

# The Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology Newsletter

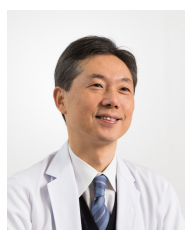


**AOSR**  
The Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology

Bringing you to Oman this issue to visit our Member Society- ORMIS



## President's Desk



**Prof. Noriyuki Tomiyama,**  
MD, PhD

AOSR President

After becoming the president of AOSR from this February at AOCR 2023, I had several chances to be invited from international radiological societies and to give presentations on behalf of AOSR. I attended the International Congress of Radiology in Hurgada, Egypt in March, hosted by the International Society of Radiology (ISR). ISR is composed of national radiological societies from various countries, and its mission as a representative Non-State Actor is to support global efforts to enhance patient care and public health through medical imaging.

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### Catch us on...



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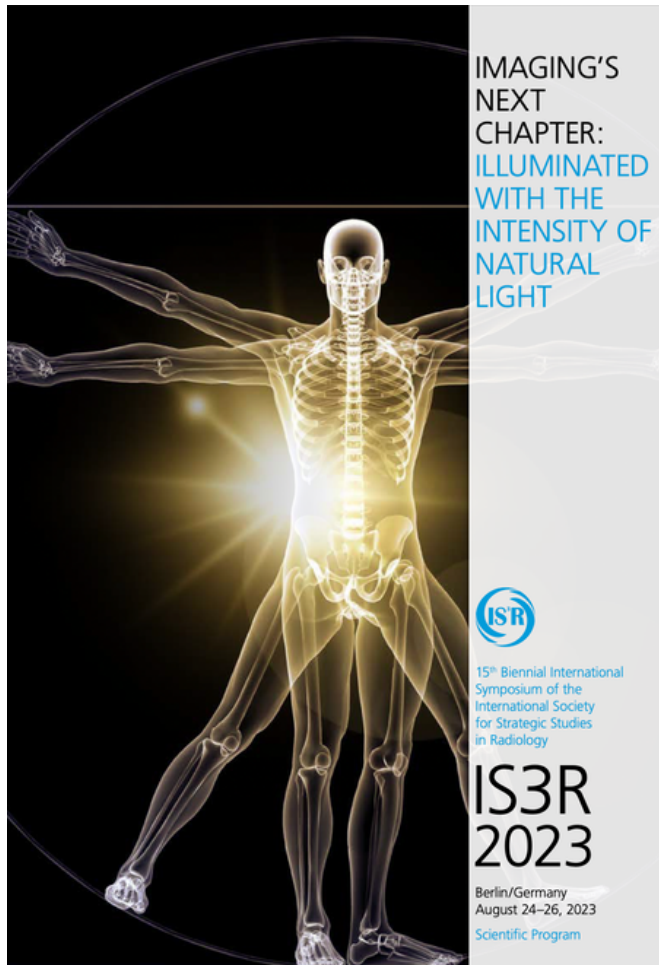
The Anger and Undue Fear Over The Release Of The Fukushima Treated Water - Is it Valid?

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*The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints or official policies of the AOSR.*

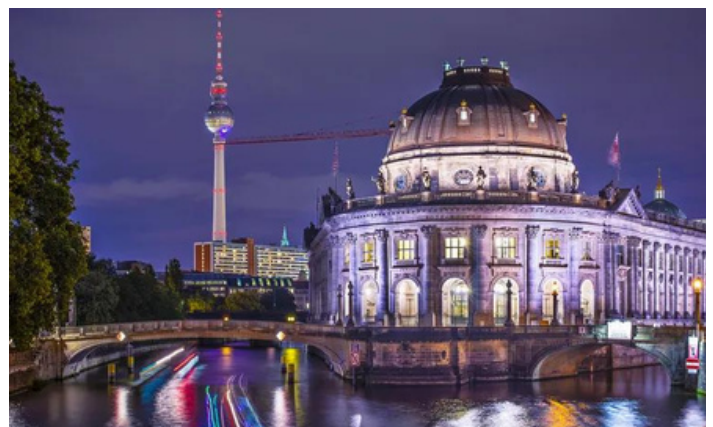
AOSR is a continent member of ISR, and during the ISR-AOSR meeting, we exchanged updates on both societies and explored opportunities for collaboration. I also joined ISR Executive Committee meeting and ISR International Assembly Meeting during the congress as well.



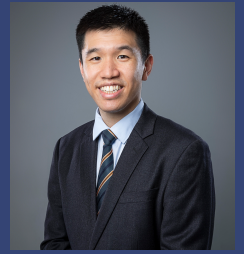
I was honored to receive an invitation to the International Society for Strategic Studies in Radiology (IS3R) symposium held in Berlin, Germany, this August.

IS3R is a non-political non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and coordinating scientific, educational, philanthropic, intellectual, and professional activities in the field of radiology. During the symposium's session on Society Updates on Value-Based Radiology (VBR) Activities, I had the privilege of presenting on VBR on behalf of AOSR. Notably, other presenters represented RSNA, ESR, and ACR. VBR is one of the key focuses of AOSR activities, and this symposium provided a valuable opportunity for us to showcase our VBR initiatives to IS3R attendees.

I am invited and will attend the Chinese Congress of Radiology in November. AOSR Executive Committee meeting and AOSR-RSNA Leadership meeting will be held in Chicago during RSNA 2023. We will keep and develop a better relationship with member societies and continental societies for further cooperation and collaboration.



## Editor's corner



*Dr. Kevin Fung, MBBS FRCR  
Hong Kong College of Radiologists*

It brings me great pleasure to share with you our third AOSR Newsletter in 2023.

We are happy to bring you to Oman “the land of Frankincense” this issue, showcasing one of our Member Societies – the Oman Radiology and Molecular Imaging Society. The article shares with us the journey of bringing imaging from Muscat to an international level.

The AOSR Archives Column highlights a heart-to-heart conversation between one of our AOSR Past President Professor Byung Ihn Choi and Professor Man Chung Han in Seoul, recounting the first Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOOCR) hosted by the Korean Society of Radiology (KSR) in 1987.

For the “Getting to know” series, we are happy to share unique stories from our two Co-chairs of the Quality, Safety and Standards Committee – Prof. Norlisah Mohd Ramli from Malaysia and Assoc. Prof. Wiwatana Tanomkiat from Thailand. We have also invited Dr. Charles Goh, an AOSOR Youth Club Alumni from Singapore, to tell us more about what AOSOR and AOSR means to him.

Highlighting value-based radiology, Dr. Chantsalsuren Galbaatar, the CEO of the Mongolia Medical Women’s Association, will share with us her secrets in managing multiple roles in addition to advocating gender equality and supporting women in the medical field.

The recent release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear powerplant has stirred a lot of talk and discussion in the region. Our Chair of ASIASAFE, Prof. Kwan Hoong Ng, will bring us his perspective on how to improve public understanding and lessen undue fear.

Finally we will bring Radiology to the “final frontier of humanity” – Space. Assoc. Prof. Christen Barras from Australia will tell us the latest on medical imaging in space. It might not be long until we see our first Space Radiologist!

A big thank you to all the contributors and I hope you will enjoy this issue as much as I do!

# Getting to know your Member Society

## - Oman Radiology and Molecular Imaging Society

*Dr. Yahya Al Brashdi*

*President- Oman Radiology and Molecular Imaging Society (ORMIS)*



The Oman Radiology and Molecular Imaging Society (ORMIS) is a non-profit organization pioneering Radiology and Molecular Imaging in Oman that was established in 2009 in Muscat. Committed to advancing the field of radiology and molecular imaging, ORMIS has emerged as a leading platform for professionals, practitioners, and enthusiasts who share a passion for cutting-edge medical imaging technologies.

At ORMIS, our primary goal is to foster a collaborative environment where radiology experts can come together to exchange knowledge, share insights, and explore the latest advancements in the ever-evolving realm of medical imaging. We understand the vital role that radiology plays in modern healthcare, and our society is dedicated to elevating the standards of radiological practice across Oman. It is noteworthy that Oman maintains affiliations with multiple international societies, including the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology. These affiliations underscore ORMIS's commitment to fostering global partnerships and advancing radiological expertise on an international scale.



ORMIS had started its journey by organizing meetings on the national level including several meetings initially in Muscat which were extended to other major cities in Oman including Nizwa, Sure and Sohar. Apart from its local endeavors, ORMIS actively engages in collaborations with global radiology organizations, providing its members with access to an extensive international network of experts, resources, and state-of-the-art technology. This collaborative effort facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices on a worldwide scale, ultimately yielding benefits for both patients and the radiology community within Oman.

In 2012, ORMIS conducted its inaugural meeting alongside the International Society of Cancer Imaging. The year 2015 marked ORMIS's first meeting in partnership with ESGAR (European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology). In 2016, ORMIS held its maiden meeting with the European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR). A significant milestone was reached in 2019 with ORMIS's inaugural meeting in conjunction with the European Society of Neuroradiology. Furthermore, ORMIS had the privilege of hosting the International Society of Radiology Congress in October 2020; however, the event unfortunately had to be canceled due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The society regularly conducts workshops addressing emergency radiology, including collaborations with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. Additionally, an annual meeting is held in various locations across Oman, such as Nizwa, Sur, and Sohar.



ORMIS has an extensive agenda for the upcoming year, 2024, encompassing a series of meetings meticulously arranged in conjunction with prominent international radiology societies. These collaborative gatherings are set to include partnerships with esteemed organizations such as ESGAR, the International Skeletal Society, Pediatric Neuroradiology groups, and the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology.



# The AOSR Archives Column

*Dr. Evelyn Ho  
AOSR Immediate Past President  
Chair of the AOSR Archives Committee*

The AOSR Archives Committee was set up to develop the archive policies including what to archive for the purpose of documenting the development, achievements, and history of the AOSR; where possible to keep records which has evidential, historic, and emotional values for the purpose of inspiring our members, and where appropriate for promoting the AOSR regionally and globally.

This time, in our 2nd instalment, the Archives Committee is delighted that one of our trailblazer AOSR Past Presidents, Professor Byung Ihn CHOI (2010–2012), Emeritus Professor, Seoul National University, College of Medicine and Clinical Chair Professor, Chung-Ang University Hospital sat down with Professor Man Chung HAN for a heart to heart for this issue’s article.

## **Professor Man Chung HAN – A global radiology luminary talks about his role in the first Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOCR) hosted by the Korean Society of Radiology (KSR) in 1987 and reflects on the AOCR and AOSR.**

*This in-person interview was conducted in Korean in Seoul, Korea by AOSR Hon Advisor Professor Byung Ihn CHOI, translated by Professor Choi and edited by Professor Han.*

Professor Man Chung HAN is a legendary figure in the world of radiology. He is an emeritus professor at Seoul National University, College of Medicine. Professor Han served in various leadership roles in the education, research, clinical practice, and management fields of radiology including chairperson of department of radiology, president of Seoul National University Hospital, and president of many medical societies including the Korean Society of Radiology (KSR). Professor Han has been awarded as an honorary member or honorary fellow of many international and national societies including RSNA, ECR, ACR, JRS, JCVIR and as a gold medalist of KSR, AOSR, APCVIR, etc.



## What has been the highlight of your AOSR career?

I consider AOCR 1987 to be the highlight of my AOSR career. In March 1983, the executive council of KSR decided to bid to host the 5th AOCR. At the 4th AOCR from November 13 to 18, 1983 in Bangkok, the AOSR executive council decided and announced KSR to be the host of the 5th AOCR to be held in Seoul. On March 5, 1984, a kick-off meeting was held at COEX in Seoul with more than 60 members of the AOCR 1987 organizing committee. I was nominated as Secretary General of AOCR 1987 organizing committee. The organizing committee for preparing AOCR 1987 consisted of 10 sub-committees. From 1984 to 1987, the organizing committee members attended various national meetings of AOSR affiliated societies, and international meetings including radiology, ultrasound, and CT/MR to promote the AOCR 1987.

### *The 5<sup>th</sup> Asian and Oceanian Congress of Radiology, 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 1987, Seoul, Korea*



Congress Banquet - Korean Night of 5<sup>th</sup> AOCR



Professor Man Chung Han greeting the international delegates

The 5th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology was held at Hilton Hotel in Seoul, Korea from September 21 to 25, 1987. A total of 2100 participants from 36 countries participated including 715 Korean members, 738 foreign participants and 647 industry representatives. The scientific program consisted of 2 congress lectures, 4 plenary lectures, 23 state-of-the-art symposia, 16 refresher course lectures, and 35 scientific sessions.

For the scientific program, 123 speakers were invited to give 138 lectures and serve as moderators. For the scientific sessions and exhibition, there were 241 oral presentations and 102 scientific exhibits. For technical exhibits, 80 exhibitors participated with 214 booths set up including five major sponsors. During the congress, several business meetings of the AOSR were held. The Executive Council meeting and the AOSR General Assembly were held during the Congress.

AOCR 1987 had been an opportunity to elevate the academic standard of AOSR and to provide a turning point in the history of AOCR and a platform to be a regional meeting as an international event.

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## What is the most important role of the Korean AOCR in the history of AOSR?

Korea hosted the AOCR three times, in 1987, 2008 and 2022. As I mentioned earlier, the AOCR 1987 was the largest AOCR ever with over 2000 participants from 36 countries and over 480 scientific lectures and presentations as compared with previous AOCR in the 20th century.

AOCR 2008 organized by Professor Byung Ihn CHOI, Congress President and Professor Dong Ik KIM, Secretary General, was also a record-breaking success not only in quantity but in quality, with more than 3200 attendees from 62 countries and more than 280 lectures, more than 1150 accepted scientific presentations, and more than 200 technical exhibits from 76 exhibitors.



AOCR 2022 organized by Professor Jeong Min LEE, Congress President and Professor Seung Eun Jung, Secretary General, was also another record-breaking, successful meeting with more than 4800 attendees from 43 countries and over 2000 presentations including 1127 lectures and 931 accepted scientific papers, despite being held as an on-line/off-line hybrid meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Every AOCR held in Korea has been a great opportunity to upgrade the congress standard of the AOSR and to provide an unforgettable moment and platform to enhance mutual friendship and professional networking among AOSR “family” of participants.

## What was the most important aspect of hosting the AOCR and how can we continue to maintain the academic quality of the AOCR? Any advice on what we should do in the future?

In the light of the AOSR’s mission, the first priority is to ensure that the member societies hosting the AOCR are able to deliver a conference of appropriate academic quality which means that the host society must have strong academic resources, including personnel, scholarly achievements, and financial support. An analysis of past AOCR congresses shows that those hosted by globalized societies with strong organizing committee have been world-class congresses.

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Until the AOCR establishes a strong global reputation, it is desirable that prominent member societies take on the responsibility of hosting the congress. In the meantime, smaller societies can benefit from a high-quality congress as well as participate in specific regional scholarly activities supported by the AOSR. Offering alternative regional and global AOCRs on a biennial basis could be an option that balances the quality of the AOCR with hosting opportunities among all AOSR member societies.

However, the appeal of AOCR lies primarily in its academic quality, which exceeds that of individual congresses organized by member societies. Captivating the interest of the member societies is an important factor in determining the future trajectory of the AOCR.

### **What are the strengths and weaknesses of the AOSR compared to the regional /continental societies?**

In the past, the AOSR and AOCR were a “developing” society and congress in the world with weak infrastructure and low brand power. There was no fixed secretariat, and the AOCR’s venue and AOSR’s secretariat changed depending on the host societies and presidents, resulting in uneven quality of AOCR and secretarial services depending on the host societies and presidents.



The RSNA and ESR have strong and stable secretariat with many competent staff in Chicago and Vienna, respectively, and the congress venues are also fixed in the cities where the secretariats are located. As you know, the AOSR is a society in the world covering the largest geographic area and population, so it has a lot of potential. The secretariat of AOSR was first relocated to Australia in 2005 and managed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR). Then in 2011, the Korean Society of Radiology (KSR) took over the management and AOSR was registered in Korea.

Several member societies now have global leadership and capacity to increase the academic appeal of the AOCR. According to the (2016 RSNA President) Dr. Richard Baron’s presentation at the 2015 Japan Radiology Congress, in terms of recent Asian scientific activity in the RSNA meeting before COVID-19 pandemic, the number of accepted scientific abstracts was 327 from Japan, 290 from Korea and 273 from China. The Impact Factor of 2022-2023 for latest journals is higher for the Korean Journal of Radiology (7.11) than for the European Radiology (7.03) and for the American Journal of Roentgenology (6.58).

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## **What are your thoughts on the reason for existence and value of the AOSR?**

The AOSR should be a strong foundation for Asian and Oceanian radiologists to pursue their goals. From a global perspective, the AOSR should function as a regional organization representing radiologists in Asia and Oceania, and position itself as an equal partner with other regional societies such as the RSNA and ESR.

## **How can the AOSR adequately represent the academic quality of Asia-Oceania?**

The AOSR faces an inherent challenge in that there is a significant gap in the academic level of its members compared to its partner societies. To overcome this obstacle, the AOSR must make a concerted effort to leverage the potential of the advanced societies to support those in smaller societies. To establish a fair representation of Asia and Oceania as equal partners with other regional societies, it is important to prioritize raising the average academic quality within the AOSR. Practically, I believe that Asian Oceanian School of Radiology (AOSOR) proposed and run by Professor Byung Ihn CHOI is a good tool for this purpose. During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual on-line meetings have replaced traditional off-line meetings, and recently, all lecturers have become accustomed to virtual teaching. Therefore, AOSR can prepare and utilize on-line virtual teaching materials for its member societies.

## **What has the AOSR done to achieve equal partnership with RSNA and ESR, and what more needs to be done?**

To my knowledge, the AOSR leadership including the AOSR president and secretary have endeavored to have ongoing joint business meetings with the ESR and RSNA during each congress of AOSR, RSNA, and ECR. It is important to maintain these business meetings to understand each other's societies. However, effective, and productive communication between regional societies, requires smart and competent presidents who are globally recognized not only politically but also academically, with a solid background in society management. In addition, an efficient secretariat is important, so, efforts should be made to expand the capability of secretariat. In summary, I recommend to select a smart person of global stature with foresight, wisdom, and expertise as the AOSR president, and if possible, strengthen the secretariat.

## AOSR Archives Committee Inaugural Podcast with Dr. Lilian Leong

*Dr Chantsalsuren Galbaatar, Archives Committee Member chats with  
Dr Lilian Leong, AOSR Past President 2001-2004*

July 2023

Dr Chantsalsuren Galbaatar of the Archives Committee, caught up with Dr Lilian Leong for a chat in relation to her journey with the AOSR as well as her take away messages from juggling radiology work, administration and society responsibilities. Find out why Dr Leong find its valuable and important to attend international meetings.

Dr Leong was the Past President from 2001-2004, but she has been long involved in the AOSR prior to that. She is currently one of our AOSR Honorary Advisors. She was the first female AOSR President, and was Founding President of the Hong Kong College of Radiologists, taking Hong Kong radiology and its allied disciplines to greater heights. She is also well known amongst the international radiology and allied healthcare community.

Catch our first episode with Dr Lilian Leong online at  
[youtube.com/@aosr](https://youtube.com/@aosr)



### **About the AOSR Archives Committee Podcasts**

The AOSR Archives Committee has introduced Podcasts or Online interviews for the following reasons:

- 1. To publicise the AOSR
- 2. To cultivate an appreciation of our AOSR history including the people who made it possible
- 3. To inspire our young radiologists and allied professionals

# Getting to Know your AOSR Councillors

## – Dr. Wiwatana Tanomkiat & Prof. Norlisah Mohd Ramil

*Co-chairs of AOSR Quality, Safety and Standards Committee*

### *Dr. Wiwatana Tanomkiat*

In 1986, I left Phuket, one of the world-famous tourist destinations on the west of the Malay peninsula, to be trained as a doctor in the only medical school of Southern Thailand, Prince of Songkla University, located on the east side of the peninsula close to the border between Thailand and Malaysia. I initially aimed to serve the people in the rural areas but I decided to become a radiologist which was in very severe shortage in the teaching hospital at that time.

After finishing my residency in Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, in Bangkok in 1995, I was involved in radiology education including teaching medical students and training radiology residents there for 28 years. I was then elected as the President of the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand for the term 2020–2023. My subspecialty, thoracic radiology, has proven essential in public health as tuberculosis, lung cancer and, most recently, COVID-19 make up the top 5 killers. I am always interested in applying radiology technologies to improve the public health system.

During my free time, I enjoy writing articles and books, practicing ballroom dancing, and studying Chinese ceramics.



*Mrs. Nipha Ngamtrairai, the director of prisons in Songkla (left), Mr. Adisorn Taprig, the general manager of JF Advance Med, Co., Ltd. (right), and me (middle) during running RadioVolunteer, the non-profit project in the second half of 2021 which saved almost 300,000 people, including prisoners, who were infected with COVID-19 Delta variant in all parts of Thailand. The RadioVolunteer project proved that radiology technologies effectively reduced inequity and gaps in the public health care service. Details can be viewed at <https://www.asean-journal-radiology.org/index.php/ajr/article/view/146>*



*Practicing ballroom dancing allows me to form relationships with local people in the community and enhances my social skill. Studying Chinese ceramics expands my knowledge in history.*

## *Prof. Norlisah Mohd Ramli*

Hello there, I am Professor Dr Norlisah Mohd Ramli. It brings me great joy to be part of this dynamic organization dedicated to advancing the field of radiology in our region. My day and evening job is as a Neuroradiologist in the Department of Biomedical Imaging, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. This job entails wearing different hats as an educator, researcher, clinician, and administrator. My main interest is Traumatic Brain Injury, Dementia and Lipidomics in Glioma. I am also President of the College of Radiology, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia.

Beyond my professional roles, I am passionate about art collection, rose gardening and travelling, which have significantly shaped my endeavors. All these passions shaped me to approach challenges with an open mind and resilience, seeking innovative solutions while ensuring the highest quality and safety standards.

I believe fostering international partnerships and encouraging cross-cultural learning can enhance radiology practices' quality, safety and standards across the Asian Oceania region.



## **Getting to Know your AOSOR Youth Club Alumni – Dr. Charles Xian-Yang Goh**

The AOSOR Youth Club aims to provide an educational, social and academic program to foster future core leaders of AOSR. Continuing on this series, we present Dr Charles Goh Xian-Yang. Charles is dual accredited for Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine and currently (amongst his many responsibilities and positions) is a Consultant in the Dept of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging, Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and Chief Medical Informatics Officer of SGH. He is serving as a Committee member in the AOSR Education and Training Committee as well as on the Administrative Board of the AOSOR. He is actively involved in resident training.



### **When and where did you attend the AOSOR Youth Club?**

CG: I attended the 2nd AOSOR Youth Club in 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. A beautiful venue for a wonderful course!

### **Describe briefly your biggest take away from the AOSOR Youth Club?**

CG: It was most eye opening to hear leaders of the AOSR and regional radiology societies share their vision for developing radiology within Asia Oceania – in particular, the role AOSR should play in supporting member societies and growing the AOCR in terms of size, scale and quality.



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*“Volunteers serving in AOSR/AOSOR ... have to prioritize the work of the AOSR and AOSOR despite their other commitments to their own clinical, research and administrative work and the needs of their local societies. This type of commitment can only be built through trust and relationships.”*

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### **Are you serving in your own local society/associations and if AOSOR YC helped you in your preparation to serve in your local society?**

CG: I am currently serving as the Vice-President of the Singapore Radiological Society and Co-opted Council Member for the College of Radiologists, Singapore. The AOSOR YC helped to give me a regional and international perspective on radiology which has been very useful in guiding society planning, and also inter-society engagements. Lessons on society leadership, including membership, financial and scientific activity management, were also very valuable skills and knowledge that I use to help our local societies.

## When and What committee are/did you serve in the AOSR/AOSOR?

CG: I have been serving in the Administrative Board (formerly Secretary Board) of the AOSOR since 2017 and the AOSR Education & Training Committee (formerly just Education Committee) since 2021. These roles are in line with my own personal interest in education and have given me another avenue to contribute towards education outside the boundaries of my country.

## How has the AOSOR YC helped prepare you for volunteering to serve in the AOSR/AOSOR?

CG: Beyond imparting skills and knowledge, the AOSOR YC has helped me build relationships with many stakeholders in the AOSR as well as in the various member societies. These relationships are key to building inter-society collaboration, which is a big part of the work of the AOSR and the AOSOR.

As serving in the AOSR and AOSOR is on a voluntary basis, stakeholders have to see value in and be committed to the vision of the AOSR to advance the teaching, practice and development of radiology across Asia Oceania. They have to prioritize the work of the AOSR and AOSOR despite their other commitments to their own clinical, research and administrative work and the needs of their local societies. This type of commitment can only be built through trust and relationships.

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*Charles said, 'I would encourage participants to go with an open mind, be fully present and committed and to treasure every moment!'*

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## Would you encourage young radiologists to apply to be in the AOSOR YC program?

## What is your message to potential AOSOR YC participants or applicants to the Youth Club?

CG: I would definitely encourage young radiologists to apply to be a part of the AOSOR YC program. Whatever roles and tasks they may take on in future, the broader perspectives, skills and knowledge and meaningful relationships forged would help them in many tangible and intangible ways. At the end of the day, it's also a lot of fun!

## Value Based Radiology Feature

# Dr Chantsalsuren Galbaatar – The Connected Radiologist Who Promotes Gender Equality and Diversity in Healthcare for Meaningful Impact in Medicine and the Community

*Interviewed by Dr. Evelyn Ho  
AOSR Immediate Past President, AsiaSafer*

Chantsalsuren Galbaatar is a diagnostic radiologist from Mongolia. She spoke at the AOSR January 2023 The Connected Radiologist Webinar on “Engaging Colleagues in Medicine”. We conducted a e-interview over challenges faced and her motivation that led her to become the CEO of the Mongolian Medical Women’s Association. Her journey is one of inspiration to all. Read on!

*“When I work with other specialties in medicine, I always experience new insights and develop our work range and productivity.”*

### **Q: What motivated you to join the Mongolian Medical Women’s Association (MMWA) and become the CEO of MMWA? What are the aims of the MMWA?**

CG: I am Chantsalsuren from Mongolia. I am a diagnostic Radiologist and work at Intermed hospital, which is one of the biggest private hospitals in Mongolia. I am specialized in body MRI imaging and collaborate closely with surgeons, other clinicians, and public health workers to prevent diseases and formulate the best treatment approach. I have some research experience in clinical data collection and analysis of radiologic imaging. Alongside my clinical experience as a radiologist, I took on the role of CEO for the MMWA to promote gender equality and support women in the medical field.



The MMWA vision is to promote women in administrative positions. We believe promoting women in administrative positions within the medical field can have a significant impact on gender equality and diversity within healthcare organizations. We aim to strengthen the professional network among women in medicine, including doctors, university professors, hospital managers, nurses, and public health workers etc. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, we hope to bring positive changes in the work environment and make a meaningful impact in both the medical field and society as a whole.

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**Q: Was there anyone who inspired you to become involved in this line of advocacy?**

CG: Rather than who, it was the current imbalance and situation that led to my involvement in this ‘work’. In Mongolia, there are over 60,000 healthcare workers and 80% of them are female. The predominance of female healthcare workers and female students in medical universities in Mongolia highlights the significant role that women play in the healthcare sector of the country. However, very few hold the administrative positions. The realization of this disparity and the recognition of the potential for positive change likely served as a catalyst for my involvement.

I was truly inspired by the women empowerment book titled “Lean In” by Sheryl Sandberg in 2014. We started our Women in Medicine circle in 2019 with 5 members. After some social work we found a similar organization which was founded 20 years earlier and united with them. It allowed us to expand our activities and strengthen collective efforts in advancing the role of women in medicine.



*Founders and board members of Mongolian Medical Women's Association and Women in Medicine circle.*

**Q: What satisfaction have you gained from this involvement? Please give some examples and what keeps you going?**

CG: I will say community engagement is the most satisfying part for me. Being an active participant in the medical community and feeling like one of them can bring a deep sense of satisfaction. Contributing to the betterment of the medical field and working alongside colleagues who share similar goals and values can foster a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

Also, I feel a lot of personal growth actually. This is a very different experience from my daily clinical work. This requires a lot of decision making and organization challenges. For example, hosting a podcast involves various aspects, from preparing questions to conducting interviews and releasing the episodes. Each step presents its own set of challenges that I can overcome and learn from. It requires effective communication, organization, and adaptability, all of which contributes to my personal and professional growth.

During our mentorship program organized last year, I feel gratifying that our work is inspiring and empowering women in medicine. Witnessing the positive impact and growth of women in the field can be a significant source of enjoyment and satisfaction. In other words, the joy you find in what you do plays a vital role in keeping you motivated.

### **Q. What are some of the achievements?**

CG: The Mentorship program is the most effective and targeted project. We organized this program for the first time in Mongolia in 2021. Eight mentors and 8 mentees participated in this program, and they built a strong network. This program could become good role models for women collaboration in society and now we are preparing to organize the second phase of this project. We use both an online and offline meeting system and collaborated with local trainers, medical leaders and the Australian Interplast organization.



*Mentorship For Women in Medicine Program Group Photo*

For example, Nurse Otgontuya's career change from her maternity leave to becoming a part-time university teacher with the support of her mentor, Professor Naranchimeg, highlights the transformative power of mentorship and the dedication of individuals in advancing their professional journeys.

Another example was Dr. Urangoo, who is a young woman from a rural area, who traveled nearly 1000 kilometers to attend a mentorship program. She was accompanied by her mentor Dr. Delgerzul, who recognized her potential and dedication to making a positive impact in her community. During the program, they recognized the need for accessible and engaging health information tailored to the unique challenges faced by adolescents in their region. So Urangoo and Dr. Delgerzul developed a comprehensive health education project specifically targeting adolescent reproductive education. Their project was selected for the funding scholarship from the Ministry of Health.

One mentee Tovuusuren published an article about COVID-19 to the Lancet with the guidance of her mentor Dr. Amarjargal. By supporting and encouraging women to pursue leadership roles, we are helping to break down gender stereotypes, promoting leadership roles for women in healthcare, and fostering an environment of equal opportunities and respect.

### **Q. How does it feel to be able to give back to your medical community and the public at large?**

CG: I was born in the countryside, which is over 1000 kilometers from the capital city. I came to the capital city to become a doctor. During my medical training and clinical experience, I have found that healthcare workers' work environments are very not good and are different between countryside and capital hospitals, furthermore private and public hospitals. But still there are almost 80% health care workers who are female. Since I became involved in social work, I feel more confident and most importantly I have seen the value of our work from a different view. Many doctors connected with us even from the countryside to improve their work environment and increase their network.

When I work with other specialties in medicine, I always experience new insights and develop our work range and productivity. I believe that if we were healthy in both physical and psychological state, contributing to the medical community and the public at large is generally seen as a positive development that has the potential to enhance healthcare provision, improve patient outcomes, and promote public health. So, I am grateful that engaging in social work and supporting women empowerment can lead to numerous positive outcomes to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.



*New members orientation meeting of MMWA*

## Q: Why is it important to engage with colleagues in other medical disciplines?

CG: As our members are increasing and our work range is expanding, actually healthcare workers need an environment to develop their soft skills and leadership skills. They are always looking for that environment. Women in medicine can be a supportive environment for anyone who wants to develop their soft skills and networking. In our community, we respect each other and sometimes it is very supportive when we accept each other not in a professional way. It gives us a great learning opportunity. This interdisciplinary learning and collaboration help broaden our understanding of healthcare as a whole and enables us to stay updated and promoted. We strengthen our growth mindset to collaborate with other specialties and colleagues.

Our 'work' is just beginning, and there are a lot more we have to do for women empowerment and to improve work conditions together. So, it is important that using effective collaboration and engaging with colleagues from other medical disciplines fosters collaboration, enhances patient care, facilitates continuous learning, supports professional development, and promotes inclusivity.

## Q: What are the modes of communication you use - podcasts, social media, conferences etc?

CG: Social marketing is getting stronger day by day. We use social media such as Facebook and YouTube for our communication. Initially, these things seem to be very difficult and far from me and healthcare professionals. In Mongolia, Facebook is the main social platform and even politicians use it for their influence work. We have two members trained in social media marketing at the Press Institute endorsed by Vilnius University of Lithuania, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania. During the training, we learnt how to create good posters, short videos and podcasts to address access to information. Now we do most of our social marketing by ourselves and it has been a very interesting journey. Also, we use online meeting platforms for meetings, training and conferences to develop and align with international standards, so we keep trying to ensure international collaborations.



*On Air for a Podcast, from the left co-host, board member Dr. Bolortuya, mentor Ms. Bolormaa, president of the Intermed Hospital, Chantsalsuren Galbaatar is on the far right.*

**Q: How do you find time to manage all this, as a radiologist and CEO, producing podcasts etc?**

CG: I think that self-discipline and effective time management are indeed crucial factors in managing multiple responsibilities. By prioritizing your work and setting clear goals within a defined framework, you can minimize distractions, reduce stress, and improve overall productivity. Additionally, finding enjoyment in what you do plays a significant role in managing your time and staying motivated despite the demands of various roles.

For instance, I find great inspiration in conducting interviews through my podcast, which fuels my passion and helps me maintain my schedule effectively. Equally important is having a supportive work environment consisting of supervisors, mentors, and colleagues. Recognizing that no one can accomplish everything alone, I am fortunate to have a supportive team at Intermed Hospital and the Mongolian Society of Radiology.



*Radiology team of Intermed Hospital with the president of MSR, Dr. Gonchigsuren Dagvasumberel, at the AOCR2022 in Seoul.*

They understand my commitments and provide assistance whenever needed. Last year, our team of Mongolian radiologists participated in AOCR 2022 in Seoul, which exemplified the supportive nature of the Mongolian Radiological Society in nurturing the development of young professionals. I am grateful for the guidance and support provided by our professors, which has been invaluable in our professional growth and career plan.

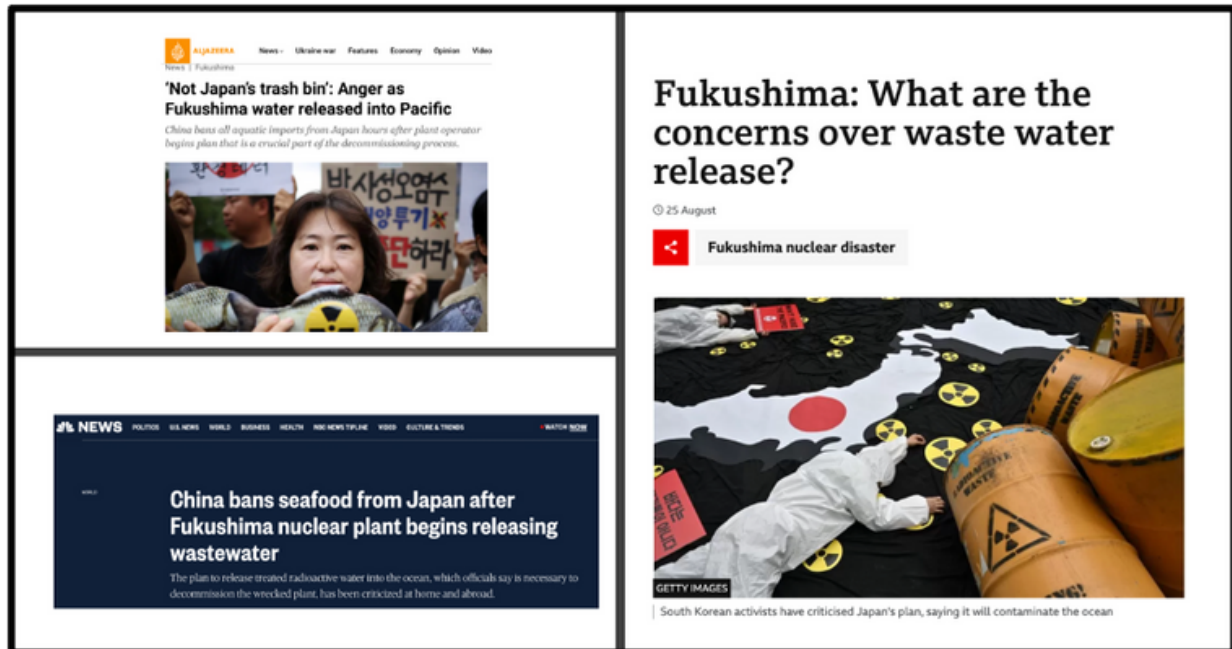
*“In summary, self-discipline, time management, finding enjoyment in your work, and having a supportive team are essential elements in effectively managing multiple responsibilities.”*



*Mongolia Contingent at the AOCR2022 in Seoul with the President of the MSR, Dr Gonchigsuren Dagvasumberel (Standing, 10th from the left) and Chantsalsuren (Standing, 8th from the left)*

# The Anger and Undue Fear Over The Release Of The Fukushima Treated Water – Is it Valid?

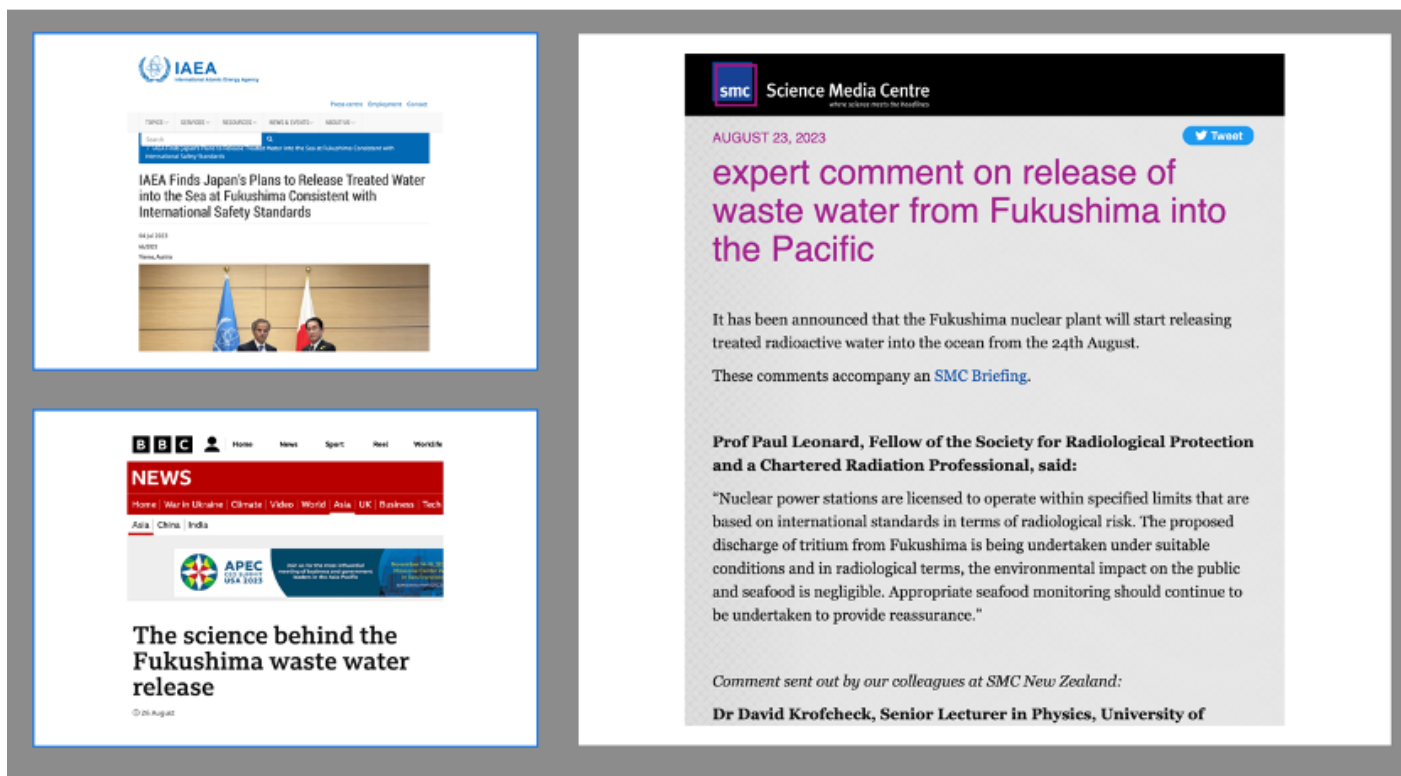
*Emeritus Prof. Dr. Kwan Hoong Ng  
Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya & Chair of AOSR's AsiaSafe*



Despite concerns from neighboring countries and environmental groups, on August 24, 2023 Japan began the release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which was wrecked by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The Japanese government will over 30 years, gradually release more than one million metric tonnes of the water that was once used to cool the damaged reactors into the Pacific Ocean. The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the operator of the Fukushima power plant, has been storing the radioactive wastewater in large tanks on the site. However, the storage capacity has reached its limit, and the Japanese government has been exploring various options to manage the wastewater.

Scientific analyses have identified as many as 64 radioisotopes in the water, including those of great concern to human health, namely carbon-14, iodine-131, caesium-137, strontium-90, cobalt-60 and hydrogen-3 – also known as tritium. The Japanese government claims that it has filtered the water and removed most of the radioisotopes through a process known as ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System). However, traces of tritium remain as it is very difficult to separate tritium from water. Some of these radioisotopes have a relatively short half-life and would already have decayed in the 12 years since the disaster. Others take longer – carbon-14 for example, has a half-life of more than 5,000 years. Tritium, a weak radioisotope with a half-life of 12.3 years, is also found in the environment in very small concentration.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been providing technical advice since the beginning of the disaster. IAEA has assured that the controlled release of treated wastewater into the ocean is technically feasible, safe and is 'consistent with relevant international safety standards.' However, there has been great opposition to this plan, both domestically and internationally.



## Environmental impact and safety concerns

**Q: Will the treated wastewater still be able to affect the ocean and eventually harm humans?**

Critics argue that releasing the treated wastewater could have adverse effects on marine ecosystems. Opponents argue that even though tritium is relatively low risk compared with other radioisotopes, its release into the environment could still pose health risks through the consumption of contaminated seafood or exposure to contaminated water.

## Issue of public trust/distrust

**Q: Can we trust the authorities when they claim it is safe to release this 'wastewater'?**

The Fukushima disaster has significantly eroded public trust in the Japanese government and TEPCO. Many people in Japan and neighboring countries have doubts over the transparency of the decision-making process and accuracy of information provided by the authorities. The perception is that the authorities lack empathy and has displayed incompetence in leadership in the handling of the disaster from the outset.

## **Social media – the double-edged sword!**

### **Q. Has social media helped dispel inaccurate information or spurred unwarranted fear?**

Social media platforms have become the main tool in disseminating information, as well as misinformation and disinformation. In this situation, the language used has further contributed to building negative perceptions by casting the authorities as authoritarian and neglectful of the long-term ill-effects of their decision. In many cases, social media has become echo chambers that amplify opposition to the wastewater release decision. In general, the tendency is to believe conspiracy theories and scandalous news, even if allegations.



## **Other solutions should be explored/considered**

### **Q. Why can't the Fukushima wastewater release be further delayed?**

Critics argue that there are better ways of handling the wastewater and releasing it into the ocean should only be the last resort. These include further purification to remove tritium or expanding the storage tanks to contain the water longer until better methods of processing it could be discovered. The opposition to releasing the treated wastewater into the sea stems from the desire to protect the environment and ensure safety of all on planet earth.

Japan on the other hand has pointed out, that they need the land occupied by the many tanks to build new facilities to decommission the plant safely. In the event of a natural disaster, what would be the consequences if the tanks were to collapse? Whilst the latter is hypothetical, it is valid, in the face of the increasing ferocity of mother nature's storms, typhoons and earthquakes.

## **International dialogues**

### **Q. Why wasn't there a more holistic engagement of all stakeholders?**

Countries opposed to the plan have called on Japan for thorough assessments on the potential environment and health impacts, as well as more transparency in decision-making. All of us depend on valuable marine resources, hence engagements with local and global communities are vital for the successful resolution of the issue. A continuous holistic engagement with various stakeholders, including affected communities, scientists, policymakers and civil society groups, is recommended.





# *What can be done to improve understanding, trust and lessen the fear?*

## **1. Timely and accurate scientific information**

In a crisis, citizens want to know if their lives are safe, as well as the safety of the environment and food. Setting up real-time monitoring and broadcasting of radiation measurements (like that of regular weather reports) at the reactor site, coastal areas, and international waterways is one strategy to lessen mistrust. Radioactivity readings from foodstuff, fruits, sea creatures and plants should also be published to the international community and be audited independently.

## **2. Prioritizing lives, fostering trust**

We should prioritize people's lives, not just in Japan but also the whole world, when finding a scientifically-sound solution to the release of the treated wastewater water. This approach must be relayed and be visible to the public so that it fosters trust and transparency.

## **3. Improving the communication process and building a collaborative approach**

The relaying of timely scientifically accurate information and the steps taken to prioritize lives and environment must be done in a manner that everyone can understand and help people reframe their understanding and help eliminate radiophobia.

The authorities should listen effectively to the concerns and feedback of stakeholders and incorporate their perspectives into the decision-making processes. Scientists should continue to research on this complex issue and communicate the findings in layman terms with the international community. This, in turn, can help to build a more collaborative and inclusive approach to solving this complex issue.

## **About natural (background) radioactivity in the Environment**

Radioactive chemicals occur naturally in both the sea and land, dominated by potassium-40 which is naturally occurring. In the sediment, the concentration of radioactivity varies with the location. Some of the radioisotopes occurring naturally in the ocean and land include potassium-40, Rubidium-87, Uranium-235, Thorium-232 with extremely long half-lives.

Carbon-14 produced by cosmic ray interaction with atmospheric nitrogen and incorporated via photosynthesis into plants, is therefore found naturally in all agricultural products.

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2. IAEA *Comprehensive Report on The Safety Review of the Alps-Treated Water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.* [https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/iaea\\_comprehensive\\_alps\\_report.pdf](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/iaea_comprehensive_alps_report.pdf)
3. *Data from Fukushima Daiichi ALPS Treated Water Discharge.* <https://www.iaea.org/topics/response/fukushima-daiichi-nuclear-accident/fukushima-daiichi-alps-treated-water-discharge/tepc-data>
4. J. Goudriaan. *Too Much Fear for Radioactive Contamination of Seawater.* *Europhysics News* 50/1, 2019, p. 19 <https://doi.org/10.1051/epn/2019102>

# The AOSR Emerging Trends Committee Webinar: 29 April 2023

## Bringing AI solutions into Radiology Practice

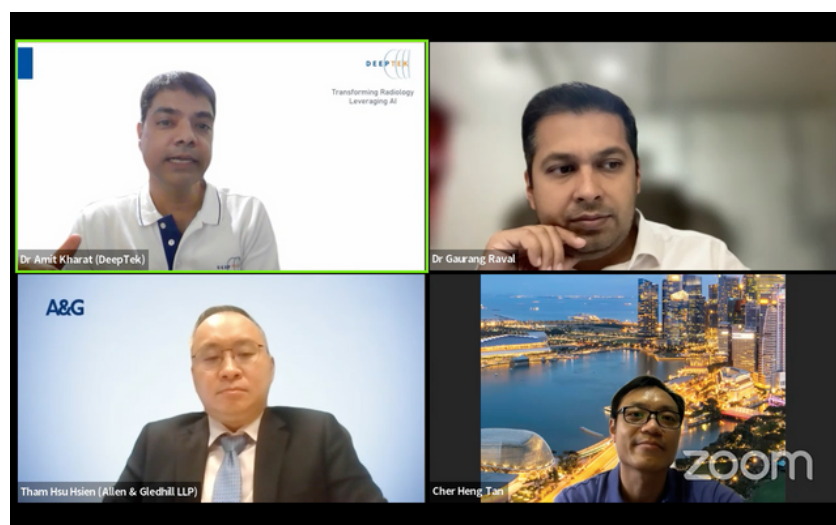
Dr Cher Heng Tan,  
Chair of Emerging Trends Committee  
Dr Gaurang Raval  
Emerging Trends Committee Member



The Emerging Trends committee of AOSR organized a Webinar on Artificial Intelligence: Bringing AI solutions into Radiology Practice. The goal of the webinar was to give a deep insight into the technical, legal, and ethical issues involved in implementation of Artificial Intelligence in Radiology Practice. This would help Radiologists who are interested in setting up AI algorithms in individual practice or Hospital but do not know about the process. The entire webinar was coordinated by Dr Gaurang Raval from India- member of the Emerging Trends committee of AOSR. He was guided by Dr Evelyn Ho (Past President AOSR), Dr Cher Heng Tan (Chairman, Emerging Trends committee, AOSR)

There were 3 faculty talks: 1. Technical Considerations of setting up AI in Radiology Practice by Dr Amit Kharat from India. 2. Medicolegal considerations during setting up AI in practice by Mr Tham Hsu Hsien from Singapore 3. Ethics in AI implementation in Radiology by Dr Soyoung Yoo from South Korea.

This was followed by a Q & A panel discussion on: What are the real-life examples and issues involved in Real life AI implementation in Radiology and in health care? Dr Cher Heng Tan and audience participated in the rich discussion with the speakers. The enthusiasm of the webinar across the audience was such that their discussion went on for about 30 minutes.



There were 216 registered participants from 16 countries and 32 from 12 countries attending the webinar live. The webinar was available online for viewing for registered viewers on the closed AOSR VIDOCTO platform until mid of May 2023.

# The AOSR Emerging Trends Committee Webinar: 9 Sept 2023

## The Next Frontier in Ultrasound – Sooner Than You Think

Dr Cher Heng Tan,  
Chair of Emerging Trends Committee

Dr Gaurang Raval  
Emerging Trends Committee Member



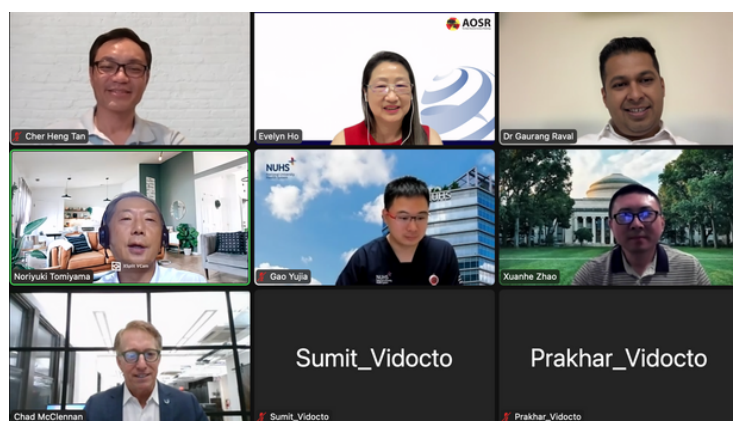
The Emerging Trends committee of AOSR organized a Webinar on Emerging Trends in Ultrasound Imaging. The goal of the webinar was to give a deep insight into how AI would be harnessed in Ultrasound, and how ultrasound advancements like wearable ultrasound impact our allied disciplines.

The entire webinar was coordinated by Dr Gaurang Raval from the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association, guided by Dr Evelyn Ho (Immediate Past President, AOSR) and Dr Cher Heng Tan (Chairman, Emerging Trends committee, AOSR).

There were 3 faculty talks: 1. Extending the reality for ultrasound in practice by Dr Yujia Gao from National University Hospital System, Singapore. 2. AI- Augmented ultrasound applications by Mr. Chad McClennan from Koios Medical, USA. 3. Wearable ultrasound- the next frontier by Prof. Xuanhe Zhao from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

This was followed by a Q & A panel discussion on: challenges and ways to make cutting edge advancements available to all. Dr Noriyuki Tomiyama, AOSR President; Dr Evelyn Ho, Immediate Past President, Dr Cher Heng Tan, Chair of Emerging Trends Committee and the audience participated in the rich discussion with the speakers. The enthusiasm of the webinar across the audience was such that their discussion went on for about 30+ minutes.

There were many participants from 18 countries. The webinar was available online for viewing for registered viewers on the closed AOSR VIDOCTO platform until the end of September 2023. Its limited version can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6EJ80tKejM>.



### Stay tuned for our next Webinar!

# Space Radiology Takes Off in Australia from the RANZCR ASM 2022

*A/Prof. Christen Barras*

*Diagnostic and Academic Neuroradiologist, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Australia  
Chair, ASM Committee, RANZCR*



*Launch of the Artemis 1 Mission, Dec 16, 2022, Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA. images-assets.nasa.gov/image/NHQ202211160007/NHQ202211160007-orig.jpg (NASA, Open Source).*

Space Radiology launched at the 72nd Royal Australian and New College of Radiologist's (RANZCR) Annual Scientific Meeting in October, 2022 in Adelaide, Australia in a session devised by ASM Convener Associate Professor Christen Barras and Space Policy expert Dr. Kathryn Robison Hasani from Flinders University, with the valued assistance of The Andy Thomas Space Foundation. The aim of the session was to introduce delegates to the latest developments in knowledge and technology from a medical imaging perspective, well beyond the experience of most terrestrial radiologists.

This was the first session of its kind at the RANZCR ASM, and an unprecedented opportunity for delegates at a medical imaging conference, where we enjoyed talks from a range of clinicians and researchers with a special interest in Space and Medical Imaging.

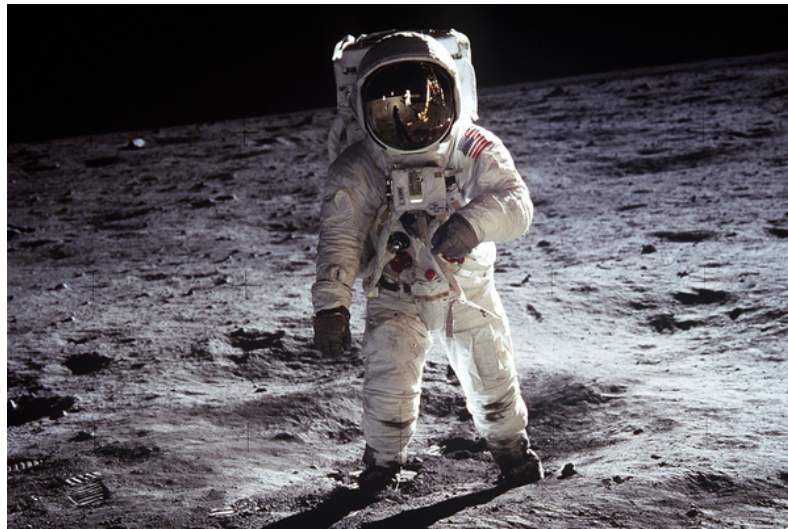
Adelaide is the proud home of the Australian Space Agency and Australian Space Discovery Centre. Our state of South Australia has a long heritage in the Space Industry, including Rocketry technology and testing at Woomera from the 1940s. Australian tracking stations received and delivered the first moon landing footage received from the Apollo 11 mission in 1969 watched by an estimated 600 million people. Adelaide is the birthplace of Dr. Andy Thomas AO, Aerospace Engineer and former NASA astronaut, and the home of his educational and research foundation.

The session was opened by Associate Professor Christen Barras, ASM Convener and RANZCR President, Clinical Associate Professor Sanjay Jeganathan, who was delighted to support this session as a RANZCR first.

Associate Professor Gordon Cable AM is an Aerospace Medicine Physician and the first President of the Aerospace Medicine Society of Australia. Gordon's talk, entitled 'Space Medicine for Exploration Class Missions' gave an inspiring overview of the recent developments in and ambitions for Human Spaceflight, Medical Care in Space, and special considerations such as emergency treatments in space, pharmaceutical stability in microgravity, and diagnosis and management of spaceflight complications.

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Dr. Vienna Tran is a medical practitioner with a special interest in Aerospace Medicine. Her main research area is in the use of artificial gravity to mitigate gluteal muscle deconditioning in astronauts. Vienna was the 2022 Australian Space Awards Graduate of the Year. Vienna's talk entitled 'To Zap an Astronaut: The Role of Radiology in Human Spaceflight Now and In the Future' detailed the pre-flight, within flight and post-flight astronaut imaging assessments, the pivotal role of ultrasound evaluation in space, and forecast the need for device miniaturisation, monitoring of Lunar and Martian dust and spaceflight radiation exposures, artificial intelligence applications and the potential benefits for new technologies for human populations on Earth.



The next speaker was Associate Professor Alice Gorman, an international expert in the field of Space Archaeology, based at Flinders University, Adelaide, who presented on the topic of 'How to Live in Machine Environments: An Archaeological Exploration of the International Space Station'. Alice described some of her work on the International Space Station (ISS) Archaeological Project, a study of the 'microsociety of a miniworld' that is the ISS, ranging from space station design and realities of living within and as part of a machine, the human need for sacred spaces, and considered the divergence of space from Earth culture. Delegates were on the edge of their seats to learn about the evolution of toilet technology in Space!



*NASA astronaut Kayal Barron photographs a sample location in the galley area of Node 1 as part of the SQuARE experiment, which used archaeological techniques to analyze various locations around the ISS and understand how people adapt to life in space. MEDIA CREDIT: Image courtesy of NASA*

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Professor Meng Law is a Neuroradiologist and the Director of Radiology at Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. Meng's talk 'Perivascular Spaces in Spaceflight-Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome: How this could Save Humanity!' discussed some of the neurophysiological challenges posed by microgravity environments and progress in imaging of the perivascular spaces of the brain (the glymphatic system), a key mechanism for human cerebral waste clearance. He reviewed astronaut post-flight MRI studies which have documented narrowing of the central sulcus and upward shift of the brain, increase in ventricular volumes, increased pituitary deformation, white matter changes and CSF redistribution. We also learned the latest information regarding Spaceflight Neuro-Ocular Syndrome (SANS) and studies investigating its relationship to perivascular spaces. Detailed knowledge of the physiological implications of long-term space flight is particularly important, given that a one-way trip to Mars may take 8-9 months.

Moving forward, the most ambitious frontier of human space exploration is the NASA Artemis program (named after the Greek goddess of the Moon and twin sister of Apollo), aimed at returning humans to the Moon, establishing a lasting moonbase presence, and using this knowledge and experience to send the first astronauts to Mars. The Artemis I mission was successfully completed in December 2022 and the four Artemis II astronauts were named on April 3 this year, including the first woman and first person of colour, who will conduct the first crewed mission around the moon using the new Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft.



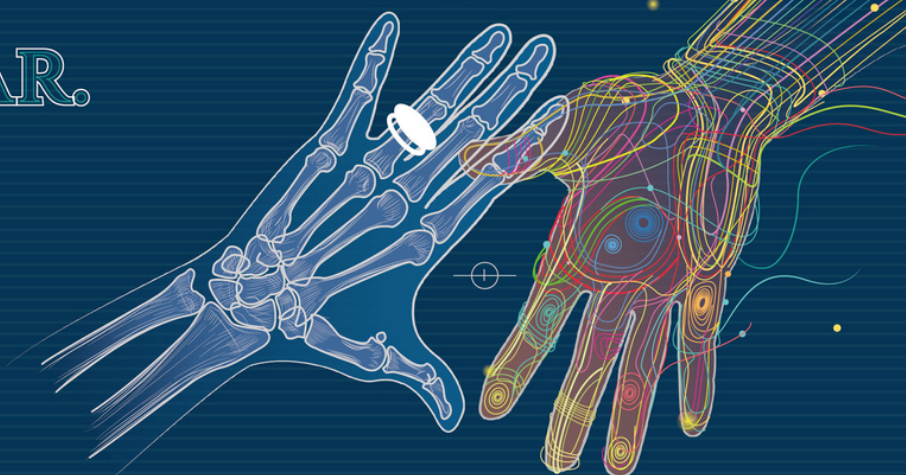
*Left to right: A/Prof. Christen Barras; Prof. Meng Law; A/Prof. Alice Gorman; A/Prof. Gordon Cable AM; Dr. Vienna Tran; Clinical Associate Professor Sanjay Jeganathan. RANZCR ASM Session 'Space Radiology', October 29, 2022.*

The next few decades will see many innovations in imaging technology, and this represents an exciting time for the extension of our knowledge and research to support human space exploration. The field of Clinical Radiology is and will remain a crucial contributor to these exciting endeavours. The time has arrived for the first Space Radiologists!

# AOCR / TRC 2024 / 2024

*The Precision of Radiology*

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**The official website of the 22nd Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology 2024 (AOCR 2024) has launched!**

Sign-up for the latest update on AOCR 2024



## AI Challenge

Seize this opportunity to showcase your skills and compete with the best in AI-assisted imaging diagnosis of acute appendicitis

*Details coming soon!*

## AI Workshop

How to bring generative AI into your practice in medical imaging? Don't miss this chance to learn how to create AI models for appendicitis segmentation and CXR classification using synthetic data

*Details coming soon!*

## PLACE

Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taipei, Taiwan

## IMPORTANT DATES

Abstracts		Registration	
Submission Open	1st Oct. 2023	Early Bird	1st Oct. 2023 - 31st Jan. 2024
Submission End	25th Dec. 2023	Regular	1st Feb. 2024 - 28th Feb. 2024
Acceptance Notice	15th Jan. 2024	On-Site	22nd Mar. 2024 - 25th Mar. 2024



## WEBSITE

<https://www.aocr2024.org/>

**The AOCR Congress Secretariat**

E-mail: [reg@aocr2024.org](mailto:reg@aocr2024.org)



**AOSR**  
The Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology

**CTSR**  
Chinese Taipei Society of Radiology

# See you in Taipei in March 2024!!



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