

Report for SBOSS and APBCS

By Dr. Jin Whan Huang 2018/3/12

This year, the Singapore Breast Oncoplastic Surgery Symposium (SBOSS) and the Asia-Pacific Breast Cancer Summit (APBCS) was held in Singapore from March 8th through the 11th. It was the 4th annual meeting for SBOSS and the 7th for APBCS and we at Cheng Hsin General Hospital were excited to attend this world-class symposium on updating our knowledge in breast cancer management.

SBOSS is an international meeting with emphasis on oncoplastic breast surgery which focuses on sharing up-to-date breast oncoplastic surgical skills and techniques from renowned experts like: Stephen McCulley, a consultant plastic reconstructive and aesthetic surgeon; Fiona MacNeill, a consultant breast surgeon of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust United Kingdom; Veronique Tan, a consultant breast surgeon of the National Cancer Centre Singapore, just to name a few. The symposium provided comprehensive lectures with step-by-step guidance on surgical markup and operative techniques giving participants important knowledge on how to perform such surgeries successfully. Topics also covered the latest developments in oncoplastic surgery including updates from the 2017 ORBS meeting in Nottingham and innovative concepts in nipple sparing mastectomy, free flap reconstruction, and implant reconstruction including pre-pectoral implant placement. There was also a special session focusing on education and training accreditation in oncoplastic breast surgery which is increasingly important for doctors interested in pursuing the field.

Following SBOSS showcased APBCS completing its 7th continuous year of medical education in the Asia-pacific region. The conference presented new data, top-class faculty, state of the art lectures with innovative topics to bring together healthcare professional communities to share best practices and knowledge for breast cancer management. The meeting was structured into three programs with different interests aimed at treating breast cancer comprehensively. One program was designed for clinical physicians and surgeons talking about present and future prospective, challenges in pre- & post-operative therapy, as well as various case discussions with interactive sharing of thoughts amongst the faculty and delegates. The second program aimed at clinical nurses in focus of providing better nursing care in tangent of multidisciplinary management. The third program was unique for patient advocacy helping to empower the patients' voice as they face the diseases burden.

We are still trying to understand the biology of breast cancer and insights are enlightening everyday with the many researches ongoing. New drugs and different treatments are being developed and suggestions for management are constantly changing as the evidence base is building. We need to prepare ourselves relentlessly to win over the fight with breast cancer and update ourselves with the newest studies and findings. Attending these world class lectures definitely guides us in a brighter way and we at Cheng Hsin General Hospital strive ourselves on this pathway to provide the utmost best management for our patients.