

The Fourth World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent

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The seed of having the Fourth World Congress of the Association for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent held in Hong Kong was sowed even before the third Congress in Xi'an rang up its curtains in October 2012. The appointment was not a simple nor casual process. During the formative phase of the development of the organization committee in April 2012, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association, Prof David Chiu, actually travelled to Hong Kong to seek an inspection with representatives of the then to-be Hong Kong team and provided valuable counsel. Having been entrusted with the gracious offer, the Hong Kong Local Organizing Committee, in the ensuing 2 plus years, gratefully, cautiously, and diligently went on to carry out the task it was given, embraced it as a mission, and a duty of not only accomplishing the charge but also beating the expectation.

What transpired was that the organization of the fourth Congress was no longer shouldered by a single hosting hospital but rather shared by the entire plastic surgery community of the whole of Hong Kong. A team of plastic surgeons were drawn together with fine division of labor to face the challenge. The idea was conceived by the then President of the Hong Kong Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, Dr David SY Wong, who believed that it would be more resourceful to commission able people from a wider sphere, which would also carry the collateral effect of encouraging interaction, cohesion, and unity among the local surgeons. These presumptions turned out to be correct. The team was able to recruit as cosponsors, the Hong Kong Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, the Hong Kong Association of Cosmetic Surgery, the Departments of Surgery of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. And with that, the foundation stones were laid.

To best ensure that the outcome would be up to international standards, secretarial support was contracted out to a professional meeting organizer. MIMS (Hong Kong) Ltd, acclaimed for its expertise in health care print, events, and electronic media for health care industry customers worldwide, was chosen.

The preparation was not without obstacles, though, and the important stricture was obviously cost, Hong Kong being not an inexpensive city. A relatively large number of speakers had to be invited, and potential sponsors were stretched from the fact that Hong Kong is a favorite venue for international conferences. The final outlay was formidable and was barely met with some extra efforts.

For its first time, the Congress was promoted on the *IPRAS Journal*, *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery* events listing, *Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery* announcement section, *International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ISAPS) News*, ISAPS website calendar, ISAPS monthly eblast, and had successfully obtained approval as an ISAPS-endorsed educational activity. Despite the additional costs incurred, it was agreed that these activities would help share the news about our program and hopefully that can connect our colleagues around the globe.

The Congress took venue at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building, on its ground to 2nd floors. The program spanned the course of 6 full days, from 4th to 9th November 2014, with the scientific program from 6th to 8th.

It began with Prof Foad Nahai, as the 2014 ISAPS Visiting Professor for Hong Kong, giving teachings to the 2 university hospitals during the day. He then went on to address the Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons at the Hong Kong Golf Club in the evening, followed by a welcoming dinner.

The second day was a full day of 4 sponsored preconference workshops focussed on fillers, botulinum toxin, non-invasive body contouring and fractional CO₂ laser for scars and rejuvenation. A board meeting was held in the afternoon followed by a board dinner. Prof David Chiu was to be congratulated for his reelection as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Association at the meeting.

Days 3 to 5 were the scientific sessions (Fig. 1). The opening ceremony consisted of speeches from the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Dr David SY Wong, and those of the Chairman, Prof David Chiu, and the Triumvirate Presidium of the Association, Profs Yi-lin Cao, Lee Pu, and Fu-chan Wei (Fig. 2). Prof Pu traced the history of the previous 3 congresses and the formation of the Association and that had helped to strengthen the sense of belonging of the audience to the Association. The Guest of Honour, Secretary for Food and Health of Hong Kong,

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FIGURE 1. Group photo of the 4th Congress of WAPSCD 6–8 November 2014.



FIGURE 2. From the left: Profs Wei, Cao, Pu, Chiu, Nahai, Lee and Dr Ko.

Dr Wing-man Ko, then delivered the opening address (Fig. 3). Formal opening followed with a ceremony of eye dotting of the lion by Drs Ko, Wong and Chiu and a performance of lion dance sponsored by the team of Hong Kong Tourism Board (Fig. 4). There were altogether 9 plenary lectures, 20 panel sessions with 87 talks, 86 oral paper abstracts and 22 posters, 27 sponsor exhibition booths, and 3 lunch symposia. A total of 82 invited speakers and 308 delegates participated. The faculty dinner was held on the sixth at an exotic fresh seafood



FIGURE 3. Prof Wei (left), Dr Wong (center) and Dr Ko (right).



FIGURE 4. Lion dance at the opening ceremony.

restaurant on the Lamma Island (Fig. 5) and the Congress Dinner on the 7th at the Jumbo (Fig. 6), a huge floating marine restaurant famous for tourist entertainment.

The final day consisted of social programs and sightseeing tours to leave delegates with more sweet memories to bring home.

It was quite apparent that there were many very high scientific standard presentations as well as very acute questions and responses.

Worth special mentioning are the special guests of the plenary lectures. Prof Foad Nahai gave an enlightening talk on the Future of Plastic Surgery and traced the origin and progression of plastic surgery to make projections on its future developments, emphasizing the importance of innovations. Prof David Chiu gave a talk entitled A Reflection on the Dimensionality of Plastic Surgery. He emphasized the humanistic dimension and compassion as primary impetus of what we do as plastic surgeons and provided illustrative and inspiring examples which had vividly demonstrated how plastic surgery can affect the life of a person. Prof Yi-lin Cao's eye-opening lecture, Tissue Engineering Research: From Bench to Bedside, was a beautiful testimony of the advances in scientific innovation and technology that we have in mainland China. Prof Fu-chan Wei's talk was Recent Advances & Future of Reconstructive Microsurgery in which he highlighted the development of microsurgery, its contribution and applications in plastic surgery. He also reviewed the latest developments, explained the concept of the free style-free flap, and reminded the audience of the increasing



FIGURE 5. Congress Dinner at Lamma Island.



FIGURE 6. Prof and Mrs Nahai at the Congress Dinner at the Jumbo.

importance of composite allotransplantation. Prof Lee Pu's lecture was Towards More Scientific Approach to Autologous Fat Grafting, a timely treatise examining the fine details of each of the steps in fat grafting. Prof Yu-ray Chen's lecture, Rhinoplasty: From Reconstructive to Cosmetic beautifully illustrated how we can reconstruct nasal defects cosmetically with special reference to the characteristics of the Chinese nose. Prof Dae-hwan Park shared his precious experience with blepharoplasty of the Asian eye under the title The Evolution and New Trend of Asian Blepharoplasty.

A specially arranged speaker was Prof KM Chan, a past President of the Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society. He shared valuable experience in how our orthopaedic surgeon colleagues became united under the Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society and what we could borrow from their experience. An especially interesting lecture was the talk by Sir Gordon Wu, an engineer, entrepreneur, and a legendary visionary. Sir Gordon traced the recent history of China to examine its current policies and future trends. His eloquent delivery was so captivating that the response from the audience was overwhelming. After the enthusiastic question and answer session, the audience was left mesmerized about the intriguing future of China (Fig. 7).

A prominent and tangible initiative since the Association's inauguration at the Xi'an meeting in 2012 was the production of a supplementary issue of the *Annals of Plastic Surgery*. This represented the hard work of dedicated colleagues under the leadership of Prof Lee Pu and Prof Colin Song who have volunteered the coordination of the review process and liaison with the Chief Editor of the publisher, Prof Lineaweaver William (Fig. 8). It was a collection of the best works presented in the Xi'an meeting.



FIGURE 7. Sir Gordon Wu delivering his talk.

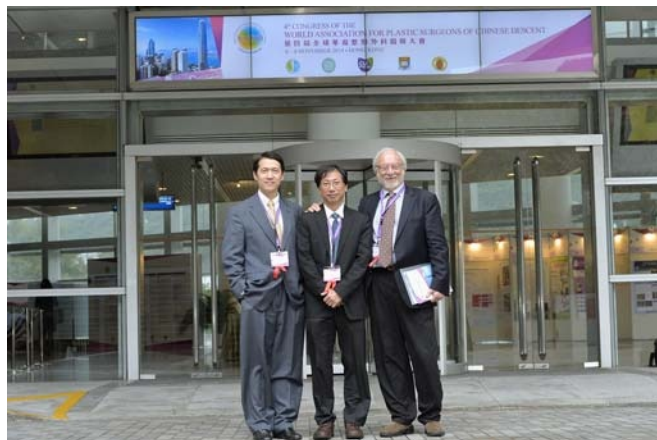


FIGURE 8. Prof Pu, (left), Dr Wong (center), Prof Lineaweaver (right) outside the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building.

We have at this congress delegates from mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, Egypt, India, South Korea, Yemen, Israel, United States, and Canada. It was highly regarded by many participants as a rewarding congress. There were ample opportunities for catching up with friendship and building up connections. Some delegates even remarked that it was the best meeting so far in the series, the previous ones being held in Beijing (08),¹ Taipei (10),² and Xi'an (12).³

Prof Lee Pu continued throughout the preparation of the Hong Kong Congress to be the constant and unfailing source of advice. His experience with the previous Congresses and his extensive connections with colleagues worldwide have been invaluable assets and have translated into substantial advantages for the Local Organizing Committee.

On the final day of the scientific program, a board meeting was held. Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan in mainland China was chosen as the site for the fifth Congress. It will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Chinese Society of Plastic Surgeons tentatively on October 13 to 16, 2016. So the baton has passed on with all of our best wishes (Fig. 9).

The goals of the Association are to promote friendship and ties, to showcase contributions, to exchange ideas and innovations, to advance the art and science of plastic surgery, and make the world closer and nicer. It is apparent that we have made clear steps, if not great leaps, forwards in all of these goals with each of our congresses.



FIGURE 9. Board meeting and hand over.

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