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It's a Long Overdue Reunion!

After a three-year hiatus, the APVRS physical conference is back in full swing

by Tan Sher Lynn

In case you haven't noticed, physical conferences are back — and they're more exciting as ever!

Indeed, the long-awaited moment is finally here. After a three-year hiatus from physical meetings, the Asia-Pacific Vitreoretina Society (APVRS) Congress is back in full swing — this time in Taipei, Taiwan — on November 18 to 20, 2022!

Dedicated to advancing the frontiers of vitreoretina in the Asia-Pacific region, this highly anticipated congress continues to serve as a platform for vitreoretinal specialists to meet and exchange expertise and pleasantries. This round, the Congress' 15th installation will be held at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Hall 2, and features numerous

interesting scientific sessions, lunch symposiums, special lectures, a presidential dinner, as well as a congress party!

Connecting ophthalmologists in the region

Since its inception in 2006, the APVRS Congress has been one of the key ophthalmology conferences in the Asia-Pacific region, attracting leading vitreoretinal specialists from around the world to share their knowledge and experiences, and to network and establish collaborations and camaraderie with one another.

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“Entering year three of the pandemic, I am delighted that Taipei will be the first to host a physical APVRS congress,” shared Prof. Chi-Chun Lai, Congress President of APVRS 2022. “We are committed to presenting another world-class scientific event for delegates to keep up to date with the latest research findings in the field of vitreoretina.”

He added that the long overdue APVRS Congress also allows colleagues to reconnect and network with one another face-to-face. And Taipei is the perfect venue for a reunion of sorts.

“From bustling night markets to impressive architectural landmarks, Taipei will be the best place for enjoying the time off the Congress,” Prof. Lai enthused.

What to expect at the APVRS 2022 Congress

The 15th APVRS Congress will also be the first-ever hybrid APVRS Congress, where selected sessions will be available virtually through live broadcasting or on-demand viewing.

There will be 25 invited sessions, featuring a broad range of subspecialties addressing the emergence of specific retinal conditions and the latest discoveries and cutting-edge innovations in the vitreoretinal field, as well as three special lectures recognizing outstanding contributions in the field.

What’s more, the Congress is also held

in conjunction with the 63rd annual meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of Taiwan.

Without further ado, here are some of the highlights at the Congress that should not be missed...

Day 1

Innovation and Controversies in Surgical Retina

[November 18, 08:30 – 10:00, Meeting Room 701B]

Keep yourself updated on the latest ideas and progress in vitreous surgery and the pathology of vitreoretinal diseases in this invited symposium. This is an excellent opportunity to understand the ideas and techniques of surgeons who are currently active in the field. A wide range of topics will be discussed, including retinal detachment, high myopia, bacterial endophthalmitis, and uveitis. Controversial issues will be tackled as well.

TRS/TMS Symposium: What is Exciting in the Vitreoretinal Field?

[November 18, 13:45 – 15:15, Meeting Room 701C]

Co-organized by the Taiwan Retinal Society (TRS) and Taiwan Macula Society (TMS), this symposium will showcase all things exciting in the vitreoretinal field, including surgical and medical retina. Interesting topics that will be presented include macular hole, retinal detachment, vitreomacular interface disease, familial exudative vitreoretinopathy, and Stargardt disease.

APVRS Constable Lecture – Lamellar Macular Hole and Epiretinal Proliferation: Classifications and Clinical Implications

[November 18, 17:55 – 18:15, Meeting Room 701B]

The *APVRS Constable Lecture* was established in 2016 in honor of Prof. Ian Constable, a past president of APVRS, awarding individuals who are 45 years or younger for exceptional contributions in advancing the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases.

In this lecture, Dr. Tso-Ting Lai from the National Taiwan University Hospital will talk about the use of epiretinal proliferation in differentiating epiretinal membrane-induced full-thickness macular holes from those directly induced by vitreomacular traction.

APVRS International Award Lecture – Eye Color in Uveal Melanoma

[November 18, 18:15 – 18:35, Meeting Room 701B]

Established in 2017, the *APVRS International Award Lecture* recognizes individuals from outside the Asia-Pacific region for remarkable contributions in advancing the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases. This year, Prof. Martine J. Jager, professor of ophthalmology and senior medical specialist at the Department of Ophthalmology, Leiden University, The Netherlands, will describe how eye color relates to uveal melanoma.

Day 2

Pediatric Retina: Treatment

[November 19, 10:30 – 12:00, Meeting Room 701C]

In recent years, there have been huge advances in medical as well as surgical treatments for patients with pediatric retinal diseases. In this session, key innovations in treating pediatric retina will be presented, such as treatment implications suggested by ICROP 3, the novel management of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) patients post anti-VEGF or laser treatment, persistent fetal vasculature, Stickler syndrome, Leber congenital amaurosis, and familial exudative vitreoretinopathy.

In addition, artificial intelligence (AI) prediction of risks and surgical outcomes



and practical suggestions for pre-operative/intra-operative/post-operative imaging to maximize surgical outcomes will be discussed.

Artificial Intelligence for Retinal Diseases

[November 19, 13:45 – 15:15, Meeting Room 701B]

The impact of AI in the care and management of patients with retinal diseases cannot be denied. AI algorithms may help clinicians make more accurate diagnoses, optimize disease referral patterns, predict the state of future diseases, and help better understand systemic conditions based on retinal photos. In this session, you will learn about the state of the art of AI, where it may be going, and its potential to disrupt and improve clinical retina practice.

Young Ophthalmologist Symposium

[November 18, 13:45 – 15:15, Meeting Room 701E]

This exciting session co-organized by retina surgeon-scientists features a highly distinguished panel of vitreoretinal surgeons who will share topics that will boost your career. From the latest in AI and blockchain to vitreoretinal surgical pearls, to gaining traction in your private practice or academic institution, as well as vision research that could lead you anywhere in the world (including the US) — topics from this session will help you gain confidence in your practice and learn new ideas to bring home.

APVRS Tano Lecture: Macular Structure and Function Assessment in Surgical Vitreomaculopathy

[November 19, 17:30 – 18:00, Meeting Room 701B]

Established in 2009 in memory of Prof. Yasuo Tano, the founding president of APVRS, the *Tano Lecture* honors individuals of over 45 years of age for exemplary leadership and significant contributions in advancing the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases each year.

This year, catch world-class vitreoretinal surgeon A/Prof. Andrew Chang from Australia, as he shares his insights on how macular perimetry provides valuable and accessible objective information for the clinician in decision-making and management of patients with surgical maculopathies.

Day 3

Advanced Retinal Imaging

[November 20, 08:30 – 10:00, Meeting Room 701G]

Technological advances in retinal imaging have been progressing at a rapid pace, facilitating an enhanced understanding of the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of various retinal diseases. Participants of this seminar shall gain the latest insights into central serous chorioretinopathy, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy, myopia, uveitis, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration as a result of these imaging advances.

Late Breaking, General Ophthalmology

[November 20, 08:30 – 10:00, Meeting Room 701B]

Get first-hand information on the latest results of important research and clinical trials on vitreoretinal diseases, conducted in the Asia-Pacific region or elsewhere. These studies, which may have major impacts on the management of vitreoretinal diseases in the near future, include *Gene Therapy for the Treatment of Exudative Macular Degeneration*, *Repeated Low-Level Red-Light Therapy as a Unique Solution to Increase Blood Flow of the Fundus*, *Macular Volume as a Predictor of Vascular Leakage in Uveitis*, and others.

Intraocular Tumors

[November 20, 10:30 – 12:00, Meeting Room 701E]

Diagnosis and management of intraocular tumors have always been challenging, and misdiagnosis may lead to unfavorable outcomes. In this symposium, you will learn from world experts in ocular oncology about common benign and malignant intraocular tumors,

how to differentiate between them, and the latest on the diagnostic procedure and management.

Chock-full of interesting reunion topics

Besides the invited sessions, be sure to catch the exciting *Rapid Fire Free Papers* sessions, which will be held on Day 1 and Day 3 of the Congress, where loads of interesting abstracts will be presented — encompassing a range of topics, such as ocular imaging, pediatric retina, retina (surgical and medical), intraocular Inflammation, uveitis, and scleritis.

Meanwhile, posters and e-posters will also be showcased, covering topics that include eye trauma, emergencies, and infections; intraocular inflammation, uveitis, and scleritis; ocular imaging; ocular oncology and pathology; ophthalmic epidemiology; general ophthalmology; pediatric retina; retina (medical and surgical); and translational medicine.

Another highlight will be the awarding of the *Best Free Paper Award*, *Best e-Posters Award*, and *Best Video Award* to recognize outstanding abstracts and videos in the submitted program.

P.S. Don't forget to have fun in Taiwan!

With so much set to happen, the reunion of vitreoretinal specialists at the APVRS 2022 is looking as exciting as ever! May you enjoy the Congress and soak in all that Taipei has to offer!

Last but not least, be sure to check out the *APVRS Show Daily by PIE Magazine* for the full reporting of Congress news each day of the show. 🌐



A Taste of Taipei

The 15th APVRS is thrilled to be in Tantalizing Taiwan *by Joanna Lee*

The city of Taipei bids quarantines goodbye as it welcomes you with warm smiles to the 15th Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society (APVRS) Congress, happening from November 18 to 20, 2022. The bustling megapolis capital of Taiwan is proud to host the first physical APVRS Congress since 2020.

With the health aspects being taken care of, participants in this year's APVRS can expect the Congress to return to its full swing of energetic sharing sessions during the conference.

Relish a buffet of information

"It is our pleasure to invite you to the 15th APVRS Congress in Taipei," said Prof. Chi-Chun Lai, Congress President of APVRS 2022 as well as President of the Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society in his welcome note to participants. "We strive to provide a platform for delivering the latest discoveries and knowledge in the field of vitreo-retina. Our annual congress is also an excellent platform for specialists to network and establish collaborations and friendships."

Many of the latest research findings will be encapsulated in invigorating presentations during the three-day event. Under a wide range of categories about the vitreo-retinal field, participants are in for a treat as they embark to further discover the latest developments in various subfields of the retina.

From the surgical and medical aspects to ocular imaging, ophthalmic epidemiology, pediatric retina, translational medicine and intraocular inflammations, uveitis, and scleritis, among other general ophthalmology topics — this year's Congress promises a big feast of a "buffet", much like the tantalizing street foods for which Taiwan is famous for — with plenty of selected

"dishes" for your choice of learned "meals".

Come to the table and 'eat'!

Some of the highlights that participants can check out include the *Opening Ceremony* cum the 15th APVRS *Constable Lecture* and *International Award Lecture* on Day 1,

where two lectures from distinguished awardees will be kicked off alongside the officiating of the event.

On Day 2, the 15th APVRS Tano Lecture on *Macular Structure and Function Assessment in Surgical Vitreomaculopathy* will be held in the evening before the Congress Party.

From the morning till evening, expect plenty of invigorating scientific sessions. [Editor's Note: Please refer to the cover story for more details.]

Finally, the social program is back!

'All work and no play' is not the dull norm at the Congress, so APVRS attendees can look forward to some social time during the event.

On Day 1, there will be a *Welcome Reception* starting at 6:30 pm immediately after the *Opening Ceremony*, *Constable Lecture*, and *International Award Lecture*. This will be followed by the Presidential Dinner, which will commence at 7:30 pm.

Expect a sumptuous spread of Taiwanese cuisine and hospitality along with plenty of time to catch up with colleagues old and new. After all, it has been many moons of separation. Enjoy the reunions while you relax and unwind after a full day's focus on scientific sessions and symposiums.

On Day 2, a *Congress Party* is expected to bring the fun to a higher note. Get ready for some exciting time when you join in the fun with young ophthalmologists teaming up against one another to play *Retina Jeopardy*.

The aim of this game is to give a fresh boost to one's clinical knowledge,

whether you are a contestant or not. One might just break a sweat with the speed and accuracy required as the *Retina Jeopardy* contestants answer questions in various categories (all within 25 seconds) and try to squeeze into the *Final Round*.

Watch and cheer on all contestants as the top three teams with the most points win attractive and fun prizes.

How about a side trip and some side dishes?

Finally, what's attending a conference in person about if one doesn't explore the host city and all its uniqueness? To reiterate what Prof. Lai mentioned, Taipei's exciting night markets and impressive architecture and landmarks should be in everyone's itinerary.

Those with an appetite for shopping should visit Ximending's bustling streets. If you like 3C products, Beimen Street welcomes camera lovers; while Syntrend Creative Park next to Guanhua Digital plaza is a haven for computer, 3D-printer, and audio equipment lovers.

Wander around Dadaocheng if you would like to see an old part of Taiwan and enjoy its historic affinity with great tea. Insider's tip: Look out for the Tie Guan Yin tea of Muzha.

Try out different delicacies at the Huaxi Street Night Market or Ningxia Night Market, or experience the Xinbeitou Hot Spring if you are passionate about hot spring baths.

Finally, if nature's beauty is what you crave, then head to the gorgeous Taroko Gorge or the Sun Moon Lake outside of the city for some breath of fresh air and adventure.

The good news? Visitors are still slowly streaming in after the reopening, so crowds are still thin and you don't have to worry about crazy long queues at famous food stalls and popular attractions.

With this, we hope you are looking forward to savoring a buffet of exciting information at the 15th APVRS Conference, including everything Taipei has to offer — food, shopping, nature, and more! 🍴

15TH APVRS Congress

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The 16th Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society (APVRS) Congress





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