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The Pain Association of Singapore

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President's Address 2012

Dear members,

After a busy year in 2010 when we held our last Biennial Scientific Meeting (BSM), we have spent much of 2011 rolling out various projects. Most importantly, we have engaged Kenes Asia to be the conference secretariat to assist PAS in organizing the next Association of South-East Asia Pain Societies (ASEAPS) Conference 2013. The ASEAPS conference is held once every two years; taking turns among each of the five Southeast Asian countries. In 2013, PAS will be hosting ASEAPS 2013 at the newly revamped Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre from 2- 5 May, 2013. Please save the dates and check out the website at www.aseaps2013.org. Because of ASEAPS 2013, we will not be holding our BSM in 2012.

With an ageing population, we will see more and more patients with chronic pain or cancer-related pain. The use of analgesics including opioids will inevitably increase. While opioids are effective, healthcare professionals have to be mindful of the risks of abuse, addiction and diversion. Opioid-related deaths have also been on the rise in the US. With this in mind, PAS created an Opioid Task Force to establish evidence-based guidelines on the proper prescription of opioids for various chronic pain conditions. I look forward to the publication of this guideline in the near future.

Finally, our PAS website has been revamped and I invite you to visit it. PAS has also started a quarterly Journal Update via email to share interesting and important studies and review papers on various aspects of pain management with members. We welcome members who are interested to be part of the editorial board to join us.

PAS will continue its pain education work in 2012 through talks and forums. Please encourage your colleagues to join us to work towards raising the awareness of pain in Singapore.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ho Kok Yuen
President
Pain Association of Singapore