

WELCOMING MESSAGE



I welcome you all to the 27th East Asian Medical Students' Conference. I am delighted that Korea is hosting this conference, which brings together delegates from more than 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a great honor for SungKyunKwan University to become a host university of this 2014 SEOUL EAMSC.

The theme of this conference is 'chronic disease – walking side by side, accompanying the patient on their lifelong struggle with chronic disease.'

The worldwide introduction of urbanization and elongation of lifespan have led to a global increase in diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. This holds true especially in Asia, where the adoption of Western lifestyle have resulted in a dramatic increase in chronic diseases. In face of this rising global epidemic, Sungkyunkwan University has worked in tandem with the Samsung Medical Center in order to manage such diseases and improve the health of the general public.

Chronic diseases will increasingly prove to be a detriment of public health. We hope that through this conference, the participants will have the chance to gain new perspective and come up with novel suggestions.

I congratulate the Asian Medical Students' Association Korea for successfully organizing this important and meaningful conference. Furthermore, I hope that this conference will be an opportunity for the participants to not only gain important academic knowledge but also experience the lavish cultural beauties that Korea has to offer. I wish for this conference to be a memorable occasion to everyone involved.

Jae Hoon Song, M.D. Ph.D.

Dean, Sungkyunkwan University, School of Medicine

WELCOMIG MESSAGE



Welcome, members of Asian Medical Students' Association! As a host of the 27th East Asian Medical Students' Conference, I greet you all to the beautiful, cosmopolitan city of Seoul, South Korea. It is an honor to hold this conference in seven years again in South Korea and this time at Korea University Medical College.

The main theme of the conference this year is chronic disease, which may be a broad topic to cover. WHO defines chronic disease as "disease of long duration and generally slow progression", which includes heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes.

They are by far the leading cause of mortality in the world, contributing to 63% of all deaths. The number will only increase as time progresses. Therefore, studying about chronic disease and its management is critical for future doctors.

Korea University endeavors to meet the society's changed needs by taking a comprehensive approach in raising the quality of life in patients through active basic and clinical research. The excellent, enthusiastic professors and researchers of Korea University Medical College are prepared to improve patient care and communication. By establishing a better infrastructure within the hospital and investing in the human resource development, Korea University is one of the leading institutions of healthcare in South Korea and East Asia.

Chronic disease is the major problem that medical professionals have to solve. I hope that this conference may provide the ground for many talented medical students from Asia to share their academic opinions and discuss possible solutions in various perspectives. I look forward to active communication and exchange of knowledge and culture among the participating nations through this conference.

I once again offer my congratulations to the 27th East Asian Medical Students' Association and hope the members of Asian Medical Students' Association Korea will successfully hold this conference.

Thank you.

HeeChul Han, M.D. Ph.D.

Dean, Korea University, College of Medicine

INTERNATIONAL OC ADDRESS

Dear AMSA members and delegates of the 27th East Asian Medical Students' Conference (EAMSC)



On behalf of the Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) International, the Executive Committee, and the Regional Chairpersons, I am honoured to have the privilege of welcoming you to this conference and to South Korea.

It has been 14 years since AMSA Korea have hosted a conference, the last being the Asian Medical Students' Conference in 2000 with the theme "New Waves in Medicine". As we entered the 21st Century, the nature of healthcare and medicine changed, and so too, have we.

AMSA International has since seen a great expansion as an organisation, growing to 24 member chapters around the world, and establishing partnerships with the World Health Organisation and the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, amongst many other organisations.

The theme of the EAMSC 2014 Korea is "Chronic Disease". As the future of medical practice in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, we must be aware that chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes, have become the leading cause of mortality in the world, and according to the World Health Organization, represent 63% of all deaths. The hard work that AMSA Korea's Organising Committee has put into organising this conference will help equip us with sufficient knowledge and skills in combating chronic diseases, both in the present as medical students, and in the future as medical practitioners.

I would like to thank each and every member of AMSA International for all the contributions made over the past years to ensure that AMSA International remains as the peak medical student representative body in the Asia-Pacific region. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee and the Regional Chairpersons of AMSA International for their hard work so far this year, which has allowed our organisation to have continual success and growth. Lastly, I would like to thank the AMSA Korea and their Organising Committee for this EAMSC for their dedication and determination in providing us with what looks to be an exciting and amazing experience here in Seoul.

Looking forward to meeting you all over the next few days!

Sincerely yours,

SAMUEL VO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Vo', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Overall Chairperson of the Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) International
University of New South Wales, Australia

2014 EMASC OC ADDRESS

Dear delegates of 27th East Asian Medical Students' Conference



It is our honor to welcome everyone to 27th East Asian Medical students' Conference 2014. This EAMSC will be hosted by AMSA Korea at one of the most beautiful cities in Asia. It's already been seven years since AMSA Korea had hosted the conference, and I can assure you that all the members of AMSA Korea are excited to have you here, having enthusiastically prepared for the conference to make this one of the best conferences ever.

The theme of this year's EAMSC is 'Chronic Diseases'. Chronic diseases account for the majority of deaths around the globe and its importance is increasing every year. It has a lifelong disease course and is very difficult to cure. Chronic diseases also entail non-medical problems, causing complications at social, economic, and familial levels. During the conference we will be focusing on these problems, trying to understand the hardships that chronic patients are put through. Furthermore, through the community service, delegates will have the chance to participate and make a new relationship with the society.

For sightseeing, delegates will visit the few of the most beautiful sights in Seoul, where they can enjoy magnificent views of the city. During the cultural workshop and culture night sessions, delegates will have the opportunity to exchange culture and make new friends. Cultural workshop will include Korean dance, music, clothing, games and food.

AMSA Korea promises an unforgettable experience at 2014 EAMSC. We earnestly invite you to Korea, where we can share bright knowledge and warm friendship.

Welcome to Korea!

Yours sincerely,

Hanul Lee

Organizing Chairperson of EAMSC 2014



Theme of 2014 EAMSC

Theme

Chronic disease

Subtheme

Walking side by side: accompanying the patients on their lifelong struggle with chronic diseases

Humanity is afflicted by all sorts of diseases every day. So, one might ask, why discuss chronic diseases in particular? We have chosen this topic because chronic diseases stand out as a major source of detriment to the general health of humanity. Chronic diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular or cerebrovascular diseases, are accredited as major causes of death. In addition, chronic diseases are hard to cure, holding on to the patient with both hands.

For these reasons, a medical professional will have to work closely with patients not only as a doctor but also as a collaborator, friend and guide for lifetime. During this process of lifelong maintenance, however, both patients and medical personnel will inevitably encounter various hardships. Such hardships may not only affect the survival rate of the patient but also greatly influence the quality of life of the patients. Hence by having medical students think and discuss about this topic, we hope that this conference will provide an opportunity for the students to learn more about providing quality healthcare to patients afflicted with these grievous diseases.

Chronic diseases can be problematic in several ways: First, the patient's quality of life can be greatly degraded by the pain or complications of chronic diseases. Second, chronic diseases tend to physically debilitate the patient, leading to impairment in social capability of that person. Third, the long term medical care that ensue chronic diseases becomes a great source of economic burden to not only the patient but also the society. Fourth, problems might arise in introducing a specific treatment into a country due to problems of the medical system or of implementation, and this will undoubtedly become a hindrance to proper medical care of chronic disease patients.

We are preparing various academic programs to introduce medical students into the field of chronic diseases early on in their career. We hope that this will provide an opportunity for the students to learn to become the patients' companions, who can understand and sympathize with their patients' hardships.