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Meeting Report on the 1st Singapore Nail Workshop and Cadaveric Nail Surgery Course 2017

Chia Chun Ang^a Adam I. Rubin^b Eckart Haneke^c

^aDepartment of Dermatology, Changi General Hospital, Singapore; ^bDivision of Dermatopathology, Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA; ^cDepartment of Dermatology, Inselspital, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Dear Editor,

Nail diseases are an important aspect of dermatology, and they represent a significant clinical burden in daily practice. The Dermatological Society of Singapore (DSS) organized the inaugural Nail Workshop and Cadaveric Nail Surgery Course on July 14–15, 2017. This was held in conjunction with the 30th DSS Annual Scientific Meeting 2017. This workshop was designed to address the gaps in the knowledge and training on nail diseases, nail histopathology and nail surgery and was targeted at dermatologists from Singapore, South East Asia and the surrounding countries. In our effort to reach out to our colleagues-in-training and also to colleagues from the region, the course fees were kept affordable and charged at cost price by DSS. The invited experts for the workshop were Professor Eckart Haneke (Bern, Switzerland) and Assistant Professor Adam I. Rubin (Philadelphia, PA, USA), together with the local faculty from DSS.

The first day of the workshop was held at Academia, Singapore General Hospital, on July 14, 2017. Delegates were introduced to nail surgery through a series of lectures on “Surgical Anatomy, Danger Zones and Local Anaesthesia for Nail Unit Surgery,” “Pre- and Post-Operative Preparation and Counselling,” “Indications and Techniques for Nail Bed, Nail Matrix and Lateral Longitudinal Biopsies” and “Managing Ingrown Toenails and Performing Intra-Lesional Steroid Injections.” Professor Haneke illustrated various nail surgical techniques during the 1-h “Advanced Surgical Techniques Masterclass.” The delegates had the opportunity to practice various diagnostic and therapeutic surgical procedures on cadaveric hands during the 2-h “Hands-On Cadaveric Nail Surgery” session at the procedural skills lab.

On day 2 of the workshop, on July 15, 2017, at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore, the emphasis was on nail histopathology and clinical nail diseases. Delegates, including general pathologists from various institutions in Singapore, were in-

The conference was held at Academia, Singapore General Hospital, and at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore.

Fig. 1. Assistant Professor Adam I. Rubin lecturing on “Nail Unit Biopsy and Processing Techniques to Optimize Histologic Yield.”

Fig. 2. Professor Eckart Haneke discussing an interesting nail case from Bern.

troduced to nail histopathology through the lectures on “Normal Nail Histology, Regional Differences and Pitfalls in Interpretation,” “Nail Unit Biopsy and Processing Techniques to Optimize Histologic Yield,” “Diagnostic Application of Nail Clippings,” “Inflammatory and Infective Diseases of the Nail Unit” and “Tumours of the Nail Unit” (Fig. 1). The morning session ended with exciting clinicopathological case presentations and discussions of interesting nail cases from Philadelphia, Bern and Singapore (Fig. 2).

Assistant Professor Rubin and Professor Haneke taught the delegates their approaches to clinical nail diseases in the afternoon

with lectures on “Longitudinal Erythronychia, Longitudinal Melanonychia and the Pigmented Nail Plate” and “Onycholysis and Brittle Nails.” The afternoon session concluded with lectures on the management of various nail conditions, such as “Contact Dermatitis from Nail Care Products” (delivered by Dr. Anthony Goon, Singapore), “Inflammatory Nail Disorders,” “Fungal Nail Infections” (delivered by Dr. Hiok Hee Tan, Singapore), “Paediatric Nail Disorders” and “Tumours of the Nail Apparatus.”

The workshop was well received with 195 delegates from DSS, member societies of the League of ASEAN Dermatological Societies (<http://www.dermatology.org.sg/about-us/league-of-asean-dermatological-societies>) and dermatologists from other regional countries (Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan). We hope to be able to conduct similar nail workshops biennially, and we are looking forward to inviting international nail experts to share their knowledge and skills with the dermatologists from our region.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the following dermatologists who made the event a success: Professor Eckart Haneke, Assistant Professor Adam I. Rubin, Assistant Professor Anthony Goon, Dr. Hiok Hee Tan, the DSS executive committee (Adjunct Associate Professor Yen Loo Lim, Adjunct Assistant Professor Haur Yueh Lee, Dr. Shang Ian Tee, Dr. Colin Theng, Dr. Paul Chia, Dr. Chia Chun Ang, Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Koh and Ms Jenny Folk) and the trainers for the cadaveric nail dissection course (Associate Professor Sze Hon Chua, Dr. Suzanne Cheng, Dr. Paul Chia, Dr. Sue Ann Ho, Dr. Hong Yi Koh, Dr. Choon Chiat Oh, Dr. Chris Tan and Dr. Aaron Tan).

Disclosure Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.