



## Review of ISDE Singapore 2016

By Kenneth K. Wang

ISDE President (2014-2016)

The 2016 15<sup>th</sup> Biannual Meeting of the ISDE was a record breaking event for the Society in both the breath of magnitude of the meeting. I was a privilege to have participated in this event as the Society's president. The organizers of the meetings, Prof. Lawrence Ho and Prof. Jan Van Lanschot put together an exceptional program balancing invited papers with a record setting 665 abstracts submitted compared with 563 from the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Vancouver. The hard working organizing committee reviewed all of these abstracts and placed them into 45 scientific sessions.



The meeting began on Sunday, September 18 at the Max Atria Singapore Convention Center on a high note with the traditional Lion Dance with two Lions entertaining the participants at the meeting.

The Lions quickly gave way to the welcoming messages from the Professors Ho and Van Lanschot and me. It was one of the highpoints of meeting that we had an opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues from all over the world in such an exotic locale such as Singapore.



The Scientific portion of the meeting began on Monday with three simultaneous plenary sessions focused on Barrett's esophagus, staging of esophagus cancer, minimally invasive esophagectomy and a Video session chaired by president-elect Yukio Kitagawa and Prof. Hoelscher on a number of inventive surgical techniques from Japan, China, and



Germany. All of these sessions were uniformly superb with dynamic input from experts from around the world as well as from several different disciplines. It was indeed an interchange that could not be obtained at any other meeting given the breath of specialties represented including the basic sciences. Almost more important than this, was the informal events that allowed social interactions between global leaders and the opportunity to network with old friends and forming relationships with new friends.

Meeting organizers, the ISDE Executive Director Mark Ferguson, and the president of the newly formed Affiliated Society, the Chinese Society of Diseases of the Esophagus, Prof. Long Qi Chen met at an excellent Chinese restaurant, which were ubiquitous in this great location. The evening was hosted by the CSDE.

I found the joint sessions between the ISDE and the Affiliated Societies to be another of the highlights of the meeting such as the ISDE-JES on management of squamous cell cancers of the esophagus. It was a rare opportunity to discuss management of an increasing rare Western cancer by experts in Japan. This was followed by a session by the CSDE on the same topic but from a different country's perspective that allowed participants to determine the differences in management strategies from two highly expert groups. The membership from Japan was the largest of the 800 total participants at this meeting which is the largest in the history of the Society and exceeded our expectations. There was a multi-affiliate society session with the CSDE-JES-ESDE that combined experts from all three regions into joint video session. The ESDE presented a session that summarized the current randomized controlled trials in Europe and highlighted the results of MAGIC versus CROSS regimens in GE junctional cancers by Prof. John Reynolds of Ireland and the sham controlled trial of electrical stimulation for refractory GERD presented by Prof. Peter Siersema from the Netherlands.

There were highly interactive meet the expert sessions such as one run by the outgoing medical editor of the Diseases of the Esophagus, John Pandolfino on esophageal manometry interpretation which he is a world authority. There was also great science presented at this meeting including an outstanding study on the treatment of rumination syndrome with baclofen using a double blinded placebo controlled randomized cross-over design presented by Jan Tack from Belgium. Though the distances were great, many European colleagues made the trip to attend this meeting.

I am very proud of the young member's session along with a society networking meeting for our younger colleagues that was led by Sheraz Markar from the UK and Fredrik Klevebro from Sweden. These provide opportunities for blossoming experts to share their experiences and interact with the



colleagues for exchanges of ideas and potential collaboration. From this group will emerge the leaders of our society in the future.



The highlight of my presidency was the Gala Dinner held at the Gardens by the Bay which was illuminated in the evening and demonstrated the beauty and fantastic constructions in Singapore. The structure allowed views of downtown Singapore and the bay as well as unbelievable flora found from around the world. This was truly an event not to be missed and was completely sold out with waiting lists of members wanting to participate.

It was truly a great evening and all members who could come enjoyed a great venue and a fantastic meal.

My great thanks to so many who came from great distances to enjoy this meeting and I will always remember this wonderful event. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to the ISDE staff, our Executive Director Mark Ferguson for his careful organization and help, my successor Yukio Kitagawa as the ISDE president, and Prateek Sharma as the new ISDE President Elect.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again at ISDE in Vienna 2018!!!

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