

Interventional Cardiovascular Society of Malaysia (ICSM)

ICSM was formed under the umbrella of the National Heart Association of Malaysia (NHAM) in 2003. NHAM was officially registered in 1978. Our Vision is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Malaysia. Our Mission is to promote quality cardiovascular care through education and research and to influence healthcare policies. This journey has been marked by significant developments and challenges amidst a fluidly changing social-economic landscape to become an Association that its members are proud of. NHAM now has 761 active members (including associate members) and ICSM has 156 active members. NHAM is an affiliate society of the European Society of Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology, the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology and is a member society of the World Heart Federation.

Following the formation of ICSM, although it was initially mooted as an organising body in conjunction with Malaysia's first international interventional live course, MYLIVE in 2004, its activities have evolved and progressed over the years to encompass larger educational, training and advocacy roles. Since 2004, the mainstay of its work has focused on the organisation of MYLIVE, an annual international cardiovascular "live" interventional conference, usually conducted in July. The MYLIVE meetings offer a unique opportunity for the cardiovascular fraternity and people in related fields to meet, discuss and network with colleagues from the region and abroad in order to share the best practices and know-how for the betterment of cardiovascular care in the region.

This meeting is often organised with participation from closely affiliated international societies, e.g., The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), EuroPCR, Asia-Pacific Society of Interventional Cardiology (APSIC), and Asian Interventional Cardiovascular Therapeutics (AICT). In 2016, we started a new chapter, Asia Endovascular and Cardiac Complications (ECC), a collaboration with the ECC Conference which is held in CHUV Hospital Lausanne and organised by Prof. Eric Eeckhout. Besides live transmission from the National Heart Institute or University Malaya Medical Centre, we have overseas live transmissions from Washington DC, India, The Netherlands, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh. The number of attendees to the MYLIVE meeting has increased from 200 in 2004 to about 1,000 in 2016.

ICSM has been invited to conduct educational sessions at many annual international cardiovascular meetings, e.g., AsiaPCR Singapore, China Interventional Therapeutics (CIT), Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Asia Pacific (TCTAP) and EuroPCR. Under the banner of the ICSM, a few cardiology centres, e.g., the National Heart Institute, University Malaya Medical Centre, have also shared their expertise in the transmissions of live interventional procedures to various conferences around the world.

With important contributions from the National Heart Institute, ICSM also runs a popular biennial cardiac valve intervention meeting, the KL Valve Summit. Angio Club meetings were organised from time to time for members to share experiences, technical tips and knowledge of complex, interesting or rare interventional cases. Individual centres around the country have conducted mini-conferences/courses/workshops in collaboration with ICSM to teach and share complex interventional procedures.

The society is also involved in the development of clinical practice guidelines, e.g., for coronary interventional procedures in Malaysia (2009), and Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) for Investigation and Revascularization in CAD (2015). These serve as a reference to Malaysian interventional cardiologists for practice standards that meet international guidelines. The National Cardiovascular Database Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (NCVD-PCI) was established in 2007 to improve patient care through quality data. To date, we have data on more than 50,000 PCI patients and four reports published.



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Dr Ramesh Singh Arjan
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Dr Azmee Mohd Ghazi
Dr Sazzli Shahlan
Kasim

Past Chairman:
Dr Rosli Mohd Ali

Advisor:
Dr Robaayah Zambahari

Elections for the office-bearers are held in April and members are elected for a two-year term. At present, we have 269 cardiologists registered in our National Specialist Register (NSR). Based on the NCVD-ACS Registry 2011-2013 Report, in 2014, there are 85 catheterisation laboratories in the country, 2.8 per million population.

What does APSIC membership mean for the national society?

APSID has been a very important organisation, providing vision and guidance for the present and future development of this subspecialty in this part of the world. The practice of interventional cardiology in the Asia-Pacific Region has much in common and may differ from the West; therefore, our ability to share and learn from each other is particularly beneficial. ICSM has been collaborating very closely with APSIC in MYLIVE meetings. Many of the faculty members are APSIC members and we have many joint symposiums together. Four of the ICSM members are Board members (2014-2016) of APSIC and many of the ICSM members have been invited as faculty in many of the APSIC meetings.

APSID is an important educational platform to mentor fellows and young cardiologists. It is through the sharing of information, exchange programmes, proctorships and workshops for specialised procedures such as atherectomy, optical coherence tomography, chronic total occlusion and others, that young cardiologists can fully develop their skills and learn from experts. The National Heart Institute and University Malaya Medical Centre have accepted fellows from the ASEAN countries for advanced interventional training. At the same time, we also encourage our fellows and young cardiologists to learn and grow using the

APSID platform. Currently, we have 44 ICSM members who are also APSIC members.

Current issues related to the national society

We are still short of registered cardiologists, particularly in public hospitals. We have about nine cardiologists per million population. There is uneven distribution of cardiologists and cardiac catheterisation laboratories in Malaysia – more on the West Coast especially in Klang Valley, Pulau Pinang and Melaka as compared to the East Coast and Sabah. NHAM has been given the task of setting up a uniform training programme and setting criteria for fellows to be registered in the National Specialist Register for cardiology.

From our NCVD-ACS Registry 2011-2013, in-hospital mortality for ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) was 10.6%, and less than 10% of our STEMI patients received primary PCI as their reperfusion strategy. Hospitals with cardiac catheterisation facilities registered lower in-hospital and 30-day mortality, and patients who underwent urgent cardiac catheterisation and urgent PCI had better outcome than those who did not. The society has taken up the initiative by setting up the My STEMI network, a collaboration between PCI-capable and non-PCI-capable hospitals. An issue that needs to be addressed is the reimbursement for devices, particularly for underprivileged patients.

As the number of interventional cardiologists in Malaysia grows, ICSM will continue to consolidate and expand its roles for the education of practitioners and promotion of a high standard of cardiovascular care both locally and internationally.

MYLIVE 2017 is to be held from 27 to 29 July 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The theme for MYLIVE 2017 is “Doing It Right”. We look forward to your presence at this exciting MYLIVE 2017.