

79TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS FROM 3-7 MAY 2010 AT PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Trip Funded by:	College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by:	Dr Ravishankar K Diddapur
Reported by:	Dr Ravishankar K Diddapur

Trip Report

The Annual scientific congress of the college of surgeons was attended by over 1500 delegates of all specialities inclusive. It was a well conducted meeting giving good distribution of weight age to all specialities. There was an adequate representation of international delegates in most specialities and the smaller specialities like transplantation is seen to be catching up.

The scientific contents of the meetings were well distributed in the specialities of upper GI surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, and transplantation surgery. I also made it to some of the meetings of the other specialities and found them to be well attended and well organised as well.

Meeting of the international presidents was nicely organised and well conducted. We started with mutual sharing of training materials. In principle all the college of surgeons are willing to participate in this. The presidents of college of surgeons from USA, Canada and Australia in particular stated that teachers and examiners could visit their colleges, examinations and gain experience from their methodologies. They are also happy to send people over to Singapore if appropriate to demonstrate their methodologies in teaching and examination.

All the colleges expressed their inability to share the MCQ's, because of risk of leak of the question banks to the future examinees. All the presidents felt that transmission either in hard copies or as a soft copy was susceptible to breach of security. Given the sensitive nature of the collections, the colleges felt that they be locally developed with the local teachers. In general this would also help in formulating the questions pertaining to the local disease pattern as appropriate.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons

The event is useful to the college of surgeons to network among the other college of surgeons. It gives a platform where relevant surgical issues pertaining to the region say for e.g., in disaster management can be discussed. It is also useful to understand the administration and implementation of training programmes across the region. Training in Singapore is well regarded in the region and our contributions are well received, by the faculties of the various surgical colleges present.

On a personal basis it was a good opportunity to network and meet people from the various colleges. The scientific meetings that I attended were also useful, both in the subspecialty and in General. I would also recommend it to all the junior staff/ trainees in various teaching hospitals to attend at least one college of surgeons meeting annually as it covers a broad base of subjects and not restrict themselves to just speciality based meetings