



Dr Ajay Puri  
speaks about the Asia  
Pacific Musculoskeletal  
Tumor Society and  
APMSTS 2018  
Conference

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## Asia Pacific Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Conference 2018

For advances in musculo skeletal oncology to occur we need a host of clinical specialties along with nursing, rehabilitation and support staff interacting on a continuous basis. Sarcomas are rare and each individual and institution can only benefit from having access to pooled information and experience. For sarcoma care to evolve, ideas to surface and multi institute or multi-disciplinary collaborations to develop in the fields of basic research, patient care, biomaterials and prosthesis, there is a need for a common platform where all of us involved in the treatment of sarcomas can interact. Our socio economic milieu in the Asia Pacific region is unique. We have a spectrum ranging from resource rich societies with extensive state supported health care to resource constrained nations where patients have inconsistent access to health care and funding for health care is limited. Solutions and protocols applicable to the Western world need not necessarily be the most suitable in our scenario. Our large numbers coupled by the sheer native ingenuity necessary to offer quality health care in a resource challenged population can help us develop solutions that can be adapted everywhere.

The Asia Pacific Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (APMSTS) was conceptualized during discussions at the 7th International Symposium of Limb Salvage Surgeons (ISOLS) meeting in 1993 and its first meeting was held in 1995 in Japan under the stewardship of Professor Yoshio Ogihara. Mirroring a similar initiative, the Indian Musculo Skeletal Oncology Society (IMSOS) was established in 2013 to “promote scientific, evidence based, comprehensive multidisciplinary management of bone and soft tissue sarcomas and encourage basic and clinical research”. This year Jaipur, India plays host to the 12th APMSTS meeting in October. This is a joint meeting co-hosted with IMSOS. The theme of the conference is “Education – Collaboration - Innovation”. This epitomizes our desire to share and disseminate knowledge, the spirit of collaboration necessary to find answers to common problems and the need to derive innovative solutions best suited to our socio economic milieu.

The conference logo depicts the feathers of the peacock in the Indian national colours adorning a group of people with interlinked arms who represent the collaboration and camaraderie between individuals and countries that form the Asia Pacific Musculoskeletal Society. The logo represents the beauty and spirituality of India while signifying the desire to showcase skills from the Asia Pacific region. The peacock, the national bird of India symbolizes many of the qualities that we as “healers” must inculcate. In Hinduism, the peacock is associated with Saraswati the

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goddess of wisdom and learning. In Buddhism, the peacock is a symbol of purity and the 'eyes' in the peacock's tail represent a symbol of watchfulness. The figure of the peacock is painted in various Islamic religious buildings while in Christianity the peacock was known as the symbol of resurrection and renewal. Just as the peacock elegantly unfolds its vibrant colours during its ritual dance, so too this conference is an occasion for us to demonstrate the best from all participating delegates.

We have more than 300 delegates from 28 countries participating in this meeting. Deviating from the accepted norm of didactic lectures the meeting focusses more on interactive sessions that will promote healthy discussion. There are case based panel discussions and sessions where senior musculoskeletal oncologists share their diverse experiences so that all attendees can benefit from the collective experience of others in order to enable them to make better decisions when managing similar cases. While providing adequate sessions for free papers there are two "show piece" orations. The IMSOS oration "Lessons learned from the European-American Osteosarcoma Study EURAMOS 1" will be delivered by Prof. Stefan Bielack while the inaugural APMSTS "Prof. Yoshio Ogihara Oration" will be delivered by Dr. Suresh Nathan. The conference is preceded by multidisciplinary workshops that encompass all specialties involved in sarcoma care, offering delegates an opportunity to interact with faculty in smaller groups.

This unique joint meeting also offers the ideal platform to unveil a brief monograph "IMSOS guidelines for musculoskeletal sarcomas", IMSOS's endeavour to standardise the management of musculoskeletal sarcomas in India.

All our efforts are ultimately focussed on improving health care for our patients. A meeting such as this would be incomplete unless we involved them too. The IMSOS sarcoma support initiative will simultaneously conduct a parallel session that helps patients share their experience and presents an occasion where we can felicitate support personnel who selflessly give their time to enable us to optimise overall patient care.

We are sure the ambience and hospitality of Jaipur combined with an exciting and informative scientific programme will make this joint APMSTS - IMSOS conference a memorable and enriching event for all delegates.

It is our pleasure and privilege to welcome all attendees to Jaipur to partake of the experience that is "Incredible India"!

Prof. Ajay Puri

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