

Professor Arthur Lim Siew Ming, (1934-2014)

Founding & Honorary Life President

Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS)

Founding Medical Director

Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC)

Founding Chairman

Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI)

“If you operate on one man, you restore vision to one man, but if you teach your colleagues how to perform quality cataract surgery, they will solve the problem of cataract blindness in the world.”

– Professor Arthur S.M. Lim



The Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS), formerly known as the Asia-Pacific Intraocular Implant Association (APIIA), was founded by Professor Arthur S.M. Lim, a pioneer who recruited and worked with expert ophthalmic microsurgeons from around the world to introduce microsurgical techniques and intraocular lens implant technology to the region. Prof. Lim and these experts taught thousands of ophthalmologists, many of whom have returned to their homelands to become leaders in their profession.

Prof. Lim’s name became synonymous with sterling eye developments, including the creation of the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC), the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), and the Department of Ophthalmology, National University Hospital (NUH). He also helped establish the International Intraocular Implant Training Centre in Tianjin, now the Tianjin Medical University Eye Centre.

All these institutions are now centers of excellence, continuing his life-long dedication and commitment to the promotion of quality eye care, education, and research.

Having held numerous positions in international ophthalmology organizations and a recipient of numerous awards for his extraordinary contributions over the last five decades, Prof. Lim leaves an indelible mark in the history of ophthalmology not only in Singapore

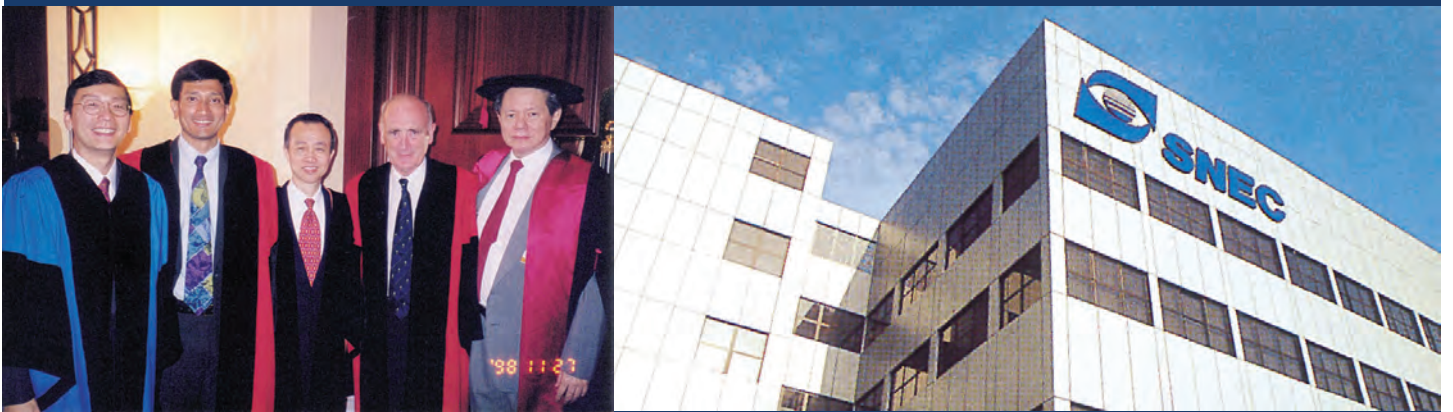
林少明在天津作手术示范



新加坡国立大学医院眼科主任、亚太眼科学会秘书长、世界白内障医师学会主席林少明医生，获得中国1997年度“国际科技合作奖”。他曾捐款并募集资金，帮助建立“世界人工晶体中国天津培训中心”，邀请著名眼科专家来“中心”讲学、进行手术示范，为中国开展白内障复明工作做出了重要贡献。图为林少明（左二）在进行手术示范讲解。（新华社）

but also in the region and the world. He will always be fondly remembered as our Founding Father, Leader, Advocate, and Mentor.

Professor Arthur S.M. Lim, visionary leader and venerable father of ophthalmology in Singapore, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world, passed away peacefully in his home on 30 August 2014, with his loving family and close ones by his side.



Tributes From Around The World



Prime Minister
Singapore

1 September 2014

Mrs Arthur Lim
3C Chancery Hill Road
Singapore 309640

Dear Mrs Lim,

Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your husband Professor Arthur Lim.

Arthur was a visionary and a giant in Singapore medicine. He was a world leader in clinical and academic ophthalmology and made substantial contributions to the field. He founded the Singapore National Eye Centre, which is now one of the world's leading eye hospitals. He also conceptualised the Singapore Eye Research Institute, which has over the last two decades made discoveries that advanced the diagnosis and treatment of major eye diseases, such as myopia, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. He put Singapore medicine on the world map, serving as President of the World Ophthalmology Congress and Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, which he helped set up.

Arthur not only built institutions, but mentored generations of eye surgeons and lit the lives of millions of people around the world. His mantra was: "If you operate on one man, you restore vision to one man, but if you teach your colleagues how to perform quality cataract surgery, they will solve the problem of cataract blindness in the world". Driven by this greater mission, he trained more than 5,000 specialists in the ten eye centres that he has helped establish in China, restoring the vision of one million blind cataract patients there.

I knew Arthur to be a generous and gracious man. As the Chairman of the Universities Endowment Fund, he led by example and inspired others to do the same, increasing the endowment many fold. His fund-raising efforts have given the gift of education to future generations of NUS graduates, and helped us to become a society that cares for the less fortunate. Arthur's legacy will live on as we remember his life, his contributions and lessons.

My thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.

Yours sincerely

Lee Hsien Loong

Arthur was a visionary and a giant in Singapore medicine. He was a world leader in clinical and academic ophthalmology and made substantial contributions to the field. He founded the Singapore National Eye Centre, which is now one of the world's leading eye hospitals. He also conceptualized the Singapore Eye Research Institute, which has over the last two decades made discoveries that advanced the diagnosis and treatment of major eye diseases, such as myopia, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. He put Singapore medicine on the world map, serving as President of the World Ophthalmology Congress and Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, which he helped set up.

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My thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.

LEE Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore

Prof. Arthur Lim, a giant father figure to an entire generation of ophthalmologists, has just left us. I will never be able to thank him enough for all that he gave us so generously. All the institutions he established, the lessons and the memories will live on. May God bless his soul always.

Vivian BALAKRISHNAN

Minister, Environment & Water Resources, Singapore
Honorary Senior Consultant & Past Medical Director, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

Prof. Lim was an inspirational mentor. He painted for us a vision and a hope that if we aimed high, worked hard, and dreamed big, anything was possible. He urged us on to achieve for SNEC and SERI what we never thought was possible in a short span of 25 years—to start from scratch but now compete neck and neck with the best in ophthalmology globally. We must continue his legacy and complete the journey he set us on.

WONG Tien Yin

Medical Director, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

In the history of ophthalmology in Asia, Arthur Lim was a leading figure championing Asia to the forefront for many decades. Considered Singapore's Father of Ophthalmology, Prof. Lim established not only Asia's leading centers of excellence in the Singapore National Eye Centre and the Singapore Eye Research Institute, but developed sight restoration initiatives throughout Asia, and played key roles in establishing academic ophthalmology here. He was a true giant, and his legacy lives on in all of us.

Donald TAN

Immediate Past Medical Director, Singapore National Eye Centre
President, Asia Cornea Society, Singapore

It was with great sadness that I heard the news of the passing of a dear friend and mentor, Prof. Arthur Lim.

Arthur achieved so much for ophthalmology in Singapore, the Asia-Pacific region, and internationally, but in addition there is a deep sense of personal loss for those whose lives he touched.

I vividly recall the first time I met Arthur when he first established the Asia Pacific Intraocular Implant Society in the 1980s. His vision of the importance of a regional group focused on cataract surgery and intraocular implants like so many of his insights proved to be correct and that small group has grown into APACRS and all its associated activities. Similarly, he planted the seed for many other societies, which now contribute to education and training in the Asia-Pacific region.

He entrusted me with the future of the Asia Pacific Intraocular Implant Association and therefore changed my life as he did for so many others whom he met, guided, and invested time in their future and careers. He achieved all this with an enthusiasm and engagement with life that was truly inspirational.

The tasks he set out to achieve in establishing the Singapore National Eye Centre and so many other institutions required a major personal effort from Arthur and were accomplished with joy, enthusiasm as well as determination.

We are all diminished by his loss and will remember to keep on working toward his common goal to advanced ophthalmology and look after our patients.

On behalf of APACRS, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends—we will always honor his memory by continuing our efforts. Arthur, you will be missed by all...but never forgotten.

Graham BARRETT

President, Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (APACRS)
President, Australasian Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (AUSCRS)
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Western Australia

Extraordinary and audacious Singaporean, great ophthalmologist and mentor of all the past and present ophthalmic leaders of the Singapore National Eye Centre.

He will always live in our memories. Prof. Lim, you left a great legacy! We will always continue to carry the flames of ophthalmology for Singapore!

ANG Chong Lye

Chief Executive Officer, Singapore General Hospital
Senior Consultant and Past Medical Director, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

Prof. Arthur Lim was a warm, friendly individual who worked tirelessly for the cause of ophthalmology in Southeast Asia. His treatises on glaucoma and cataract surgeries are world renowned for their content, espoused out of his personal wisdom. He had visited India on several occasions and has many friends from this part of the world. To the grief-stricken family and ophthalmologists in Southeast Asia and all over the world, Sankara Nethralaya offers its condolence.

S.S. BADRINATH

Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya, India

Prof. Lim – irreplaceable.

I first met him in 1971 when he tutored me for the final FRACS. Later, he invited me to join his private practice, which was Singapore's top eye practice. He loved to train young doctors. He made me specialize in retina surgery, which was new in Singapore. He appointed me as the first Head of Division, Vitreo-retinal surgery at NUH Eye Department.

My proudest moment came in 2001. He presented me with a journal and he wrote "To my dear friend & colleague of many years, Beng Chong. Towards a wonderful century. Your colleague, Arthur."

It was my honor and privilege to conduct his vigil service. May you rest in peace, Prof.

ANG Beng Chong

Founding Member, APACRS
Senior Consultant, Eye & Retina Surgeons, Singapore

Prof. Arthur Lim's passing marks the end of an era in Asian ophthalmology. Arthur put Asian ophthalmology on the world stage and created the foundations for the future.

He was the best cataract surgeon I had ever seen, bar none, and he was unstinting in spending his time and resources in teaching and encouraging research among his students. But over and above all his achievements, he was a kind, generous and humorous person and I am proud to have been his friend. Whilst we mourn his passing, I am sure that Arthur would have preferred us to celebrate his life and all that he gave us. And there was so much that he gave us. Thank you, Arthur, and rest in peace.

Ronald YEOH

Secretary, Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons
Consultant Eye Surgeon & Medical Director, Eye & Retina Surgeons
Adjunct Assistant Professor Duke-NUS Grad Med School
Senior Consultant, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

We have lost a great giant in the ophthalmology of our times. Prof. Lim was a man of talent, wisdom, vision and action. In particular, he was excellent in making people work together, and making things happen. His inspirational leadership and unfailing efforts had moved ophthalmology to new heights in Singapore, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond. He was and always will remain our hero, and words fail to tell how we miss him. His spirit will always be with us all!

Dennis LAM

President-Elect, Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
Director, State Key Laboratory in Ophthalmology, Sun Yat-Sen University, China

I knew Arthur when he was organizing ophthalmic symposia and teaching courses in Singapore. This was in the 70s, about 40 years ago. He was the man responsible for improving the standard of ophthalmology not only in Singapore and Malaysia, but in the whole of the Asia-Pacific region.

As an ophthalmologist, he has always impressed me with his clear and methodical mind. He was a great teacher, always expressing himself clearly and laconically. He had the uncanny skill of identifying and solving core issues. He was a caring and generous individual, always willing to share his knowledge and expertise for the betterment of the community. He was multitalented. He was a great orator and debater, a great teacher and academic, good organizer, an artist, and a visionary. His demise is an irreplaceable loss in the field of ophthalmology. We will always miss him.

Y.C. LEE

Lee Eye Centre, Malaysia

I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. On behalf of Academia, I wish to convey my condolences to his family and to his large ophthalmology family in Singapore, which he nurtured to leading international stature. Ophthalmology, the world over, has lost a great champion.

Gullapalli N. RAO

President, Academia Ophthalmologica Internaitonalis
Founder and Chairman of the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India

I well remember first meeting Arthur when he came to Melbourne for a microsurgery course while I was a registrar. He was always most generous with his time and his interest and I often saw him at things like IAPB meetings and of course ICO. The ICO he organized in Singapore in 1990 was a triumph and I think he had his photograph taken with every single delegate. He essentially was the APAO for close to three decades and transformed it into the dynamic regional body it is today.

Of course, this international work and contribution is almost insignificant when put alongside the transformation of eye care in Singapore itself. When Arthur returned from training in London, ophthalmology in Singapore was nascent at best. With his vision, energy, creativity, and hard work, Singapore became a world leader—work you and the team he trained are continuing.

Whenever we met, he was always cheerful and interested, full of ideas and energy. He also loved his painting and I remember several times being shown his latest paintings and the cards he sent were always received with much interest. He was a giant in ophthalmology and a world leader with a profound and worldwide influence. I would like to send condolences on behalf of the International Council of Ophthalmology to Arthur's family and colleagues. We are all the richer for having known Arthur and the poorer for his passing.

Hugh R. TAYLOR

President, International Council of Ophthalmology
University of Melbourne, Australia

On behalf of APAO, I would like to express our deepest sadness and heartfelt condolences for the passing away of Prof. Arthur Lim, our former President and Secretary-General, and perhaps more importantly a great leader and teacher for several generations of ophthalmologists in the Asia-Pacific region. Without Prof. Lim, APAO would certainly not have grown and matured in the way it has. His immense impact on ophthalmology has extended well beyond our region.

Prof. Lim will forever live in the depths of our hearts as a great role model, and his very positive influence will endure for many more generations to come. With deepest sorrow and sympathies,

Clement C.Y. THAM
Secretary-General & CEO
Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), Hong Kong

Arthur was my friend, mentor, colleague, and inspiration for 40 years. He was a rare visionary who never wavered in his dream to make Singapore a global leader in ophthalmic care, education, and, later, research. This he extended to the whole Asia-Pacific region and especially China.

A consummate communicator, Arthur recruited everyone from world ophthalmic leaders to students, politicians, and businessmen to his cause and lead with a unique blend of inspiration and extraordinary generosity. A gifted surgeon, author, and artist, Arthur exploited his talents to the full and brought countless people along with him. The current high quality of eye care over the whole Asia-Pacific region is partly due to his extraordinary commitment. His legacy is symbolized by modern Singapore and he can truly be considered one of its founding fathers. This legacy is also embodied in his talented family and an internationally leading National Eye Centre.

Ian CONSTABLE
Professor of Ophthalmology
University of Western Australia, Australia

Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel over the passing away of Prof. Arthur Lim. The passing away of Prof. Lim is a big loss to Singapore and to the world of ophthalmology. He was a wonderful close friend for more than 30 years, a great clinician, a great teacher, and truly a great man.

I will always remember his words: "Never sit back!" May God give him eternal rest and may his soul rest in peace.

Darwan M. PURBA
President Director
Jakarta Eye Center, Indonesia

It was a shock to hear the news of Prof. Arthur Lim passing. My heartfelt condolences to his family and to us all.

I first met Prof. Lim in 1990 at the World Ophthalmology Congress in Singapore. It was the first year of my career in ophthalmology. He is a role model, a true inspiration and visionary. He shared many more stories in many more years that we met. And all that I love in him deeply becomes part of me. May the memories of us at APACRS help him find ultimate peace.

Prin ROJANAPONGPUN
Chairman
Department of Ophthalmology
Chulalongkorn University & Hospital, Thailand

I would like to extend my sincerest and deepest sympathy over learning yesterday of the passing of Prof. Lim. My sadness and shock are beyond words. I will not be able to ease your pain; I write only as an ophthalmologist who had the deepest respect for Prof. Lim as a person, friend, and leader of ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

It was a profound privilege for me to work with Prof. Lim over the last 30 years. His brilliant insights instigated the development of ophthalmology which has been a tremendous contribution in China. His humble, genuine demeanor, and his generosity are a legacy we shall all remember.

YUAN Jia-Qin
Founding Director
Tianjin Medical University Eye Hospital, China

I was profoundly saddened to hear the sad news of the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. We have lost a great ophthalmologist, a great man, and I have lost a great friend.

On behalf of the Chinese Ophthalmology Society and Beijing Tongren Eye Center, I would like to express my deepest condolence and grief for the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. He will be missed and memories of him will be cherished for a very long time. May his soul rest in peace.

Ningli WANG
President, Chinese Ophthalmological Society
Vice President, Beijing Tongren Hospital
Chief Ophthalmologist and Director, Department of Ophthalmology,
Beijing Tongren Eye Center, China

Prof. Arthur Lim was a prominent eye surgeon who played a key role in developing quality eye care, education, and research in Singapore. He devoted all his life not only to his Singapore ophthalmology career, but also to helping put the Chinese Ophthalmological Society on the world map, and made historical contributions to ties between China and the Singapore Society of Ophthalmology. Prof. Lim was an old friend of the Chinese ophthalmologists, and we grieve for his death, and express sincere condolences to the Singapore Society of Ophthalmology and his family.

YAO Ke
President-elect of Chinese Ophthalmological Society
Prof. and Chief, Eye Institute of Zhejiang University
Eye Center of Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University, College of Medicine, China

Today is indeed a sad day with the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. I am filled with sorrow at his passing. Prof. Lim was our close friend, he made great contributions enhancing the exchange and cooperation between Singapore and Chinese ophthalmologists and societies. He also made a historic and distinguished contribution to the development of eye care and education not only in the region of Asia and the Pacific but in the world. Prof. Arthur Lim will always be alive in my heart.

ZHAO Kanxing
Tianjin Eye Hospital and Institute, Tianjin Medical University, China
Immediate Former President of Chinese Ophthalmological Society
Chairman of Chinese Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
Academician of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis
Regional Secretary (China) & Subspecialty Society Representative
(Asia-Pacific Strabismus and Pediatric Ophthalmology Society), China

I was so saddened and emotionally moved when the news of the departure of Prof. Arthur Lim reached me. He is a valued and highly respected leader of international fame in ophthalmology, a true friend of Chinese ophthalmologists, a cultural messenger between Singapore and China. His departure comes as a tragic loss to all who knew him, as well as a great loss to the international ophthalmology family. His merits and true friendship will always be remembered.

ZHAO Jialiang

Former President of Chinese Ophthalmological Society
Former Editor-in-Chief of Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology
Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing, China

I was greatly saddened when I received news of Arthur's death. I knew Arthur for so many years and was well aware of the great debt owed to him by so many people. As you know neither the SNEC nor SERI would have been in existence without his foresight and his energy in promoting world class ophthalmology in Singapore. He will be missed by many.

Wallace Stewart FOULDS

Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, Glasgow University
Consultant in Medico-Legal Practice; Visiting Professor
National University of Singapore & Singapore National Eye Centre
Senior Consultant, Singapore Eye Research Institute, United Kingdom

I am so sorry to hear of the death of Arthur. He was a good friend and a visionary who made so many contributions to eye health throughout the world. He devoted so much energy to the good of others and to ophthalmology in Southeast Asia. He will be sorely missed by his many friends.

Alan BIRD

Emeritus Professor of Medical Ophthalmology
Honorary Consultant Moorfields Eye Hospital, United Kingdom

This is indeed sad, and represents the passing of an era. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Arthur for nearly four decades, from when he and his wife first "adopted" my family when I was working in Indonesia. Please let his family know how much we admired and will miss him.

Alfred SOMMER

Professor of Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
and Dean Emeritus and professor of Epidemiology, United States of America

I would like to express my sincere condolences on the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim.

I had known him for decades as a colleague and a friend. He had great leadership and mentorship, which enabled him to found the Asia-Pacific Intraocular Implant Association, the former name of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, and he was a true inspiration and a visionary in his field.

I hope the family will rely on one another for support, to get through this. You and your family are in my prayers. With deepest sympathy,

Jae Ho KIM

Emeritus Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
Seoul St. Mary Hospital, Catholic University, South Korea

I first met Arthur on 10 March 1984 in Penang at the fourth Joint Malaysia-Singapore Ophthalmic Congress where he approached me to take trainees from Singapore to Edinburgh and prepare them for the FRCSEd examination as I had been doing for Malaysians students since 1966. In June 1986, he had been appointed to set up the ophthalmology department at NUH and in order to obtain recognition of his proposed programs he came to Edinburgh (at his own expense as he was always keen to emphasize) when we visited the College together and he was given provisional and retrospective recognition of training pending an inspection later in the year. Arthur always accepted this as a unique achievement and hence his allegiance was firmly with the Edinburgh College thereafter. He became a Fellow without examination in 1988 and set up the joint examination with the local MMed in 1989. For his continuing services he was awarded the prestigious College overseas medal in 2003 in the citation for which he was described as “a man of many parts – a man for all seasons, the pioneer of modern Ophthalmology in Southeast Asia, the innovator and promoter of modern ophthalmic surgery in the region and the first promoter of subspecialisation in Ophthalmology at a time when this was an innovative and often unpopular concept”. His training and teaching legacy lives on in his beloved SNEC and we (and the author) have now lost a great friend and supporter of our College with its tradition extending for over five hundred years. May he rest in peace.

Barry CULLEN

Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Please extend my sincere condolences to the Lim family and the Singaporean ophthalmic community on Arthur's passing. He was an outstanding figure in international ophthalmology and a friend to many colleagues in the USA. My personal relationship spans 36 years and in 2000 I had the honor of delivering the Lim Lecture. Although he is no longer with us his presence will be felt.

Stephen A. OBSTBAUM

Director of Quality NSLIJ Ophthalmology

Professor of Ophthalmology Hofstra, NSLIJ School of Medicine, United States of America

Arthur Lim's passing marks the end of a chapter in the evolution of ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region.

More than any individual, Arthur contributed in many, many ways over an extraordinary period of time to the structure and effective functioning of our wonderful branch of medicine in this part of the world. His influence will endure. This landmark gives us the opportunity for pause and reflection.

Ivan GOLDBERG

Clinical Associate Professor, Discipline of Ophthalmology, University of Sydney

Head, Glaucoma Unit, Sydney Eye Hospital

Director, Eye Associates, Australia

On behalf of my Japanese colleagues, I would like to express my deepest condolences and heartfelt sadness for the loss of Prof. Arthur Lim, who was the greatest leader of all of us in this region.

May the soul of our leader rest in the land of perfect bliss and enjoy eternal rest.

Makoto ARAIE

Vice-President

Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology

University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine, Japan

On behalf of the Chinese Ophthalmologist Association, it is with profound grief and sorrow that we heard of Prof. Arthur Lim's passing.

He is so well known to Chinese ophthalmologists because of his self-giving donations to develop eye hospitals in China. He was our teacher, leader, and a good friend, we will always remember our time with him, his kindness, geniality, drollness. He is now in paradise and always in our hearts.

LI Xiaoxin

Professor of Ophthalmology, Eye Center and Eye Institute of Peking University People's Hospital, China
President of Chinese Ophthalmologist Association
Past President of Chinese Ophthalmology Society
Past President of Chinese Ocular Fundus Diseases Society, China

When I got the sad e-mail informing us that Prof. Arthur Lim had passed on, it triggered a memory from back in 1987, when I had just been certified as an ophthalmologist and had an opportunity to meet him personally during a 3-day microsurgery course in Singapore. However, it is not the substance of the course that remains in my memories, but his personal touch, the way he spoke with us, five novice surgeons from ASEAN countries. This short encounter opened my horizons about his leadership, his visionary and strategic thinking, as well as the broader aspect of ophthalmology, its relationship with the community and to the global institution. I am truly fortunate to have known him in the early stage of my career, which to some extent had inspired me to follow his path.

Prof. Arthur Lim is not just a leader, a great and respected clinician, or a dedicated teacher, but a hero and a leading light in Asia-Pacific ophthalmology.

Tjahjono D. GONDHOWIARDJO

Chairman, Indonesian College of Ophthalmology
Past President, Indonesian Ophthalmologist Association
Governor, APAO' Leadership Development Program, Indonesia

I was totally shocked by the sad news of the passing of Prof. Lim. I can't believe it's true. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to you and your family. Prof. Lim made significant contributions to the development of ophthalmology in China and Asia. We have lost a giant in ophthalmology, a great teacher and mentor of thousands of ophthalmologists in Asia and beyond.

As the third successor of Tianjin Medical University Eye Hospital, which was initiated and donated by Prof. Lim 25 years ago, I would like to ensure that our hospital continues to develop to a higher level and I will do my best to carry forward the development of ophthalmology in China.

Once again, my deepest condolences. May Prof. Lim rest in peace.

LI Xiaorong

Director, Tianjin Medical University Eye Hospital, China

It is with great sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. Please allow me, on behalf of the Tianjin Eye Hospital, to extend our genuine sympathies to Prof. Lim's family during this period of shock and distress.

Prof. Lim did an invaluable job for professional eye care, medical education, and vision research for the world. He was also a great mentor for Chinese ophthalmologists. It has come as a big jolt to us that he is not with us anymore.

In this time of sorrow, we are willing to help in any way we possibly can to make it a little easier for Prof. Lim's family to cope with this difficult period. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance that you might be requiring.

TANG Xin

President, Tianjin Eye Hospital, China

I am deeply saddened to hear about the sudden demise of Prof. Arthur Lim. I had the honor of knowing him and had the greatest respect for him and his commitment to the development of ophthalmology in Asia.

I know it is a great loss for his family in particular. I spent some memorable time last year with him as an Arthur Lim Lecture awardee and did not expect it would be the last time I would see him. I will truly miss him. He showed gentle attitude and was energetic.

Hungwon TCHAH

Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan, South Korea

I was introduced to Prof. Arthur Lim by my guru Dr. S. S. Badrinath when I was in Sankara Nethralaya as the youngest vitreoretinal consultant. Prof. Lim took me under his wing in 1985 when I met him and Charity Wai at the APAO held in New Delhi. He mentored me to be an APACRS Board member under his tutelage. He was astonished to know that in 1990, Aditya Jyot was more advanced than Singapore in vitreoretinal surgery with BIOM—the first wide-angle viewing system in Asia. I will remain grateful to him for his encouragement and support. I have fond memories of time spent with him and pray that God will give strength to his family to bear his loss.

S. NATARAJAN

Chairman and Managing Director - Aditya Jyot Eye Hospital Pvt.Ltd.
Editor - Indian Journal of Ophthalmology - All India Ophthalmological Society
Professor of Ophthalmology, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, India

The first time I met Prof. Arthur Lim was around 10 years ago, when Prof. Istiantoro and Dr. Purba introduced me to him when he was visiting Jakarta for the JEC Anniversary.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Prof. Arthur Lim. For a few occasions I got the chance to know his kindness and great thoughts and in those few moments I was highly impressed by his views and ideas.

Johan HUTAURUK

President, Indonesia Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (INASCERS), Indonesia

Surgeon. Mentor. Leader. Author. Artist. Visionary. A few words to describe a man who was extraordinarily extraordinary.

Prof. Arthur Lim has left an enormous and outstanding legacy in the field of ophthalmology. An entire generation of ophthalmologists has benefited from his leadership, teaching, and guidance. There are no words befitting enough to express our gratitude to this giant, who with his vision, skills, and conviction, selflessly led the development and elevation of ophthalmology to a world-class speciality in Singapore. He was a prescient who illuminated the way forward.

In many ways, Prof. Lim was the professional “father” to many of us. He was the first to celebrate our achievements. We all know that he always liked a good party. But he was also the first to commiserate with us in our disappointments, offering guidance and encouragement. He was consistent in his expectations, that we always do our best, without excuses and compromise.

Our hearts are heavy with his passing but his wisdom and teachings will always reside in many of us who have had the privilege to be taught and led by him. We owe him an unrepayable debt of gratitude and we can only hope to honor his memory by always striving to be the best ophthalmologists we can and should be.

CHAN Wing Kwong

Senior Consultant, Eye & Retina Surgeons, Singapore

As one of the leading lights of ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region, Prof. Lim will be sorely missed. He has left behind a strong legacy of professionalism among Asian ophthalmologists. Our prayers go with him and his family.

Harvey UY
President
Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, Philippines

Please accept our sincerest condolences on the passing of a great member of our profession. Very few of us can be said to have had a transformative impact. Prof. Lim had that kind of impact on global ophthalmology. He will be sorely missed.

David W. PARKE II
Executive Vice President & CEO
American Academy of Ophthalmology, United States of America

Please accept my deepest condolences—and please share them with Prof. Lim’s family and your colleagues—on the profound loss of your mentor, colleague, and friend. Prof. Lim was a remarkable individual across the spectrum of his interests—and they were many.

One of them was Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, an organization to which he was elected as the first member from Singapore. Our fellow members surely have many fond memories of their meetings with Prof. Lim.

He will be missed.

Paul R. LICHTER
Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Immediate Past Chair, Founding Director, W.K. Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan
Immediate Past President, Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, United States of America

On behalf of all the ophthalmologists of Pakistan, please accept our heartfelt and deep condolences for the sad demise of Prof. Arthur Lim, advisor and mentor.

He was very supportive of Pakistan and visited more than once at international congresses held in Pakistan. At APAO 2007, held in Lahore, Pakistan, he was our Celebrity Guest. Personally, he was very kind to me and I had the honor of receiving the APAO Distinguished Service Award from him at the same congress. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Nadeem Hafeez BUTT
Treasurer APAO
Executive Vice President, Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan
Vice President SAO, Pakistan

I am honored to have known Prof. Arthur Lim for more than 20 years. He was a wise and visionary leader who had meticulously sculpted the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) into a world-leading eye institute. Based on his lifelong contributions to ophthalmology, Prof. Lim became an extraordinary role model to countless ophthalmologists in the region. On a personal note, Prof. Lim was a very good friend of mine and a kind and generous man who I will never forget.

Pannet PANGPUTHIPONG
Director, Mettapharacharak Hospital and Eye Institute, Thailand

Ophthalmology, globally, has lost a great champion. He directed the ophthalmologists in the Asia-Pacific region to raise their stature to an international level. A multifaceted clinician, artist, philosopher, organizer, planner, and above all an outstanding visionary.

Abhay R. VASAVADA

Director, Iladevi Cataract & IOL Research Centre
Director, Raghudeep Eye Hospital, India

I am very sorry to hear of our loss of such a great man. May he rest in peace in heaven.

John CHANG

Director, Guy Hugh Chan Refractive Surgery Centre, Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Hong Kong

I remember the late Saiichi Mishima, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, and I visited Prof. Arthur Lim to attend the opening ceremony of Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre in 1979. Whenever I saw him, he was always calm and gentle. May his soul rest in peace.

Kimiya SHIMIZU

Professor and Chairman
Department of Ophthalmology, Kitasato University, Japan

On behalf of the ophthalmic fraternity in Malaysia, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the esteemed Prof. Arthur Lim Siew Ming on his passing.

Indeed, Prof. Lim was an exemplary visionary and brought the level of ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region to greater heights. His influence has definitely also greatly benefited us in neighboring Malaysia and we have learned in leaps and bounds through him.

He was tireless in his efforts to teach younger ophthalmologists, creating a unique community of experts in the region, and a great friend to many of us.

His will be sadly missed. In his passing, the family also has made a magnanimous gesture to donate to the SNEC Health Endowment, please again convey our condolences to them.

FANG Seng Kheong

President, Malaysia Society of Ophthalmology (MSO), Malaysia

It is not often in one's life that you have the opportunity to meet a person who has such a significant and profound impact in a chosen profession, career, sports or personal life. I was fortunate to meet such a person in ophthalmology and that person was Arthur Lim. I can't say I knew him well, but I did meet him on a number of occasions in my career with Alcon.

He was clearly a visionary and one who was instrumental in the development and progress of ophthalmology in Asia in all aspects from teaching and education, setting up the SNEC as a center of excellence and was highly regarded by eye doctors around the world. I know my colleague Jeanne Lim who has had close contact with Arthur over many years has always spoken very highly of him and I sense he was a very fair man who could relate to people at all levels with a sense of humor that was matched by his intellect in his chosen field.

May he now rest in peace.

Warwick KITT

Former Alcon Area Director for Asia, Australia

Very sad news indeed. I did not know he had been ill. I remember him so well and with such good memories. He was a tough negotiator, but always courteous, friendly, and fair. I recall us getting a massage together at the Shangri-La. Then having him invite us for a chicken lunch at the clinic, and the memorable trips on which we met, especially China in conjunction with the IOLs and our difference of opinion re which cataract procedure to employ.

In retrospect, he was more tolerant of my unscientific opinion than was deserved! I still have a number of his books. He was truly a great man, physician, author, and humanitarian, and I will cherish his memory.

Helmut HORCHLER

Retired Area VP for Asia – 1988 – 2003

Helmut W Horchler, Fort Worth, Texas

