Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are aware that the past few months dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic have been trying for everyone. Only now are some of us starting to see a welcome light at the end of the tunnel. We acknowledge this period has already been heavy with countless communications, new guidelines, everchanging protocols and statements, of which we included the two IPOG COVID reports as a small part in this immense wave of information.

In this latest communication, we would like to adopt a different perspective and briefly take the focus off the virus to instead reconnect with our colleagues and friends. As more of us start to see a relaxation in isolation directives, we can pause and remember to reconnect with colleagues both close and far and try to find some stability in a new type of normal.

We invite you to read a few inspiring words from the leaders of many ORL societies around the world. They offer us words of encouragement and share uplifting memories of gatherings, events, and good times while we wait to be able to make new memories together again soon.

Thank you for your collaboration.

IPOG (International Pediatric Otolaryngology Group)
On behalf of the entire group: Erika Mercier MD, Natasha Dombrowski BA, Reza Rahbar, DMD, MD

ANZSPO (Australian and New Zealand Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology)
Paul Walker MD (President); Kelvin Kong MD (Secretary)

APOG (Asia Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Group)
Nguyen Thi Ngoc MD (President); Wei-Chung Hsu MD (Secretary)

ASPO (American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology)
Diego Preciado MD (President); Reza Rahbar DMD, MD (Secretary)

ESPO (European Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology)
Ann Hermansson MD (President); Martin Bailey MD (Secretary)

IAPO (Interamerican Association of Pediatric Otolaryngology)
Federico Murillo MD (President); Tania Sih MD (Secretary)

PENTAFRICA (Pediatric Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery in Africa)
Chris Prescott MD (President); Shazia Peer MD (Secretary)
May 2020

A world pandemic focuses our minds on our core duties. Since antiquity, these take as their basis, our vocation to heal the sick. This is a great privilege, for two reasons. First, because we are able to deploy the gifts we have in terms of surgical skills, to help children in need of those skills. Second, because parents put their trust in us to do the very best for their child; as well as for the family they are a much-loved part of. Pandemics risk our own health, and those of our family, and several otolaryngologists have travelled that road. Thus, one of our challenges is to protect our own health, and reduce spread within our operating theatres and staff, while still helping those who are ill. A worldwide community of paediatric otolaryngologists makes that so much easier.

The Committee of ANZSPO has been inspired by the proactive innovations of our membership from across the length and breadth of Australia and New Zealand. The Paediatric COVID WhatsApp group was established and moderated by Hannah Burns from the north. This has been a very fertile forum for the sharing of ideas, problems, and possible solutions. There have also been some very funny photos and video clips, and the excellent experience of catching up with mentors and fellows from different countries, now united in the battle. From the west and east of the continent, have come innovative draping techniques for airway surgery. From the south came a visor for our voroscope headlights. From New Zealand, came a protocol for betadine irrigation of the upper airways. Other members have contributed in many other ways, including academic papers, to our response to the virus. We have also been fortunate to have wisdom shared from the global experience.

At home, while I do love cleaning cupboards - since I am “not doing much at the moment”, and I have enjoyed spending more time with the family, I look forward to getting back to
working normally. I am uncertain what the new normal will be, but hope that telehealth remains a significant option, and that we are all a little more kind to each other. I am also very hopeful that a spirit of open sharing of ideas, and genuine fellowship amongst us all, remains a prominent feature of the worldwide community of paediatric otolaryngologists.

Paul Walker

A/Prof Kelvin Kong MBBS FRACS
Secretary ANZSPO
ANZSPO CONFERENCE 2018

ANZSPO 2018 Worimi Country

1 Welcome to Country

2 Nikki Thriving

3 Take-off

4 Landng

5 Future member
Greetings to our fellow Pediatric Otolaryngologists!

In 2007, the Philippines hosted the 1st Asian Pediatric Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery meeting. During that meeting, leading pediatric otolaryngologists from seven Asian regions, namely, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Philippines formed the Asian Pediatric Otolaryngology Group (APOG) to address the need for a collaborative effort to provide high quality care for children with otolaryngology related diseases in the ASEAN area. It was also envisioned to be the venue for education and research dedicated to the particular needs of the region.

After the initial meeting in Manila, APOG regularly held conventions: 2009 in Jakarta, 2011 in Singapore, 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, 2015 in Taipei, 2017 in Beijing, and 2019 in Thailand. APOG membership also expanded to other Asia-Pacific regions: Australia, Thailand, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, and Mongolia. In recognition of its member countries outside the ASEAN region, the name of the organization was changed to Asia Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Group (APPOG).

The increasing visibility and recognition of APPOG as the organization for pediatric otolaryngology in the Asia Pacific region is a testament to the individual and collective efforts of the group to network with colleagues in other regions of the world. During these extraordinary times, perhaps more than any other time in the past, we will continue to collaborate with our colleagues to meet the challenges brought about by the SARS-COVID 19 pandemic. We will continue to address the changing pediatric otolaryngology landscape through evidence-based or evidence-informed guidelines, develop innovative diagnostic and treatment protocols, and identify areas for possible research. These may be difficult times for all of us but these are exciting times as well. We look forward to being at the forefront of pediatric otolaryngology and remain committed to provide high level specialty service and care to our children.

To our colleagues, we are one with you and wish you all safety & good health!

C. Gretchen Navarro-Locsin, MD, MSc, FPSOHNS
President, Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
President, Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology
Past President (The First President), Asian Pediatric Otolaryngology Group
The Meeting of Asian Paediatric Otolaryngology Group (APOG, APO)

2020 Vietnam HCM City ENT Hospital
Fighting COVID-19 Together !!
Coming Soon 2021 APOG in Vietnam !!
17th Congress of KSPO, March 24th, 2019, Seoul, South Korea
We hope all of you are well and are on the road to decreasing the effects of this pandemic in your institutions.

The past several months has been very challenging for any educational organization whose mission upholds advocacy, learning, and research. The pandemic has cancelled meetings and conferences, decreased all clinical care except urgent cases, and limited teaching due to social distancing.

Yet despite all these limitations and reductions, technology has helped all of us remain connected. We continue to share data, ideas, successes, and inevitable difficulties. We are certain that all of us – individually and collectively – will overcome these challenges and will emerge stronger and more united than before.

It is difficult to determine when we will return to normalcy and what that future stage might look like. We would like to share with you some of the good times from the past ASPO meetings and hope for all us to make new memories together again soon.

Diego Preciado MD, President
Reza Rahbar DMD, MD, Secretary
Anna Messner MD, Past President
Ron Mitchell MD, President-elect
ASPO ANNUAL MEETING PICTURES

[Image of attendees at ASPO annual meeting]

[Image of another group of attendees at ASPO annual meeting]
Dear Friends,

We are all struggling with COVID-19 and it has been wonderful to see how the worldwide paediatric ORL community has come together to provide mutual help and support. Notable has been the COVID-19 Worldwide Paediatric ENT WhatsApp group started by Hannah Burns from Brisbane, and of course the IPOG COVID-19 Survey and Report coordinated so speedily and energetically by Reza Rahbar from Boston.

We had hoped that we would all be meeting at ESPO 2020 in Marseille this month, but of course the Congress has had to be postponed and will now take place from 13th-16th February 2021. In the meantime, we have attached some photographs from ESPO 2014 in Dublin, ESPO 2016 in Lisbon, and ESPO 2018 in Stockholm: these will remind us all of good times past and encourage us to look forward to good times yet to come in Marseille next year!

With best regards,

Ann Hermansson
ESPO President

Martin Bailey
ESPO Secretary-General
A message from Dr Frederico Murillo:

“América Latina está siendo probada por esta pandemia, con resultados dispares. La tragedia en Europa no ha sido en vano, le ha permitido a nuestros países comprender la magnitud de lo que íbamos a enfrentar, salvando miles de vidas. Esperamos que este desafío nos haga mejores científicos, mejores médicos, mejores personas. No permitamos que el aislamiento físico enfríe nuestros corazones y apague nuestras sonrisas.”

“Latin America it’s being tested by this pandemic, with mixed results. The tragedy in Europe has not been in vain, it had allowed our countries to understand the magnitude of what we were going to face, saving thousands of lives. We hope that this challenge will make us better scientist, better doctors, better people. Let us not allow physical isolation to cool our hearts and turn off our smiles.”
**Why does the virus have a “corona”? Martino 4 years old.**

In our country, Mandatory Preventive Social Isolation, ASPO in the Spanish acronym, (does it ring a bell?) has brought important changes in behaviors, interpersonal relationships, work, study, etc. Some of the changes will be temporary, while others are here to stay, and some will even improve our quality of life. All of them, however, have shown once again the power of human beings to adapt.

Let’s therefore see some of the things that have improved or to which we have adapted in Covid-19 times.

It is a relief that children are less frequently affected and that if they are, the disease is less severe. We have seen that when isolated, children generally don’t get sick. There have been almost no upper respiratory infections and cases of otitis media have drastically decreased. Nowadays, we don’t worry so much about children having otitis but about them not being able to enjoy playing with other children.

Many children are spending more time with their parents, playing long-forgotten games, studying and learning, sharing breakfast, lunch, and dinner, talking and understanding each other. The quarantine provides time to get to know each other better and to do things we should have always done.

Many children have learned to cook, look for recipes, draw, paint, dress up, hug their grandparents through a cell phone or computer screen, and take care of their grandparents like their grandparents did of them. The children have adapted to online education and have taken it seriously.

As always in times of catastrophes, there is renewed solidarity. People are manufacturing face masks and volunteering to help the elderly doing their shopping or paperwork. Artists have been showing their arts for free from their balconies and houses for all of us to enjoy their music, literary works, paintings, theater, or theater for children.

We have had to adapt to exercise in confined spaces with online teachers and to telework. Teleconferences and online round tables have multiplied. Many physicians who previously had no access can now learn from the most important specialists in the world. We have chatted dressed up with our grandchildren, we have celebrated birthdays and sung happy birthday at a distance. We have done some of the things we promise ourselves each new year, and definitively, we have learned to value health and the freedom to go out whenever we want.

IAPO

Hugo Rodríguez-Tania Sih
COVID MOMENTS FROM IAPO MEMBERS

Presentation of a newborn baby to the neighbors (like the Lion King)

The children have started to give us good advice

Family chats

Mommies doing gym with babies
Los líderes de Costa Rica: Ministro de Salud Dr. Daniel Salas (epidemiólogo), Presidentes de Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado, Presidente de la Seguridad Social Dr. Román Macaya (científico)

Costa Rica’s leaders: Minister of Health Dr. Daniel Salas (epidemiologist), President of the Republic Carlos Alvarado, President of Social Security Dr. Román Macaya (scientist)

Algunas ideas de Costa Rica para mitigar el riesgo transmisión aérea en cirugía

Some ideas from Costa Rica to mitigate the risk of airborne transmission in surgery

La Universidad ITEC está desarrollando un respirador diseñado y construido en Costa Rica. Se están haciendo pruebas en simuladores y cerdos.

The ITEC University is developing a respirator designed and built in Costa Rica. It is conducting tests on simulators and pigs.
Un grupo de trabajadores de un Hospital celebran la alta de un paciente que estuvo más de tres semanas en la UCI.

A group of workers from a Costa Rica’s Hospital celebrate the departure of a patient who spent more than three weeks in ICU.

El Dr. Salas (Minitro de Salud de Costa Rica) es un excelente comunicador, su manera personal y comprometida se ha ganado el cariño de la gente. Un artesano hizo una figura de colección que se ha vuelto muy popular.

Dr. Salas (Costa Rica’s Minister of Health) is an excellent communicator, his personal and committed manner has earned the appreciation of the people. A craftsman made a collectible figure that became popular.


State employees overhauled a hospital in eleven days to exclusively treat patients with Covid-19. Fortunately, it has hardly been necessary to use it yet.
Paediatric Ear, Nose & Throat in Africa, or PENTAfrica is the youngest of the Paediatric Otolaryngology societies to have joined IPOG. It was established in 2017. Founding elders were Dr. Clemence Chidziva (University of Zimbabwe), Dr. Peter J. Koltai (Stanford University) and Prof Chris Prescott (University of Cape Town). Since then Pentafrica has grown substantially. Below are some of the highlights:

In May 2018, The Zimbabwean Society of Otolaryngologists (ZISOL) hosted the 1st PENTAfrica Conference at Victoria Falls. This included an excellent scientific programme with international faculty comprised of a large contingent from Stanford University (Drs Peter Koltai, Anne Messner, Doug Sidell); Drs Prashant Malhotra and Peggy Kelly (United States); and Dr Hugo Rodriguez from Argentina. Loco-regional representatives from the University of Cape Town included Prof Chris Prescott, me, and Sr. Jane Booth, cape town’s specialist tracheostomy nurse practitioner. The conference also included a pre-congress workshop in Harare hosted by ZISOL and Stanford University.

Four rising stars, all fellowship trained, and sentinel figures in paediatric ENT in their region, have been recruited. Together we are one step closer to systematically establishing a paediatric ENT network across the continent, aimed at facilitating sustainable education and clinical services.

1. Dr. Titus Dzongodza completed a paediatric ENT fellowship at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Australia 2018-2019. He will return to Zimbabwe in 2021 as the country’s first paediatric subspecialist. Titus will also resume his position as the vice secretary for PENTAfrica.

2. Dr Tagwa Hayward Abugaker Abdalla completed her paediatric ENT fellowship at Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals, Newcastle, UK 2016 - 2017. She subsequently founded the paediatric ENT specialty in Soba Teaching Hospital, Khartoum, Sudan in 2017. She currently works in Hepius Clinic Medical Complex. Tagwa co-authored the Pentafrica COVID-19 guidelines in the first week the pandemic hit African shores. This was the first guideline for low resource settings, and it was well received across the continent.

3. Dr. Wale Gelay is the first to be trained as a paediatric ENT specialist in Africa, after completing his fellowship in Cape Town in 2018-2019. He is Ethiopia’s first paediatric ENT specialist and is based in St Paul Hospital Millenium Medical College.

4. Dr. Fiona Kabagendi is currently completing her paediatric ENT fellowship in Cape Town, and will return to Makerere, Uganda in Jan 2021.

There exists plenty of opportunity for paediatric otolaryngologists from developed countries to provide mentoring for training, clinical cases and clinical research to developing world units. Please join us in Cape Town in 2022 for the 2nd PENTAfrica conference, hosted by the University of Cape Town’s Division of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Shazia Peer
Secretary, PENTAfrica
Cape Town, South Africa
Left to Right: Dr Titus Dzongodza, Dr Tagwa HA Abdalla, Dr Wale Gellaw, Dr Fiona Kabagenyi

Left to Right: PENTAfrica at ESPO 2018, Dr Gellaw completing his fellowship, Dr Kabagenyi under supervision of Prof Johan Fagan
Dear friends, Dear "Pediatric Airway" and Dearest INPAT’ Supporters 2017-2019
Hope we’ll be soon together again!
COVID-19 pandemic permitting, next INPAT and the future scientific meetings will see us united again to exchange opinions, discussing medical and surgical strategies, technological innovations and how to deal with "old problems", looking for new and better solutions. Even more important it will be to get out of the sadness and fear of this unexpected and unpredictable lockdown that has marked and changed the life of all of us.
This pandemic must awaken in us even more the desire to work together, to be together, to recreate a cheerful, joyful and also ... alcoholic sociability.
With the hope to find a cure as soon as possible and free ourselves from the restrictions of recent times I always recommend that you preserve your health in addition to that of our young patients.

All the Best,

Sergio Bottero e Marilena Trozzi
Airway Surgery Unit
Laryngotracheal Team
Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital
Rome Italy
TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD...

Be like Darth Vader
- Wear a mask
- Doesn't visit his son and daughter
- Socially and emotionally distant
- Follows orders

WHEN'S WALDO?
SOCIAL DISTANCING EDITION

When your holiday has been cancelled by the coronavirus but don't want to give up the dream

Quarantine Update 2.0: we moved onto Scrabble today but he keeps playing the same word! Isn't that cheating somehow?!
A SUGGESTION FOR ALL THOSE MEDALS THE OLYMPICS WON'T BE NEEDING THIS YEAR...

THANK YOU ALL AND STAY WELL