Brickfields, 50470, Kuala Lumpur.

#### **b) Webinars (Virtual platform)**

- i. Malaysia Diquafosol - Working Group Meeting (MY-DG)  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- ii. Embracing POWER: Achieving Quality of IOP Control  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- iii. Glaucoma Expert Meeting (GEM): An Eye for an Eye series  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- iv. eNOVA: Emerging Therapies in Retina  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020
- v. Embracing POWER: Optimizing Patient Outcomes in Glaucoma  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- vi. From Clinical Trials to Clinical Practice: Optimizing Patient Outcomes in the Real World

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

- vii. Conversations in Retina  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- viii. SNEC Preceptorship 2020
  - DME and RVO - Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020
  - AMD - Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020
  - The Future of Retina - Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020
- ix. A novel anti-VEGF: efficacy and safety updates  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- x. STRONG Forum 2020  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020
- xi. eNOVA: Updates in nAMD & PCV  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- xii. BOSS Cataract Video Festival 2020  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- xiii. Revamp Treatment Possibilities in nAMD  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- xiv. Wet to Dry – Borneo Perspective (Redefining treatment success in nAMD)  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020
- xv. Pagenax Grand Launch  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- xvi. Embracing POWER: Harnessing the Right Treatment Choices in Glaucoma  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021
- xvii. eNOVA: A fluid situation  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- xviii. Conversation in Retina  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- xix. Malaysian Omidenepag Experience Advisory Board Meeting: MOE-ABM  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- xx. Optimising Patient Outcomes In The Real World: Evidence Based Treatment For nAMD  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

xxi. High Concentration Levofloxacin, yay or nay?  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021

xxii. Basic Ophthalmic Imaging in Medical Retina and Uveitis  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## 10. College Webpage

The College website at <http://www.coamm.org.my/index.htm> has seen a number of updates and additions over 2020-2021.

- Perspectives and Guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic have been added
- The format of the calendar of events has been re-designed by the web master
- The Annual Reports are now uploaded on the website
- News from the Academy (Berita Akademi) is now also accessible via the website
- The NOTeD or the National Ophthalmology Training and Education Database link is available on the website
- A larger number of useful links have been added to the webpage for members convenience

Compiled Jointly by The President, Honorary Secretary, Chief Editor of MyJo, Council Members and the Executive Secretary of the College of Ophthalmologists.

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