

APSR Short – Term Research & Training Scholarship Post – Training Report

I am incredibly grateful to the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR) for providing me with the opportunity to participate in the advanced fellowship training program at China Medical University Children's Hospital in Taiwan.

The Pediatric Pulmonology and Critical Care Department at China Medical University Children's Hospital is one of Taiwan's best training hospitals for pediatric thoracic specialists. It is a quaternary referral hospital that receives patients with complicated and difficult pediatric airway problems from both local and overseas.

Professor Wen Jue Soong, my esteemed mentor, and a world-famous pioneer in pediatric bronchial examination and intervention, established the first pediatric bronchoscopy unit in Taiwan. The unit offers both diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopy using both flexible and rigid bronchoscopes. Procedures are conducted either in the pediatric bronchoscopy unit or in the pediatric intensive care unit.

During fellowship, I had the privilege to observe, assist and perform numerous procedures under the direct supervision of Professor Soong. We performed flexible diagnostic and interventional bronchoscopy, some aspects of which I had only read about in articles. I have learned about a significant type of non-invasive ventilation developed by Prof Soong – Soong's ventilation. It is relatively safe and highly reproducible, even for those coming from developing countries. Prof. Soong exemplifies excellence in both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, rendering him invaluable to the field of Pediatric Interventional Pulmonology. He emphasized to me that patient safety is the ultimate priority, even during the simplest interventional procedure. Dr. Jie He Chen, who is both a pulmonologist and critical care specialist, is an exceptional educator whose unwavering commitment to sharing knowledge sets him apart. He continuously motivates me to have confidence in my own abilities. Dr. Chien Heng Lin, another attending at the pediatric bronchoscopy unit, ensures that I understand the cases thoroughly before each procedure. I have also closely worked with two wonderful ladies from the pediatric bronchoscopy unit, Ms. Rou Yi

Lu and Ms. Chia Jung Li. Both of them guaranteed that I was well-versed in all aspects of the bronchoscopy unit, including proper handling and care of the bronchoscope, patient preparation, and post-procedure care. They helped me organize weekend outings to alleviate homesickness and made sure I felt comfortable and cared for by ensuring I was always well-fed. Outside of the pediatric department, I had the chance to collaborate with Dr. Wu Huei Hsu, an adult pulmonologist and an expert in thoracic ultrasonography and imaging. He warmly welcomed me when I expressed my interest in learning thoracic ultrasound.

Interventional pulmonology is a relatively new field in pulmonary medicine, particularly in pediatric pulmonology. Coming from a developing country such as the Philippines, where Pediatric Interventional Pulmonology is still in its infancy stage, the expertise and insights that I have gained will contribute to elevate the standard of care for our young patients. This experience will catalyze innovation in pediatric pulmonary medicine. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to APSR, CMU Children's Hospital, and Professor Soong for granting me this invaluable opportunity.

-Therese Pauline F. Yap, MD
Manila, Philippines



with Professor Wen Jue Soong



Pediatric Bronchoscopy Unit Team:

(Left Photo) L to R: Dr. Nikhil Rajvanshi (India), Dr. Jie He Chen, Ms. Rou Yi Lu, Ms. Chia Jung Li, Prof. Wen Jue Soong, Dr. Therese Yap
 (Right Photo): L to R: Ms. Chia Jung Li, Dr. Chien Heng Lin, Prof. Wen Jue Soong, Dr. Therese Yap, Dr. Jie He Chen, Dr. Max Anuvat Klubdaeng (Thailand), Ms. Rou Yi Lu