



ARISE with APLAR Partnership Addresses RA Burden in Cambodia and China

ARISE with APLAR - a medical education partnership with Janssen Asia Pacific - continues to gain momentum with three significant back-to-back accomplishments in March 2013. These include a fact-finding mission to Cambodia, where initial steps were taken towards creating a sustainable model for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) healthcare, and a packed forum in China on the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis.

The APLAR mission to Cambodia was undertaken by a team of Australia-based rheumatologists to address the serious unmet healthcare needs in rheumatology care. According to WHO statistics, the life expectancy of a Cambodian male is only 57, and female is 65. Access to healthcare is limited and the physical, social and emotional consequences of inadequate access and treatment are profound. Many surgeries and amputations are both preventable and a direct result of Rheumatologic diseases.

In recognition of this unmet need, a team led by APLAR President-Elect Professor Kevin Pile and six rheumatology experts -- Dr. David Mathers, Dr. Gabor Major, Dr. John Van Der Kalle, and Janssen's Immunology Medical Affairs Lead Dr. Malcolm Handel, as well as two Rheumatology nurses Kerri Gill and Kerry Cooper -- traveled to Sihanouk Center of Hope, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. They spent one week meeting with high-level government officials and working alongside local healthcare professionals to determine their learning needs; form links between rheumatology nurses and colleagues with in-service training; and conduct conjoint clinics to establish a knowledgebase and resources.

The following week, APLAR convened its second China forum in 2013 – this time, in the southern city of Guangzhou, bringing together some 150 leading rheumatologists from across the region. Current and former APLAR Presidents Prof. Zhanguo Li and Dr. Rohini Handa teamed up with Professor Xiaofeng Zeng of Peking Union Medical College Hospital and Janssen's Dr. Malcolm Handel to set the tone for the day with introductory comments. They were followed by informative presentations by Prof. Kevin Pile on the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis today and in the future, and Korean Prof. Dae Hyun Yoo on Rheumatoid Arthritis and Prof. Chung Tei Choi of Taiwan on Ankylosing Spondylitis.

After these opening presentations, a board meeting was held under the leadership of APLAR Prof. Zhanguo Li with other APLAR leaders and leaders in Chinese Rheumatology. With Janssen's



Dr. Malcolm Handel moderating, members discussed ways to further expand the ARISE with APLAR medical education series in China, as well as elsewhere in the region, with an initial focus on India and Malaysia.

The significant milestones achieved just last month demonstrate the power and potential of this partnership, which combines the world's largest rheumatology organization with Janssen's global leadership in Immunology to deliver the latest knowledge to doctors and patients.



**2013 ARISE with APLAR Forum and Advisory Board Meeting,
March 17th 2013, Guangzhou, China**