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19–22 NOVEMBER 2015
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The 8th Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society Scientific sessions

In Conjunction with the 11th Asia Pacific Atrial Fibrillation Symposium

19–22 November 2015, Melbourne, Australia

1. Registration

The 8th Annual Scientific Sessions of Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society, in Conjunction with the 11th Asia Pacific Symposium on Atrial Fibrillation was held from 19–22 November, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year's congress, attended by 2,363 participants from 43 countries, concluded with great success.

Country breakdown:

Country	Total	Country	Total
Australia	514	Malaysia	31
Austria	2	Mongolia	1
Bangladesh	7	Myanmar	3
Belarus	1	Nepal	1
Belgium	7	Netherlands	5
Brunei	2	New Zealand	45
Canada	18	Pakistan	3
China	328	Philippines	13
Colombia	3	Saudi Arabia	2
Czech Republic	1	Singapore	85
Estonia	2	Spain	2
Finland	1	Sri Lanka	2
France	2	Sweden	3
Germany	21	Switzerland	2
Hong Kong	52	Taiwan	142

Conference Managers

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India	90	Thailand	52
Indonesia	21	Turkey	1
Israel	3	United Arab Emirates	1
Italy	3	United Kingdom	12
Japan	435	United States of America	213
Korea	196	Vietnam	30

Registration type breakdown:

Type	Count
Abstract presenter	291
APHRS Board	6
Chairperson	99
Committee	2
Day registration	109
Exhibitor	380
Faculty	349
Media	3
Nurse / Allied Health	274
Physician	628
Sponsor	105
Trainee / Basic Scientist / Student	117

2. Scientific Program

Taking example from APHRS 2014, the Scientific Program Committee was delinked from the Organizing Committee, leading to a paradigm shift in the quality and scope of the deliberations.

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Some program facts and figures

- 12 concurrent sessions
- 1041 oral presentations within the program
- 640 posters displayed
- 110 session chairs
- 100 invited international speakers
- 350 invited regional speakers
- 850 abstract submissions received (in addition to the invited speakers)

In addition to the more traditional aspects of the program, a number of new initiatives featured in the APHRS 2015 program

- The use of the Oasis program management software, which is similar to that used by HRS. The APHRS has signed a three year contract with Oasis to manage the meeting's program.
- Mini-oral presentations featured in the exhibition hall during lunch breaks, to give those abstracts that didn't quite make it to the oral presentations a chance to present. These three minute presentations (with two minutes for questions) are designed to give up and coming researchers a chance to hone their presentation skills.
- Two named lectures were introduced into the program. These lectures were held unopposed and drew large crowds on both days.
 - The Regional Keynote lecture, which was given by Professor David Ross from Australia
 - The International Plenary Lecture was given by Professor Mel Scheinman from the United States of America.
- A Chinese language stream was included, in order to encourage as many Chinese delegates as possible to attend. This stream was well attended and reflected in the high number of Chinese delegates.
- All scientific content from the meeting was audio recorded, synced with the presentations slides, and then offered to all registered delegates following the meeting. This gave the content from the meeting a longer life and allowed delegates to listen to any sessions they have missed, or wanted to listen to again.

Overall the scientific program received considerable praise from both the faculty, sponsors and delegates.

3. Abstracts

In total, 861 abstracts were submitted for APHRS 2015. The abstracts were reviewed and sorted into the following categories

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- Oral presentations – three oral abstract sessions were held
- Mini oral presentations
- Poster presentations

3. Faculty

APHRS 2015 brought together a total of 504 Faculty Members from across the world to provide lectures on arrhythmia and to take part as session chairs and moderators. The faculty were offered different levels of funding based on their location and estimated travel costs to Melbourne.

4. Sponsorship and Exhibition

APHRS 2015 was fortunate to experience outstanding support from the industry, not only through the diverse exhibition, but also through a number of industry run meetings and functions taking place both onsite during the meeting days and in the evenings.

The exhibition also included a café area, where delegates were able to purchase lunch, and a sponsored coffee station.

Many of the booths had interactive areas and work stations which allowed the delegates to try their hand at the different products and tools being promoted.

5. Social Program

Three official social functions were run as part of APHRS 2015

- The **Welcome Reception** was held in the foyer of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, overlooking the Yarra River. Delegates were able to register and then stop for a drink and some food the evening before the meeting. The star attraction of the welcome reception were a number of native Australian animals that joined, from a baby Crocodile to a Koala.
- The **Faculty Dinner** was held at the National Gallery of Victoria, under its famous stained glass ceiling. Guests were welcomed to the venue by a didgeridoo player and entertained

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during dinner by a speed painter, who painted two prominent members of the APHRS community.

- With a slight change in format, the **Networking Reception** replaced the more traditional Gala Dinner, and was held at Aerial, overlooking Melbourne City and the Yarra River. The cocktail type reception was enjoyed by guests with the awards for best poster and abstracts being presented.

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