FARO Newsletter

Federation of Asian organizations for Radiation Oncology

SPRING ISSUE

APRIL 2024

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 - **Activity Reports:**
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 - LDP Committee
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GREETINGS PRESIDENT



I am truly honored to take on the role as the President of the Federation of Asian Organizations for Radiation Oncology (FARO), a role to which I was appointed in January 2024. Founded in 2014 with the mission of fostering the practice of radiation oncology for the benefit of the cancer patients in this region. Today, our organization has expanded to 14 radiation oncology societies in Asia. We will continue to promote excellence in radiotherapy and provide education along with reinforcing research capacity in this field.

Together with the executive board and the 4 committee chairs (research, leadership development program, education & training, and scientific), I will work hard to make FARO one of the leading organizations in radiation oncology. With the support of the council members in 14 countries and collaborative partners, we can continue to grow our organization for the next generations of radiation oncologists and allied health professionals. Thank you very much. I am eager to work and walk together with you all.



Imjai Chitapanarux President of FARO

GREETINGS VICE PRESIDENT



Dear all FARO officers and council member and all friends from FARO Associations,

I am very glad as the vice president for the FARO 2024-2025 period.

FARO is big family since it was founded in 2014, also a very important radiation oncology association in the world, it cover almost half of the population in the world. There were large differences in the radiation oncology among FARO associations, we need work together, learn from each other and support the developing countries, by this way, improve the level of radiation oncology within whole region and also in the world. This is also one of the goals for FARO.

In the past 10 years since FARO foundation, FARO have made a great progression under the lead of former officers and all of our members. As the vice president of this turn of FARO officers, I will work hard for FARO and as good helper of the president Imjai Chitapanarux, Hope FARO become more and more power.

Your sincerely Junlin Yi



Junlin Yi Vice President of FARO

GREETINGS SECRETARY GENERAL



I am honored to continue serving as the Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Organizations for Radiation Oncology (FARO) for another two years. During the past two years, FARO has successfully navigated the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with member countries collaborating online to advance Radiation Oncology in the Asian region. Additionally, FARO has launched monthly webinars, which are available to all those involved in Radiation Oncology. I am proud to have collaborated with our members to support FARO's growth during a challenging period.



Yasushi Nagata MD, PhD Secretary General of FARO In November 2022, FARO held an on-site officer's meeting and a hybrid council meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, where we recognized the importance of face-to-face communication in enhancing relationships among members. In October 2023, FARO hosted FARO-KOSRO 2023 in Seoul, Korea, where attendees participated in lectures and dynamic discussions for three days. This year, FARO-ESTRO Congress @ESTRO meets Asia is being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bringing together radiation oncology societies from across Asia and Europe.

FARO was established with the goal of building strong relationships among these societies and improving healthcare for patients. FARO also collaborates with member societies in research, education, and clinical practice of radiation therapy. FARO, which is currently composed of national organizations from 14 Asian countries, has successfully hosted six scientific conferences in the Asian region.

The International Radiation Oncology Network (IRON) was established in 2023, and FARO plays a crucial role in improving global health by saving lives in the field of Radiation Oncology. Asia is a growing region in the world, and I expect that FARO will continue to grow for many years to come. I surely promise to make every effort to contribute to its success.

GREETINGS TREASURER

Fotoration of Asim Unit

Dear esteemed members of FARO,

With immense gratitude and enthusiasm, I extend my warmest greetings to all FARO officers, council members, Advisory Board, and all FARO members. As we embark on a new chapter together, I am humbled by the opportunity to contribute as Treasurer within our esteemed organization.

This year, marking a one-decade journey of FARO since 2014, is a great milestone for reminiscing about our remarkable journey, and what we have done and achieved so far. FARO has played a great role in strengthening the radiation oncology communities in Asia. As we step into the future, I firmly believe through our commitment, FARO will keep growing as an organization to improve cancer healthcare, cooperating in research, education, and excellence in radiotherapy.

Thank you for the given opportunity, I am deeply grateful for the trust, and I look forward to contributing further to FARO. Together, we will continue to develop, fostering growth and unity among our members!

Warm regards,

Angela Giselvania Treasurer of FARO



GREETINGS PRESIDENT-ELECT



Dear all members of FARO member societies, FARO Officers, FARO Council Members, and FARO Advisory Board Members.

From 2024 to 2025, I will be serving as the President-Elect of FARO, which is personally a great honor but also comes with a heavy responsibility. Currently, FARO's main activities include organizing regular academic conferences biennially, conducting monthly webinars, and hosting the Joint FARO-ESTRO Congress (ESTRO meets Asia) every two years. However, there is much more to be done in the future.



Professor Hong-Gyun Wu, MD, PhD President-Elect of FARO

Asia, the largest and most populous continent in the world, borders Europe and Africa to the west, Oceania to the south, and North America to the east. It consists of 48 countries as defined by the United Nations, with only 14 of those countries' radiation oncology societies currently active as members of FARO. Additionally, many countries in Asia face shortages in resources related to radiation therapy. Therefore, efforts are needed to expand FARO's membership and work towards the distribution of radiation therapy resources and the advancement of radiation oncology in the Asian region. Furthermore, since most activities still primarily involve FARO Officers and Council Members, we need to explore ways to involve more members.

All of this will require considerable time and investment, but I am committed to working hard alongside the President, Officers, and Council Members to achieve these goals. God bless all of us.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

by Supriya Chopra Sastri



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Federation of Asian Radiation Oncologists Research Network (FERN) has initiated it's activities in 2023
- Research Secretariat Set up
- Protocol development and research methodology workshops
- Patterns of care surveys
- Multicentric protocols for research in EBRT and Brachytherapy.



Greetings from the Chair

FARO research committee has been actively working for the last 2 years to establish the research infrastructure and form collaborative research and scope of activities has been defined.

FARO Research Secretariat is now set up at Advanced Centre for Treatment Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. ACTREC, FARO and the Association of Radiation Oncologists of India (AROI) jointly support this initiative. Active engagement of FARO research committee members has fostered many activities in short period.

FARO adopted the name of FARO Research Network (FERN) with the FERN logo.

Research Committee has commissioned 5 working groups from the interested societies in the region with the following thrust areas

- o Gynecology (FERN GYN) and Brachytherapy (FERN-Gyn-BT)
- o Head &Neck (FERN -HN) and Brachytherapy (FERN-HN-BT)
- o Breast (FERN BR)
- o Advanced Technology (FERN-AT)
- o Health Economics (FERN-HE) / Quality Improvement (FERN-QI)

The research committee published their vision and scope in JCO Global Oncology in 2023.

Patterns of care surveys were completed in Asian region for Breast Cancer, Radiotherapy in brain metastasis, gynecological palliative care, fractionation in head and neck cancer and results were presented in AFRO-KOSRO meeting 2023 in Seoul and will be published soon.

o The first event by FERN was organization of Research Methodology Course and Development of Clinical Protocols for Collaborative Research.

WORKSHOP ON CLINICAL RESEARCH AND PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT BY FARO-AROID-ACTREC (AUG 2023) ...continued from page 8





The course was organized as an educational and collaborative initiative between ACTREC, AROI and FERN.

A total of 433 participants attended the course including 43 mentors from 14 different countries.

The course covered topics like

o Introduction to clinical research and protocol design

- o Phase wise study designs
- o Statistics in Clinical research

o Overcoming challenges in clinical research

o Integration on AI and machine learning in clinical trials

VISION 2024-2025

- Initiate FERN BR-001, FERN Gyn-001, FERN HN-001
- Making the FERN collaborative protocols and educational courses available for FARO members through webportal.
- Set up FARO Brachytherapy Working Groups within FERN (Gyn BT, Head and Neck and Rectal Brachytherapy registry) to foster brachytherapy research.
- Collaborate with LDP committee and engage young leaders in research activities.
- Set mechanism to scale up research grants.
- Collaborate with other societies and collaborative groups for fostering research.
- To set up Quality Assurance and Accreditation process for clinical trials.

A total of 17 novel protocols were received out of which 14 were shortlisted. Among these, 10 protocols were eventually finalized for further development of collaborative research.

The best protocols were awarded to protocol FERN-BR-001 which emphasized on assessment of financial toxicity for treatment in breast cancer in Asian region, FERN-BR-002 which was a non inferiority randomized controlled trial for hypo-fractionation in Breast cancer and FERN-HN-001 aiming to develop a prognostic Model for Oral cavity cancers to predict response to post-operative radiotherapy.

Among the 10 listed protocols, FERN-BR-001, Fern-Gyn-001, FERN-HN-001 are expected to be initiated by end of 2024/2025.

FARO Gyn and Head and Neck Brachytherapy Registry is also being organized to foster brachytherapy research in the region.



Supriya Chopra Sastri Research Committee Chair of FARO

Leadership Development Program

by Tomoaki Tamaki



2022/2023 Activity Report and Vision for 2024

Greetings From FARO Leadership Development Committee

The FARO Leadership Development Program (LDP) was established with the aim of fostering future leaders of FARO through regional collaboration among young radiation oncologists. Since its inception in 2017. FARO has successfully the LDP completed three batches through the efforts of Prof. Soehartati and her staff at IROS, with a total count of 34 graduates. In order to continue this effort, the FARO LDP Committee was created in 2022 to carry on the LDP. (Please refer to the FARO website (faro.asia) for the LDP Committee members.)

The LDP Committee has decided to conduct the Program with its own staff for the fourth batch of LDP. Tomo Tamaki (Chair), Ben Prajogi (Deputy Chair), Anna Maria Dela Cruz, Uranchimeg Tsegmed, Mayang Permeta, Wah Wah Zu Myint, Daksa Ganapati, and Azumi Fukushima have been the core instructors of the LDP 2023-2024. The online Convocation was held on July 21st, 2023, where promising young radiation 15 oncologists nominated by FARO member countries convened. Over four online sessions held in August and September 2023, participants, referred to as "leaders," delved into a series of sessions on gaining skills and knowledge of leadership principles, team building, strategic analysis, and strategic project planning. These sessions also provided a platform for leaders to share insights into the status of radiation oncology in their respective countries, enriching the learning experience for the leaders.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- FARO LDP Program has produced 34 graduates in the last 3 batches since 2017.
- FARO LDP Committee was created in 2022.
- FARO LDP is run by its own staff from the fourth batch (2023-2024)
- 15 Leaders from 14 FARO Member Societies are being trained in 1-year hybrid program



FARO Leadership Development Program Online Convocation (July 21, 2023)



FARO Leadership Development Program in FARO-KOSRO 2023 in Korea (October 11-12, 2023)



The highlight of the LDP was the twoday in-person sessions held at the K Hotel in Korea on October 11th and 12th, 2023. Dr. Melvin Chua, a prominent mentor from the ASCO APAC Leadership Development Program, stimulated the leaders with a thought-provoking presentation based on rich leadership his experiences. Additionally, a symposium titled "Meet the Leaders of FARO" facilitated an engaging dialogue between the LDP leaders and the current Officers of FARO leadership. In the leaders group sessions, the were organized into three groups to initiate their annual projects: "Advancing research activities within FARO," collaborating with the FARO research committee; "Increasing opportunities for collaboration, the exchange, education, and training for young radiation oncologists in Asia," collaborating with the FARO Education & Training Committee; and "Improving the visibility and presence of FARO in the

global/Asian radiation oncology community," collaborating with FARO Secretariat.

The subsequent monthly meetings witnessed active collaboration among LDP leaders and FARO committee members, driving forward the initiatives outlined in respective project The their plans. presentation on outcomes of Batch 4 yearly projects and the LDP graduation ceremony will take place in conjunction with the FARO-ESTRO Congress @ 'ESTRO meets Asia' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2024.



Tomoaki Tamaki Leadership Development Program Committee Chair of FARO

FARO Leadership Development Program in FARO-KOSRO 2023 in Korea (October 11-12, 2023)



Education and Training

by Mayang Permata

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2022/2023 Activity Report and Vision for 2024

Greetings From Education and Training Committee

FARO webinars have been the core activity of FARO, which is held almost every month, from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic until now. It serves as a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences between FARO countries and to build stronger network of collaboration in the region.

FARO countries take turns in hosting the webinar, with technical support from Indonesian Radiation Oncology Society (IROS) and Indonesian Radiation Oncology Residents' Association (IRORA). Aside from country members, FARO Company Members also have the privilege to host FARO webinars.

2023	Webinar	S
23 Feb	CSTRO	Response-adapted treatment decision-making in patients with hypopharyngeal carcinoma
28 Mar	Elekta	Innovations in Breast Care
26 Apr	AROI	Radiotherapy in Prostate Cancer - Dilemmas & Controversies
20 May	Varian	Starting Brain SRS - A step by step guide to achieve Clinical Excellence
24 June	MOSTRO	Radiotherapy for stage I NSCLC: Issues and Radiation Techniques
29 Jul	PROS	Re-irradiation in Medulloblastoma
30 Aug	IROS	Winning the Fight Against Cancer
26 Sep	Elekta	Innovation meets Productivity
11 Nov	THASTRO	Updated management in glioma WHO grade 2-3
11 Dec	Varian	Brachytherapy Contouring for Gynaecologic Malignancies: Guidelines & Practical Recommendations



All previous FARO Webinars' recordings can be accessed at FARO Website

2022 Webinars

		~
20 Jan	Elekta	Accelerating the application of advanced Precision Radiation Medicine in the new normal
24 Feb	SRS	Novel agents and techniques for prostate cancer.
22 Mar	BSRO	TBI for Bone Marrow Transplantation by VMAT planning – An Initial Bangladesh experience
27 Apr	Varian	Adaptive Therapy in Pelvic Malignancies: Newer Advances
20 May	AROI	Cardiac Health & Breast Cancer Radiotherapy
24 June	KOSRO	Optimizing Radiotherapy for Atypical Meningiomas
29 Jul	Elekta	Expanding clinical indication on advanced brachytherapy and future outlook
30 Aug	JASTRO	Drug-Combined Radiotherapy: Changes and Prospects
28 Sep	MOS	Hyperthermia Revisited
20 Oct	Varian	Breast Cancer - Newer Advances
25 Nov	SLCO	SABR in pancreatic cancer - new developments
23 Dec	PSCO	Perineural Invasion (PNI): Pearls and Pitfalls of Contouring in H&N cancers



24th FARO webinar organized by PROS/IROS and IRORA held on 31st July 2023

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The ETC have also initiated the first FARO Training Travel Grant in 2023, aiming to foster training capacities among FARO member countries. Training centers and training needs in FARO Countries were listed, matched, and scored.

Travel grant from FARO of US\$ 3,000 have been awarded to the trainee's countries through each society, and arrangements are in process for the trainings to start in June 2024. The training grant will also be open in 2024 with increased amount to US\$ 4,500 per country.

2024 Webinar Schedule

Host	Dates
Elekta	Feb 28, 2024
Singapore (SRS)	March 27, 2024
Varian	April 23, 2024
Bangladesh (BSRO)	May 22, 2024
India (AROI)	June 26, 2024
Myanmar (MSTRO)	July 24, 2024
Elekta	Sept 25, 2024
Philippines (PROS)	Oct 23, 2024
Varian	Nov 27, 2024



http://faro.asia/page2_3.html

It was announced by the end of 2023 that the two recipients would be:

Trainee's Country	Торіс	Host Training Center
Myanmar (MSTRO)	Transitioning to Advanced Technologies (IMRT, IGRT, SBRT)	Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia
Pakistan (PSCO)	SRS with Cyberknife	Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand



In this webinar, Assoc Prof. Melvin Chua MBBS, FRCR, PhD, FAMS (National Cancer Centre, Singapore) will be sharing regional perspectives from South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Australia on the use of hypofractionated radiotherapy in cancer care.

Bongiagesh	16:00 (BDT)	Kobia Lumpor	18:00 (MYT)	
Myonnia	16:30 (MMT)	Philippines	18:00 (PHL)	
Jokerta.	17:00 (ICT)	Pakietan	15:00 (PKT)	
Bangkoli	17:00 (BKK)	fridie	15:30 (IST)	
Singapore	18:00 (SGT)	Sri Lanka	15:30 (SLST)	
Mongolia	18:00 (ULAT)	Tokyo	19:00 (JST)	
Secul	19:00 (KST)	China	18:00 (CST)	
			TALANDON DATE:	

Mayang Permata Education and Training Committee Chair of FARO





The Scientific Committee is the youngest committee of FARO, formed in April 2022. It is composed of 28 hard-working members, with 2 representatives from each FARO country. The purpose of the Committee is to promote the scientific activity of FARO, mainly by taking an active role in the preparation and administration of "FARO Meetings" in cooperation with the local organizer.

Last year, the first major task of the Scientific Committee was to evaluate all the abstracts submitted, and to choose the best for proferred paper oral presentation and poster presentation during the FARO-KOSRO Meeting held on October 11 - 13, 2023, in Seoul Korea. This was done using the online evaluation platform provided by the local organizers (Korean Society for Radiation Oncology – KOSRO). There was an overwhelming number of 345 abstracts submitted, out of which 64 were chosen for the oral presentation, and 281 for poster presentation.

Oral presentations were divided into 6 categories:

- 1) CNS + H&N (14)
- 2) Thorax + Palliative (9)
- 3) GI (11)
- 4) GYN + GU (11)
- 5) Breast + Hematology (8)
- 6) Radiation Biology + Physics (11)

The best oral presentation for each category, was awarded \$500 (USD).

The poster presentation was done electronically and was posted online. **The 10 best posters were awarded \$300 (USD) each.** Other than evaluating and choosing the top abstracts, the Scientific Committee was also tasked to choose the recipients of the travel grants, and the Young Investigator Awards. A travel grant amounting to USD800 was awarded to the author of the top abstract from each FARO country, while Young Investigator Awards, were given to 5 authors who submitted 2 or more high scoring abstracts chosen for proffered paper oral presentation.

The FARO Scientific Committee is currently collaborating with the ESTRO scientific committee in choosing the top abstracts for the up-and-coming Joint FARO-ESTRO Congress @ ESTRO Meets Asia, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on August 23-25, 2024. The best abstracts will again be chosen for proferred oral paper presentation and digital poster presentation. The author of top scoring abstract from each FARO country member, chosen for oral presentation, will receive a travel grant of \$1,000 (USD).



Manuel Lopez Scientific Committee Chair of FARO

TOP POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Name	Country
Reena Engineer	IND
Jingnan Wang	CHN
Qiyao Yang	CHN
최현석	KOR
Mark Dumago	PHL
Mohammad Saiful Islam Pathan	BGD
Kitwadee Saksornchai	THA
Masatoshi Nakamura	JPN
Ying Sum	MYS
Riyan Apriantoni	IDN



Masatoshi Nakamura (right) from Japan being presented with his certificate for best poster presentation.

... continued from page 14



TOP ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Tumour site	Name	Exemin
CNS + H&N	Chan Woo Wee	Korea
Thorax (Lung / Oesophagus)	Yun Bai	China
GI (Colorectal / Hepatobiliary)	Shu-Jung Hsu	China
GY+GU	Won Kyung Cho	Korea
Breast + Haematology	Atsuto Katano	Japan
Radiation Biology	Xue Li	Korea

9 TRAVEL GRANT AWARDEES

Fumpur site	Name	Country
Breast	Tae Hoon Lee	KOR
Head and Neck	Zekun Wang	CHN
Genitourinary	Farah Mardhiah Janudin	MYS
Thorax (lung, oesophagus, mediastinum)	Nowshin Taslima Hossain	BGD
Breast	Rhandyka Rafli	IDN
Breast	Vrushab Rao	IND
Central Nervous system	Megumi Uto	JPN
Gastrointestinal	Lori BelleLofranco	PHL
Head and Neck	Warissara Rongthong	THA

YOUNG INVESTIGATORS' AWARDS

Name	Country
Weiping Wang	China
Ming-Wei Ma	China
전승혁	Korea
송준영	Korea
Bandaru Shrinivas Reddy	India



Upcoming FARO 2025

by Imjai Chitapanarux



Buckle up and brace yourself for the 7th FARO Meeting, jointly held with the 36th THASTRO annual meeting, from 9th to 11th October 2025 in Chiang Mai, Thailand!

What to Expect

- **Pre-Congress Workshop**: Dive deep into the subject with a full-day pre-congress workshop, designed to enhance your skills and knowledge in radiation oncology.
- Latest Developments: Stay abreast of the cutting-edge advancements in radiation oncology with insights from exceptional speakers at the forefront of the field.
- KOL In-Depth Discussions: Engage in in-depth discussions with Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) on hot topics shaping the future of radiation oncology.
- Poster Sessions: Immerse yourself in the wealth of research and case studies through interactive poster sessions.







Experience Beyond Conference Halls

Chiang Mai is a city that seamlessly weaves modernity with tradition. Take a stroll through the historic Old City, where every corner reveals a piece of Chiang Mai's fascinating history.

- **Gastronomic Delights**: From street-side stalls to fine dining, the city's culinary scene caters to every palate. Don't miss the opportunity to savor traditional dishes like Khao Soi, or explore the bustling night markets for a gastronomic adventure.
- **Natural Splendor**: Surrounded by lush jungles and mountainous landscapes, Chiang Mai provides a breathtaking backdrop for your visit. Take a break from conference sessions to explore the nearby Doi Suthep-Pui National Park or embark on a trek to discover hidden waterfalls and serene landscapes.
- Local Experiences: Engage with the local community through cultural performances, traditional crafts, and encounters with elephants at ethical sanctuaries.

Stay Connected:

For future updates and detailed information about the event, make sure to stay tuned to our official website: **www.FARO2025.org.**

Mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable journey where academic enrichment meets cultural exploration at the 7th FARO Meeting x the 36th THASTRO Annual Meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to Chiang Mai!

MEMBER SOCIETIES





Bangladesh Society of **Radiation Oncologists** (BSRO)





Chinese Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (CSTRO) http://www.csro.org/



Association of **Radiation Oncologists** of India (AROI) https://www.aroiwb.org



Indonesian Radiation Oncology Society (IROS) http://www.porl.or.id



Japanese society for **Radiation Oncology** ASTRO (JASTRO)



https://www.jastro.or.jp/en/



Korean Society for Radiation Oncology (KOSRO) http://eng.kosto.or.kr



Malaysian Oncological Society (MOS) https://www.malaysiaoncology. 07g

















Singapore Radiological Society (SRS) https://srs.org.sg

Mongolian society for **Radiation Oncology**

Myanmar society for

Radiation Oncology

https://www.mmacentral.org/so

cieties/myanmar-society-for-

Pakistan Society of

Philippines Radiation Oncology Society

Clinical Oncology

http://psco.com.pk/

https://pros.org.ph

cadiotherapy-oncology/

(MOSTRO)

(MSTRO)

(PSCO)

(PROS)

Sri Lanka College of Oncologists (SLCO) http://www.slco.ik



Thai Association of **Radiation Oncology** (THASTRO) https://www.thastro.org/en/















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