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REPARSING AND NOW OF NEVER

Message from the EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Dr Angnd Kamalangthan

Dearest readers,

A poignant reminder of the passing of time is that all good things must come to an end. I am writing to express my gratitude to Dr Gunalan Palari Arumugam, the former Chief Editor of our Berita, for his outstanding service and dedication over the past twelve years. Dr Gunalan's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment since 2011 have been instrumental in shaping the magazine into the reputable publication it is today. His passion for the field of anaesthesiology and his ability to convey complex concepts clearly and concisely have been invaluable to our readers. Under his leadership as Editor-in-Chief from 2013, the Berita has grown in both readership and quality and has become a trusted source of information for anaesthesiologists in Malaysia and beyond. Dr Gunalan's contributions will be remembered for

years to come, and we are grateful for the mark he has left on our publication and our lives. But alas, he has decided to take a step back and leave the Berita in our hopefully capable hands. His parting words to me before he left for greener pastures were, 'We only hold it (Berita) in trust for the next generation to build on from it.'

Speaking of greener pastures, as we navigate the intricate realm of anaesthesiology, let us remember our vital role in fostering sustainability within our practices. Like the delicate balance of gases in our operating rooms, the equilibrium of our planet's ecosystem relies on our conscious efforts towards a greener future. This month's theme is aptly titled Green Anaesthesia: Now or Never. showcasing the MSA's vision to elevate our standing to the next level. To help us achieve these lofty goals, we have curated five articles detailing

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how to not only to administer anaesthesia but also preach a sustainable and environmentally conscious approach to our practice.

Just as we meticulously monitor the pulse and respiration of our patients, let us extend our vigilance to the health of our environment. From reducing our carbon footprint to implementing eco-friendly anaesthesia techniques, our collective commitment to sustainability can create ripples of positive change beyond the confines of our medical facilities. Remember, the efficiency of our work is not merely measured by the precision of our techniques but also by the consciousness with which we minimize our environmental impact.

Finally we wish you all, a Happy Deepavali, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !





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EMPOWERING TOMORROW Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists' Pledge to a Sustainable Future

by Dr Samuel Tsan Ern Hung

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We, the undersigned professionals in the field of anaesthesiology, acknowledge the critical importance of incorporating sustainability principles into our practices. With a steadfast commitment to improving patient care while minimising our environmental impact, we hereby pledge to uphold and champion the following principles:

1. Efficient Resource Management:

We commit to optimising the utilisation of resources within our anaesthesiology practices. By implementing efficient techniques and technologies, we will reduce waste, conserve resources, and minimise our ecological footprint.

2. Green Anaesthetic Agents:

Recognising the significance of anaesthetic agents in our practice, we pledge to prioritise the use of environmentally friendly options whenever feasible. We will remain informed about the latest research and advancements to select agents with reduced environmental impact.

3. Waste Minimisation:

We will actively adopt strategies to minimise waste generation during our anaesthesiology procedures. Through responsible waste disposal, recycling, and thoughtful management, we will contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment.

4. Embrace Reusability:

We will advocate for the integration of reusable medical equipment where safety and clinical outcomes permit. By minimising single-use items, we aim to decrease our contribution to the waste stream and promote sustainable practices.

5. Energy Efficiency:

In our pursuit of sustainable anaesthesia, we are committed to employing energy-efficient equipment and procedures. By monitoring and regulating energy consumption, we will reduce our energy footprint while maintaining optimal patient care.

6. Lifelong Learning:

We will proactively seek opportunities for continuous education in sustainable anaesthesiology practices. Staying current with the latest developments will empower us to seamlessly incorporate environmental consciousness into our patient care routines.

7. Champion Sustainability:

Recognising our role as advocates, we pledge to actively promote sustainability within our healthcare institutions and professional networks. Through our leadership and example, we aim to inspire the widespread adoption of eco-conscious practices.

8. Collaborative Approach:

We understand that sustainability is a collaborative endeavour. We will collaborate with all advocates of sustainability to drive sustainable practices throughout the perioperative care process, promoting interdisciplinary teamwork.

In unison, we pledge to adhere to these principles and integrate sustainability seamlessly into our daily practices in anaesthesiology. By doing so, we aim to enhance patient outcomes, contribute to environmental preservation, and lead by example in the pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable world.

Figure 1: The Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists sustainability pledge

"Climate change is the biggest threat to global health in the 21st century", states the 2018 Lancet Countdown report,1 which was carried out to track the impacts of climate change on health. This emphatic pronouncement is a stark warning of the consequences of global warming. If left unheeded, it may lead to untold suffering not just in Malaysia but for the whole world. It has been shown that healthcare is responsible for up to 5% of total emissions of global greenhouse gases.1 Although data for measures of emissions from anaesthetic practices are lacking, reports from the National Health Service showed that inhalational anaesthetic agents contributed almost 3% of total carbon emissions in England.² Additionally, perioperative services have been shown to intensively consume resources such as materials, energy, and water. Up to 25% of all hospital waste was produced by the operating theatres, of which 25% came from anaesthetic practices.³ These data provide a snapshot of the dire need for action from anaesthesiology healthcare practitioners in Malaysia. The Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists (MSA) answered the call for definitive action to protect the environment this year, by incorporating the theme "Green Anaesthesia: It's Now or Never" in this year's national-level World Anaesthesia Day celebration.

initiatives part the As of for environmental friendliness, throughout October, the MSA established a pledge to promote sustainable anaesthetic practices (Figure 1). It was written based on the consensus principles set out by the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists for environmentally sustainable anaesthesia (Figure 2).⁴ This pledge was subsequently disseminated electronically to all anaesthesiology healthcare practitioners across Malaysia to be signed. During the national-level celebration of World Anaesthesia Day in Kota Kinabalu on the 15th of October 2023, the pledge was officially recited

by all the attendees, followed by the formal signing of the pledge by the President of MSA, President of the College of Anaesthesiologists Academy of Medicine, Chairman of MSA, Head of Service for Anaesthesia in Ministry of Health, and Organising Chairman of National Anaesthesia Day 2023 celebration.

- 1. Minimise the environmental impact of their clinical practice.
- 2. Use environmentally preferable medications and equipment when clinically safe to do so.
- 3. Minimise the overuse/waste of medications, equipment, energy and water.
- 4. Incorporate environmental sustainability principles within formal anaesthesia education.
- 5. Embed environmental sustainability principles within anaesthesia research and quality improvement programmes.
- 6. Lead environmental sustainability activity within their healthcare organisations.
- Collaborate with industry to improve environmental sustainability.

Figure 2: Consensus principles of environmentally sustainable anaesthesia by the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

Overall, the sustainability pledge campaign was a resounding success. In total, 286 anaesthesiology healthcare practitioners comprising specialists, medical officers, assistant medical officers and nurses signed the pledge (Figure 3). More importantly, the sustainability pledge endeavour created a lasting awareness of the importance of environmental-friendly anaesthetic practices, to be propagated further by the new champions of sustainable anaesthesia.







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