



ICPF

Volume 16, Issue 1
January - June 2024

Newsletter

International Cleft Lip & Palate Foundation (ICPF)

Tsukimigaoka-G-10D, 2-5. Houou-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya, 464-0057, Japan

Message from President, ICPF

Dear members of ICPF family, friends and colleagues,

This year, we are for the third time back in Japan – the cradle of the International Cleft lip and Palate Foundation which was founded in 1997 in Kyoto by Professor Nagato Natsume and Professor David Precious. In July 2019, at the doorstep of Covid, we had an amazing congress in Nagoya and then with enormous effort, still under the cloud of Covid, colleagues in Osaka created a fantastic environment for the 2nd very successful congress in Osaka in April 2022.

There is no better theme than the one selected by Professor Hoshi and his team selected for CLEFT TOKYO2024: “Break the limit, bring innovation”. In talking to students and residents – I often say “Good doctors follow the rules, the best doctors break them and make new ones”.

While prevalence of cleft lip and palate did not change for several decades, the multidisciplinary treatment and its outcome improved dramatically. And also, our understanding of etiology of orofacial clefts improved tremendously! In our first ICPF congresses and workshops, we focused almost entirely on improvement of treatments, decade ago, with the congress in Mahe, presided over by Professor SM Balaji, we implemented cleft prevention and basic science. While our mission continues bringing to our congresses all the most recent knowledge, share our experience and achievements toward better treatment modalities, underlying basic science, and programs for prevention of clefts, we will always thankfully remember giants in our field who left us.

Last summer, on August 15, 2023, just two weeks short of his 95th birthday, my very good friend and colleague Samuel Berkowitz passed away. Sam dedicated all his professional life to patients with cleft lip and palate and craniofacial anomalies. He served as President of ACPA (American Cleft Lip and Palate Association), received numerous awards from ACPA, Angle Society, and ICPF recognition at our 1st ICPF meeting in Zurich in 2000. As an internationally renowned orthodontist he never missed any national meeting dealing with clefts, and until 2017, any International Congress on Cleft Lip & Related Craniofacial Anomalies. Until his last participation in these congresses - Sam Berkowitz, Mohammad Mazaheri, and I, were only three attendees who participated in all 13 congresses of International Confederation of Cleft Lip and Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies. Many orthodontists who are taking care of patients with cleft lip and palate have on their shelves Sam's bible “Cleft Lip and Palate: Diagnosis and Management” (one of his 3 editions) and may be also “Cleft Palate Treatment: The Road to Normalcy”. And these books are just complemented by numerous scientific articles that Samuel Berkowitz published. Sam created longitudinal records – over three decades of treatment of cleft lip and palate patients - that are housed at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at the Institute of Pathology, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C.

I had a very nice, personal relationship with Sam and was honored with many educational materials that he shared with me. At the end of his professional career, he passed to me his library of reprints, many of his lectures on CDs, and other valuable materials. While Sam was strongly justifying his orthodontic treatment modalities of cleft patients and argued about them firmly in many discussions with colleagues, he was well respected for his deep knowledge of growth



Prof. Marie M. Tolarova



Samuel Berkowitz, Rolf S. Tindlund,
Marie Tolarova - ACPA meeting

and development and anatomy. Sam was open to accepting new discoveries – my latest discussion with him on epigenetics is just one example of it. I am sure that in my academic life, I will always mention Samuel Berkowitz's contributions to treatment of cleft lip and palate.

And recently, on February 26, 2024, another dear old friend Leonard T. Furlow, Jr., passed away at the age of 94. Leonard was best known for his innovative approach to repairing cleft palate "Furlow double opposing Z-plasty". The authored numerous scientific articles, a dozen book chapters and over 200 presentations at medical



Leonard T Furlow

meetings on surgeries on cleft lip and palate, hand, and wound surgeries. Leonard always said that in medicine we need to be lifelong learners as you will never know everything, and there is always something new you should know. He is known for saying that medical education is a lifelong passion. Even after retiring from his full-time private practice, Leonard continued as a volunteer surgeon in over 50 cleft surgical missions around the world. You can learn more about Leonard Furlow in Icon Project: Leonard Furlow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXoMh3MVxoo>.

I will always remember social and scientific talks at many professional and social gatherings with Leonard and Libby, his wife who died of leukemia in 2018. And especially, the unforgettable two weeks that we spent together in Los Teques, a small town near to capital Caracas in Venezuela during Rotaplast

surgical medical mission taking care of 80 cleft patients. Everybody in the cleft field knows Furlow palatal surgical procedure, but those who met Leonard in person will also remember him – as one of my young colleagues said when he first met Leonard – "is this gentle giant 'the Furlow'?" I will always remember sitting with Leonard on the porch in Los Teques after a busy surgical day and talking about values in life – professional and personal. All of us who were close to Leonard knew how deeply he was devoted to Libby and how he recalls his success in surgery and medicine to the environment that her love and care created for him and their family.

I have been with patients with cleft lip and palate for almost 60 years – in clinical, academic, and research settings; and I can identify several milestones during that time. There is no doubt that on a global level, Charles B. Wang's vision and his business knowledge and skills 25 years ago led to Smile Train's accomplishment this year of reaching more than 2 million cleft surgeries across more than 95 countries since its founding. Now under the leadership of Susannah Schaefer, President and CEO, Smile Train continues Charles B. Wang's philosophy and business model to empower local doctors financially and by providing training to perform surgeries that are free for patients.

I treasure memories of my contacts and discussions with Charles. In 2011, when I organized the 3rd ICPF workshop in San Francisco, thanks to Charles B. Wang, Smile Train was one of the major sponsors of that workshop and it allowed many colleagues from low-and-middle-income countries to attend.



Charles B. Wang - photo courtesy of Smile Train

I asked Charles for an opening address and, like in many of his talks, he first expressed his appreciation and respect for all of us who are involved in treatment and research related to clefts. His opening to our workshop was emotional and also encouraging that more needs to be done, mentioning at that time 600 cleft surgeries that Smile Train had sponsored. And at the end of his talk, he said "... in addition, we must reach beyond children born with clefts and also embrace the work being done to prevent clefts."

In closing, on behalf of ICPF leadership, let me express my deepest appreciation and thanks to all of you for your dedication and work you do.

There is a lot in the orofacial cleft field – in clinic, in prevention, and in basic science, that will benefit from innovations. In order to implement them, we will need to break the limits. So, in the way of collaboration, no competition, we need to work together and implement all the most recent knowledge for breaking the limits and bringing innovations! This is the only way we will improve our overall care for the benefit of individuals with clefts.



Samuel Berkowitz and Mohammad Mazaheri - receiving ACPA Award



Leonard T. Furlow and Libby Truitt Furlow

Message from Chair & Secretary-Treasurer, ICPF

Dear ICPF Members,

The International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation (ICPF) was founded by university faculty, medical experts, and concerned individuals and officials from various countries who are committed to humanitarian aid activities for cleft lip and cleft palate treatment, to exchange information necessary for cross-border humanitarian medical assistance, and to promote academic exchange regarding cleft lip and cleft palate.

The organization was established in 1997 at a conference held at the Kyoto International Conference Center with 50 participants from 20 countries (Canada, Korea, China, Chile, Finland, Greece, Israel, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Turkey, and the U.S.). Currently, it consists of 87 member countries, and its activities are expanding globally.

ICPF's selfless work has left an indelible mark in various regions, including Japan and Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, and Mongolia. Our dedicated teams collaborate with local healthcare professionals, providing surgical interventions, speech therapy, and psychosocial support. Our commitment to improving the lives of individuals affected by cleft lip and palate extends across borders, transcending geographical boundaries. In 2016, during the ICPF Conference in Chennai, we made a resounding declaration – a promise to enhance access to comprehensive cleft care. Our commitment to training, research, and community outreach remains unwavering.

JCPF serves as the office of ICPF. For many years, JCPF has been involved in various activities such as ICPF member support and helping to hold scientific CLEFT congresses around the world in cooperation with staffs of ICPF.

Mark your calendars for the ICPF Conference 2025 in Munich, led by Prof. Dr. mult. Robert Sader. His visionary leadership and ground-breaking research in oral and maxillofacial surgery inspire us all. Together, under Prof. Sader's guidance, we will shape the future of cleft care. This success wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our incredible leadership team. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those involved, especially our current President, Prof. Marie Tolarova, for her unwavering guidance, innovative approach and leadership. Thank you for your unwavering support. Let us forge ahead, united in our mission to create smiles and transform lives.

On July 17, 18 and 19, 2024, the ICPF World Congress Annually "CLEFT TOKYO 2024" will be held at the Yasuda Auditorium of the University of Tokyo. We look forward to your participation.



Dr. Nagato Natsume

Message from Vice President & Editor, ICPF



Dr. S.M. Balaji

Dear ICPF Members,

As we turn the page on another year, it's with immense pride that we reflect on the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation (ICPF) continued advancements in 2023. Building upon the strong foundation laid by Prof. Tolarova in her tenure as President, we've witnessed remarkable progress, both within the realm of cleft prevention and the overall field of cleft care.

As we gather here to reflect on the past year, we find ourselves at a crossroads of change and progress. Prof. Marie Tolarova's steadfast leadership has guided us through challenging times and set a strong foundation for the future of our organization. The successful Korean ICPF event was a testimony to the ICPF growing sphere of influence. Prevention remains a cornerstone of our mission.

We're particularly excited to announce the introduction of the ICPF Cleft Prevention Marathon at the upcoming 2024 conference in Tokyo, Japan. This is the brainchild of the President and supported by our able Secretary-Treasurer. This unique event aims to raise awareness and vital funds for research dedicated to preventing cleft conditions before birth. The field of cleft care continues to evolve. Advancements in areas of surgical techniques, diagnostic tools, and genetic research offer renewed hope for cleft patients worldwide. This 2024 Tokyo meeting promises to be a landmark event. I also take this opportunity to invite you to 2025 conference at Munich during 4th to 6th September under the able leadership of Prof. Robert Sader.

Together, with your unwavering support, we will continue to create smiles and transform lives.

The 16th World Congress of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation



CLEFT TOKYO 2024

Yasuda Auditorium, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

July 17(Wed)-19(Fri) 2024

www.kwcs.jp/icpf16

Dear friends and colleagues of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation,

It is my great honor to welcome you to our CLEFT TOKYO 2024. This congress will be held from July 17 (Wed) - 19 (Fri), 2024 at the Yasuda Auditorium in Tokyo, Japan. Yasuda Auditorium is the central symbol of the University of Tokyo. In this auditorium, special events as well as the graduation ceremony are held every year, where you can enjoy an academic environment while surrounded by beautiful gothic architecture. The main theme of this congress is "Break the limit, bring the innovation." Despite the noble and untiring efforts of past contributors, there still remain limitations in prevention, care and treatment of cleft lip and palate. The ICPF gathers highly qualified specialists across the world who have the potential to solve these problems.

During this congress, our program includes keynote lectures, symposium, panel discussions and free papers, all of which are full of exciting talks. There will also be excursions and other activities for participants to enjoy at the University of Tokyo and the city of Tokyo. Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to the active discussions on the various topics regarding basic, translational and clinical researches of CLP, to ultimately innovate the field for better patient care. Thank you again, and please enjoy.



Prof. Kazuto Hoshi

Congress President,

Professor and Chairperson, Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery, Graduate School of
Medicine, The University of Tokyo



ICPF Prof. Kenneth Salzer Global Award

On 18th July 2024, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Yasuda Auditorium

The University of Tokyo

**First recipient of the ICPF
Prof. Kenneth Salzer
Global Award**



Prof. Yu-Ray Chen, MD

Dept. of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Chang Gung University
Taiwan, R.O.C

Prof. Yu-Ray Chen is currently the Chairman of the Chang Gung Steering Committee, and Professor of Surgery at the Chang Gung University. He graduated and did his general surgery residency at the National Taiwan University Hospital. He continued his plastic surgery training at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital under Dr Samuel Noordhoff. Also, Dr. Yu Ray Chen is the first craniofacial fellow of Prof. Salzer.

Prof. Chen is Past-President of the International Society of Craniofacial Surgery (1997-1999), the Secretary of the Asian-Pacific Craniofacial Association (1993-1997), the General Secretary of the Asian-Pacific Section of IPRAS (2001-2005). Prof. Chen has trained more than 250 plastic and craniofacial fellows from 35 countries. He has authored more than 200 publications and has made more than 350 presentations at local and international scientific meetings.



INTERNATIONAL
CLEFT LIP & PALATE
FOUNDATION



Save the Date
JOIN US IN FRANKFURT
in September 2025

17th World Congress of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation

September 4-6, 2025

Frankfurt, Germany

www.cleft2025.org

Welcome Message from the Congress President

It is with great pleasure and honor that I warmly invite you to join us at the 17th World Congress of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation on September 4 - 6, 2025, in Frankfurt, Germany. Frankfurt is a bustling metropolis in the heart of Europe, known throughout the world for its exciting and unusual contrasts of modernity and tradition. Frankfurt is an international travel hub making it easily accessible from all across the globe and has been a center of trade and commerce, and communication for more than 800 years. Located in the wonderful landscape of the RhineMain area, it is here that German Emperors were crowned, the telephone was invented and the first train route in Germany originated. 5 Nobel prize winners in medicine and physiology, affiliated with the Goethe-University Frankfurt, are participating the Congress. You can also see this innovative thinking in the field of cleft lip and palate. In the 19th century, Gustav Passavant was one of the first surgeons in Germany to specialize in cleft lip and palate surgery. In 1869 he stated first that the treatment of cleft palate cannot be based on surgery alone, but also needed functional treatment concepts. Our meeting venue will be the education campus of the University Medicine Frankfurt/Goethe-University Frankfurt, named in honor of one of the most famous sons of our city, the German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe. The campus is located directly along the river of Main and is only a 10-minute tram ride from the inner city with many historical buildings, parks and restaurants. Frankfurt is an ideal place to meet friends and colleagues and to share new information and ideas on cleft lip and palate therapy, and to simply enjoy being together. Wherever and whenever people come here together, ideas are created, improved upon, and implemented.

We expect high attendance because of the unique location, excellent international access, and especially because of the great historic and clinical importance of the Frankfurt Interdisciplinary Treatment Center for Cleft Lip and Palate and Rare Orofacial Diseases, which is one of the largest in Europe. The Interdisciplinary German Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association has rescheduled its annual meeting to coincide with our congress CLEFT2025. So, join us as an exhibitor, workshop provider or a sponsor and help us to welcome our guests from all over the world – to support the treatment of children with cleft lip and palate worldwide. I look forward to personally welcoming you to Frankfurt in September 2025.



Prof. Dr. Dr. Robert Sader,
MD, DMD, PhD.,
Congress President
Professor, Director & Chair of Oral,
Cranio-Maxillofacial and
Facial Plastic Surgery,
Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany



Prof. Robert Sader, the organizing Chair of the 2025 ICPF conference at Frankfurt, Germany participated in the European Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association (ECPA) Congress at Milan, Italy. There, along with the Newsletter Editor and Member of Board of Trustees, distributed the ICPF 2025 conference flyers to delegates. This distribution aroused the interest of the potential delegate to our 2025 ICPF event.



Activities around the Globe

COLOMBIA

Asociación Colombiana de Diferencias Congénitas Craneofaciales (<https://adccraneofacial.org/>) was established in October 2021 for the purpose of promoting integrated multidisciplinary care of patients with craniofacial differences throughout Colombia, and organized the 2nd congress in Pereira, Colombia. The congress was sponsored by Operation Smile, Smile Train, and Rotaplast. Almost 250 professionals from all parts of Colombia - surgeons, orthodontists, pediatric dentists, speech pathologists, pediatricians, geneticists, and social workers enjoyed 2-days lectures, poster presentations, and discussions. The presentations focused on a wide variety of topics related from treatment, etiology, to psychological issues, and prevention of clefts and other congenital anomalies. Several international speakers contributed to a very interesting program of this congress. Dr. Kemel A. Ghotme summarized prevention of congenital anomalies from a global perspective. The decade of Rotaplast cleft prevention research and education was covered in lectures by Dr. Marie M. Tolarova (USA). Dr. Hector Villegas, an orthodontist, brought attention to prevention of orofacial clefts referring to his research on the influence of pesticides.



The ADC is working toward integrating activities of several international cleft charitable missions helping Colombia with surgeries and overall treatment of patients with orofacial clefts and craniofacial anomalies. Delegates from Operations Smile, Smile Train, and Rotaplast discussed how to best support local professionals and with resources and personnel and integrate their effort.

KUWAIT



A lot of activities and initiatives happened in Kuwait under the initiative and leadership of Dr. Lateefa Al Kharafi, BMS, BDS, MDS, craniofacial orthodontist. The website www.thespecialsmiles.com provides information for healthcare providers as well as for patients and their families. The group of specialists includes orthodontists, plastic surgeons, OMFS, pediatric dentist, geneticist, speech and language pathologists, and dental technician formed the very first multidisciplinary craniofacial team in Kuwait with centralized care covering the whole Kuwait.

This is a very important step forward not only covering and coordinating healthcare, but also collecting quality data for research through cleft and craniofacial nation registry. In addition to providing links to recently published articles and presented posters at Scientific meetings, the website is an excellent source of information for lay public in Arabic as well as in English.

Efficient collaboration was established with the Faculty of Sciences, Kuwait University for postgraduate research toward MS in the field of molecular genetics on nonsyndromic cleft lip and palate. Several workshops were organized including Fundamentals of the Early Care of Infants with Craniofacial Anomalies (7 workshops in NICU of several hospitals) with plastic surgeons and SLP speakers.



Other workshops focused on CBCT and 3D diagnosis discussing reducing radiation by

decreasing the number of exposures (attended by physicians and dentists), Inhalation Sedation Delivery System for the craniofacial pediatricians.



The team focused on NICU care for cleft and craniofacial patients and prepared document summarization critical information "Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Clinical Care for Infants with Craniofacial Anomalies".

The Kuwait multidisciplinary cleft and craniofacial team was recently recognized by ACPA as an international referral and prospective collaborative center.



Last year was formally introduced the Preconception Counseling Clinic at Central Hospital, in the Gynecology Department, Fertility Section, Central Hospital in Mendoza Argentina. The team of physicians is led by Dr. Viviana Armentano, medical geneticist and is very active in educational activities, counselling, patient care in family planning, and periconceptional care and it is heavily targeting prevention of congenital anomalies. Group organized several workshops and conferences for health professionals and also presented at the Great Apple Congress (a provincial congress gathering important high-complexity centers from the Province of Mendoza).



Dr. Armentano created awareness of the periconceptional period - a very important time that is critical for normal embryonic and fetal development and thus crucial for prevention of congenital malformations.



Preconception Counseling Office physicians gave talks at several Health Centers in the outskirts of Greater Mendoza to various groups of health professionals – doctors, nurses, and dentists. Important activity also involved participation in numerous media outlets, radio and television to promote prevention of congenital anomalies.



In her own words: "Most healthcare professionals use Family Planning to talk about contraception. For me, family planning is much broader. In addition to deciding when not to have children, I inform them that when they want to have children, they need to plan and undergo check-ups at least 3 months beforehand to prevent malformations such as cleft lip and palate, neural tube defects, and congenital heart defects".



Recognizing that the province of Mendoza covers an area of 148,827 km² with a population of 2,043,540 inhabitants (Census 2022) and there are only a few geneticists - all located in the main metropolitan center - and remote departments like San Rafael and Malargüe do not have geneticists,



Jueves, 3 de agosto de 2023

Planificación Familiar: todo lo tenés que saber te lo cuenta la Dra. Viviana Armentano

En el Día Internacional de la planificación familiar nos visita en "Según Cómo lo Mires" la Dra. Viviana Armentano

she introduced online consultations and counseling for couples.

Viviana also opened an Instagram and Facebook page to disseminate topics related to health prenatal development, family planning, and prevention of birth defects <https://www.instagram.com/viviana.armentano/>.

Activities of the Preconception Counseling Clinic at the Central Hospital were recently recognized by the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Mendoza.



Rotaplast team with Leonard, Libby and me.

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech republic, the multidisciplinary care for individuals affected with orofacial clefts and craniofacial anomalies starts with prenatal care and continues until adulthood. Treatment and follow up of most patients are centralized in the capital city Prague and in Brno, historical capital and Moravia and the second largest city in the Czech Republic.



In these two cities are also two largest cleft centers in the Czech Republic: the Cleft Centers of the University Hospital Královské Vinohrady in Prague and the Cleft Center of the University Hospital in Brno.

Recently, these two centers collaborated to create the **RoRis project**, an online research study involving parents of children with orofacial clefts.

The main goals of this project are:

- ♦ To improve access to multidisciplinary care for children with orofacial cleft
- ♦ To identify risk factors in etiology of clefts
- ♦ To find out how COVID-19 pandemic affected children with cleft and their families
- ♦ To learn the availability of multidisciplinary care for children with facial clefts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

All families in the Czech Republic with a child affected with cleft lip, cleft lip and palate, or isolated cleft palate born since 2017 are welcome to participate in the project.

Parents can register on the project website (<https://registr-roris.data-warehouse.zone/>) and fill out an online questionnaire.

The website opens with the slogan: *"Cleft will not cleft us"*. Among questions to identify risk factors are parental age, negative lifestyle factors (smoking, obesity, drug use), infections during pre-pregnancy and during pregnancy (including COVID-19 infection), and exact dates of vaccination against COVID-19.

Both centers also collaborate on several research studies based on existing clinical experience and data expected from the **RoRis project**.



CLEFT PREVENTION INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Many activities happened during last year. The website www.cleftprevention.org was updated with new information based on most recent clinical and research studies. During month of July, that is in the US National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention month we distributed cards with information about clefts. To assess the knowledge about cleft lip and palate, their prevention, and a role of folic acid in prevention of congenital anomalies among future dentists and dental faculty in Dugoni School of Dentistry, University of the Pacific in San Francisco, Niki Panahi Zadeh, 1st year dental student and Simin Charkhzarrin, Research Scholar, created Qualtrics survey with 10 basic questions. They found that the knowledge is very good among dental faculty and graduating dental students, but not sufficient among 1st and 2nd year dental students. We were pleased with excellent knowledge among orthodontic residents. Results of this study were presented by Niki at the Pacific Excellence Day and won an award for students' research. Simin at CLEFT TOKYO2024 will present more detailed evaluations of collected data.





Another important task – the issue of breastfeeding of babies with cleft lip and palate took under the detailed review Aarthi Musuwathi Gunasekaran, BDS, MS, IBCLC. She combined information from the literature with a knowledge from her other profession beside dentistry – as certified lactation specialist – and summarized important recommendations for health providers and parents. Together with dental student Shaila Patel, they also presented at the Pacific Excellence Day and Aarthi is bringing their presentation to CLEFT TOKYO2024.

Michael Dehal, CEO of CPIF continues in his supporting activities with Indian orphanages and cleft patients in India and within his day job as a Senior Portfolio Manager with Raymond James, he is always reminding to his audience in his presentations in conferences and invited talks the importance of charitable activities and supporting those disadvantages.

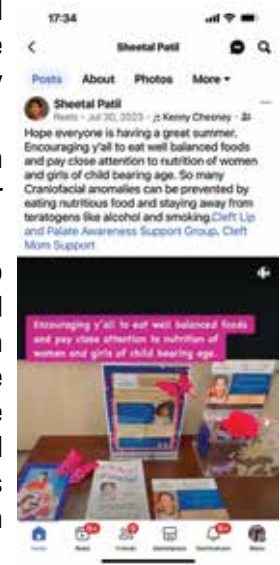
Michael proposed and is leading fundraising and awareness activity the "Run 4 Cleft Prevention" during the CLEFT TOKYO2024 in collaboration with Japanese colleague Dr. Sachi Oshima.



In Chennai, India, Dr. Shreekala Pandanivel, founder of ANAMAYA Indo-Pacific cleft prevention program, extended educational activities toward cleft prevention and healthy lifestyle and nutrition to her activities in Temple that her family recently build in a remote area of Tamil Nadu.

Young high school student Shyam Bhegade, son of an orthodontist Sheetal Patil attended last year ICPF congress in Seoul.

Motivated by her mom who diligently continues to spread information about cleft and CF anomalies and their etiology and prevention among her patients in her orthodontic office, Shyam set-up a questionnaire survey about clefts as his high school project. These are excellent examples of light but very powerful educational activities that do not put any heaviness on anybody, but are definitely very important in awareness building.



ROTAPLAST International Inc.

Rotaplast International is an NGO that is reaching 32 year of sending multidisciplinary medical teams to provide free reconstructive surgery, ancillary treatment, and training for the comprehensive care of these children. This year we reached 21,378 of cleft surgeries in 263 surgical clinics. Rotaplast supports education and research towards prevention of cleft lip and/or palate. Our aim is to help local professionals build sustainable models for the care of these children, improving their lives and those of their families.



While it was always in Rotaplast's mission to empower local surgeons and other health care providers to provide care for patients with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial anomalies, this year we added a very important component – close collaboration with local universities. As a pilot, we are running collaboration with Universities in Colombia, particularly CES University, University Foundation María Cano, and Makerere University in - Medellin, Colombia. After many years, we have just started formalizing the educational arm of our surgical trips. We have dubbed it, the Global Scholars Program.

Overseas Medical Volunteering

We, the Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation (JCPF), have been postponing the dispatch of medical volunteer specialists to Asian and African countries since 2020 due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection. Following the slowing down of the epidemic, JCPF has resumed dispatching experts to overseas countries in 2023, starting with a dispatch to Mongolia in August (see page 7). We also plan to dispatch medical teams to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in December this year (see page 7) and to Ben Tre Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in March 2024. In particular, JCPF has been active since 1992 in medical volunteer activities in Ben Tre Province, Vietnam. It started in response to requests from there to JCPF on treatment of children with cleft lip and/or cleft palate. Since then, we have dispatched many volunteer specialists. Among them, the oral and maxillofacial surgeons such as Dr. Takeshi Katsuki (Professor Emeritus of Saga Medical University) and Dr. Shigetaka Yanagisawa (Professor Emeritus of Oita Medical University) are renowned. It has been and will be a good opportunity for young oral and maxillofacial surgeons to observe the surgery by renowned doctors and work together as surgical assistants. We would like to encourage all doctors, students, and the general public who are interested in the treatment and research of cleft lip and/or cleft palate to participate in this social contribution activity.



A team of medical volunteer specialists at Nguyen Dinh Chieu Hospital, in Ben Tre Province, Vietnam in 2020. They conducted medical technology transfer and research for children with cleft lip and/or cleft palate. (February 23 - March 4, 2020)

Cleft Lip and Palate Parliamentary Caucus Launched Gaku Hashimoto appointed as Chairman

Masaru OKUMURA, Representative, OKUNET

On June 20, 2023, the ruling party's Cleft Lip and Palate Parliamentary Caucus was established and the general meeting was held. The key members have been decided as follows: Chairman: Gaku Hashimoto (Liberal Democratic Party), Vice Chairman: Noriko Furuya (Komeito), Secretary-General: Goshi Hosono (Liberal Democratic Party), Deputy Secretary-General: Nobuhiro Yoshida (Komeito), Advisors: Seiko Noda (Liberal Democratic Party), Kazuo Kitagawa (Komeito), and Secretary: Hiroshi Yamamoto (Komeito). On July 27, 2023, they hold a meeting and heard a lecture given by invited Professor Kotaro Maki at Showa University. Prof. Maki reported cleft lip and cleft palate as a clinical practitioner. He informed that cleft lip and cleft palate are not known to the general public and that there are still challenges. As the establishment of the Parliamentary Caucus, there are high expectations from those involved that it will take up and discuss the issues surrounding "cleft lip and cleft palate patients" and solve and improve them.

"Cleft lip and cleft palate" are the most frequent dental-related congenital anomalies, handled by a variety of medical professionals. Unfortunately, even general dentists do not seem to show much interests in this diseases, except for the specialists in oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, and orthodontics. Administratively and legally, the disease is related to the following issues: Currently, those under the age of 18 may apply for the "Medical aid for children with potential disability", and those over 18 years old have to apply for the "Medical rehabilitation service". However, there are cases where jaw revision surgery and orthodontic treatment after surgery are desirable to be performed after the age of 18, when the growth of the body is completed. Doctors and dental surgeons at university hospitals pointed out that obtaining a physical disability certificate under the current rehabilitation medical system is very hard. It should be understandable that there are voices from the patient side requesting an extension of the age limit for the "medical aid for children with potential disability". Though Japanese Cleft Palate Association (J.C.P.A.) is not a member of the specialized and certified subcommittees of the Japanese Association for dental scientists, it consists of more than 3,000 members. Clinically, J.C.P.A. is active as an academic society both in Japan and abroad. Groups of patients (children) and their families with this disease are located all over the country and they are also characterized by their low-key activities, such as A (Tokyo), B (Nagoya), and C (Osaka). It is a valuable time for patients and parents to interact with each other there. J.C.P.A. conference was held in May 2023 and the people involved said, "The basis of cleft lip and palate treatment is inevitably 'team medicine' and understanding and mutual trust with the families of the children are a major premise." In the past, speech therapists emphasized, "Of course, an improvement in oral function is the basis of social life that supports eating and speaking. It is indeed important to have "team medical care" such as plastic surgeons, oral surgeons, orthodontics, and speech therapists. It is important that the response and coordination at each stage, such as prenatal diagnosis, surgery, articulation construction, and mental growth of the patient, are carried out seamlessly." Social responsibility to patients is important as well as clinical practice. In society, it seems that it is more necessary than ever to care about the aesthetic problems of infants and students who are concerned about their own looks. It is also very important to deal with the mental health of their families. It is said that the living environment of these generations has a major impacts on the subsequent life of the person. With the establishment of this parliamentary caucus, it has become possible to respond to a wide range of social issues. I always have the feeling of "a former patient" who wants dentists to be aware of the problem even if they do not provide direct medical care for cleft lip and cleft palate because they should be specialists in all oral diseases. It is often said that "it is just a parliamentary federation, but it is a parliamentary federation". Let's keep paying attention to its activities.

2023 JCPF Activities

Japan- Vietnam friendship 50th Anniversary Ceremony

The year 2023 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam. On September 19, 2023, a commemorative ceremony was held in Nagoya City hosted by the Aichi-Nagoya Vietnam Friendship and Goodwill Association (Chairman Nagato Natsume, Executive Director of JCPF). Business representatives, members of the Diet and many other VIPs attended the ceremony. JCPF has a long-standing relationship with Vietnam in overseas medical volunteer activities and joint research on cleft lip and cleft palate, and supported the operation of this ceremony.

After the opening address by Prof. Nagato Natsume, greetings were given by Mr. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture. Mr. Ohmura said that for Japan and Vietnam to maintain good relations in a future, Japan must become the country of choice for Vietnam.

As a special guest, Mr. Iehiro Tokugawa, the 19th head of the Tokugawa family attended the ceremony with his Vietnamese wife to give the commemorative lecture on Japan-Vietnam friendship from the respective standpoints each of his wife and Mr. Tokugawa.



Mr. Iehiro Tokugawa, the 19th head of the Tokugawa family

Mr. Kunio Umeda, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Vietnam also addressed a greeting as well as many members of the Diet of Japan.



Mr. Kunio Umeda, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Viet Nam

There were wonderful exchanges among those who participated, making it a grand ceremony.

Denture Memorial Service Ceremony

The Memorial Service Ceremony for unused dentures was held on October 8, 2023 at Nittaiji-temple, Nagoya, Aichi prefecture. It is the annual event on October 8 (Denture Day in Japan). The ceremony was hosted by Aichi Prefectural Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care. JCPF attended the ceremony to thank donations by recycling disposed gold/silver dental crowns. We use the donations for overseas medical volunteer activities.

During the ceremony, JCPF executive director Nagato Natsume presented a letter of appreciation (right photo) to thank for precious metal recycling (see page 5). The Dentists studying abroad from Vietnam and Mongolia, at Aichi Gakuin University, also made thank-you speeches.

On that day JCPF also exhibited his overseas medical volunteer activities on panels and played a movie to show the activities.



About JCPF's precious metal recycling

Precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, and palladium are essential resources for the industrial base, including in the fields of medicine and communications, but for various reasons, they are circulated in small quantities in the industrial sector. In addition, because production of these metals in Japan is very low, it is no exaggeration to say that there is a chronic crisis in the use of rare metals in Japan. JCPF is collecting the disposed dentures, gold and silver dental crowns removed during dental treatment. The jewelry that are no longer needed in a home are recycled too. Precious metal recycling activities are environmentally friendly and contribute greatly to sustainability in the sense that they make an effective use of resources without mining from the earth. The net profits from recycling activities are used for various medical aid activities, such as donating baby bottles to patients and overseas medical volunteer activities. If you have any unneeded gold or silver ornaments or crafts, we would really appreciate it if you could send them to the address below. We are sorry that shipping costs will be borne by the sender. We will send you a thank-you letter.

To: Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation

Postal address: 2-5 G-10D Houou-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-0057, Japan

E-mail: jcpf@jcpf.or.jp

JCPF's donation box & vending machines with donation function

JCPF is looking for hospitals, dental clinics, shops, restaurants and other settings which offer setting up donation boxes for us. The donation box we have prepared is made of cypress with the scent of the forest, and it is designed to make use of the wood grain pattern. It has a very natural atmosphere and can be placed at the reception desk or next to the cash register. We also looking for spaces to set up beverage vending machines in collaboration with beverage manufacturers. A few percent of the sales are used to fund activities of JCPF, such as free surgeries for overseas patients and donations of goods to overseas hospitals. They can be installed not only in hospitals and dental clinics throughout Japan, but also in front of your home. Some of them have the function to provide free beverages and food in the event of an earthquake or other emergency, so they can also be used as a disaster countermeasure. A vending machine can be installed with a space of 4 pages of newspaper (approx. 110 cm x 80 cm) per unit, and the running cost will be the electricity bill of about one refrigerator. If you live in Japan and are interested, please contact us.



Overseas Medical Volunteer Activities by JCPF, Mongolia (August 9-12, 2023)

JCPF medical volunteer activities in Mongolia began in 1996. From the perspective of humanitarian assistance, the program aims not only to provide medical services, but also to transfer medical and dental technologies in general. Academic research is also conducted locally. In cooperation with the Department of Dentistry of Mongolia National University of Health Sciences and the National Center for Maternal and Child Health, we have been conducting research on the prevention of cleft lip and palate for many years.



We had a happy time playing with children of an orphanage in Mongolia that we visited for volunteer dental treatment

In 2023, we visited Mongolia from August 9 to 12; this was the first JCPF medical volunteer activity in Mongolia after COVID-19 pandemic. The dental team visited the UnurBul Orphanage near Ulaanbaatar, where they conducted dental checkups, taught children how to brush their teeth, and conducted academic research. In cooperation with the Japanese Medical and Dental Network, we also dispatched Dr. Shuji Nomoto, a surgeon and professor specialized in surgical treatment of cancer at Aichi Gakuin University, to the National Cancer Center in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar to provide free-of-charge surgery for cancer patients and transfer medical technology to medical professionals.



Children waiting for dental checkup

Dental checkup of a child

Dr. Shuji Nomoto was awarded the Order of the Polar Star by the Government of Mongolia in recognition of his medical support at the Cancer Center since 2016 and his significant contributions to the medical development of Mongolia. Taking into consideration of exporting Japan's excellent drugs to Mongolia, we also dispatched an inspection team consisting of a professor from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Keio University, and pharmacists from a pharmacy and drugstore company. They had meetings with Mongolian pharmaceutical companies. The inspection team accompanied the volunteer medical team. We hope that our medical volunteer activities will continue to be highly evaluated and contribute to the development of medical care, welfare, and friendly relations between Mongolia and Japan.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (December 26-30, 2023)

From December 26 to December 30, 2023, seven people from the Honorary Consulate of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Nagoya and the Department of Dentistry, Aichi Gakuin University, were dispatched to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Honorary Consul of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Nagoya Mr. Yasuyuki Ohara (photo, fifth from the right) himself, who is also an adviser of JCPF, was in the team. In Vientiane they paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Japan and held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Kenichi Kobayashi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Lao PDR. Mr. Ohara also paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Health, H.E. Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith (photo, fourth from the right). They later visited Setthathirath Hospital, where JCPF has been providing medical assistance in the shape of free surgeries and technology transfer for many years, and had a meeting with local medical professionals. They also conducted preliminary research for future missions.



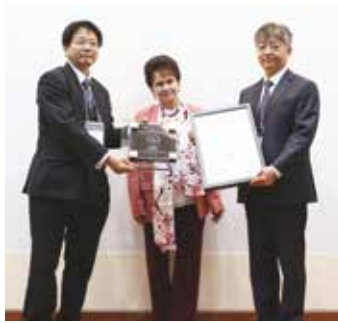
Glimpses of Cleft Seoul 2023

The International Cleft Lip & Palate Foundation (ICPF) held its 15th World Cleft Lip and Palate Congress from June 16-18, 2023 at the Seoul National University Dental Hospital, Seoul, Korea. This was held in conjunction with the 27th Annual Congress of the Korean Cleft Lip and Palate Association (KCLPA). The main theme of the 2023 joint ICPF-KCLPA meeting was "New Era in 3D Digital Treatment." The overall congress program stressed on the importance of evidence based diagnosis and cutting edge treatment approaches using digital technology for the betterment of patients with cleft lip and palate deformities. Greater importance is now being paid to the treatment needs of patients with congenital craniofacial deformities such as cleft lip and palate and cleidocranial dysostosis. This international event will be a gateway to the latest knowledge and information on the treatment of deformities of the craniofacial complex. This congress will also help foster bonding between professionals from across the globe to help provide best possible clinical outcomes for the patients.

During the event more than 450 researchers, medical interns, and other specialists from 31 countries were attended. It was a surprise we had more than expected number of participants from Indonesia and Russia. It was impressive to see many Korean doctors engaged in research and treatment in the U.S., and there was an attitude of adoption of research results from overseas without delay. From Japan, many orthodontists participated. The orthodontic symposium venue is so popular that many participants could not have seats.

At this conference, ICPF presented the ICPF Special Achievement Award (certificate and plaque) to Professor Emeritus Dr. Byung Il Min, one of the founding directors of the ICPF and the founder of the KCPKA. Unfortunately, due to his advanced age, he was unable to attend the award ceremony, but Professor Seo Byoung-Moo of Seoul National University attended on his behalf and introduced Professor Emeritus Min's achievements.





INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF THE ICPF - SINCE 2000

Cleft 2000

1st World Congress of the
International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation
Zurich, Switzerland, July 1-5, 2000
Organiser: Prof. Dr. Hermann F. Sailer



Cleft 2002

2nd World Congress of the
International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation
Munich, Germany, September 15-19, 2002
Organiser: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Henning
Horch



3rd Biennial World Congress of International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 2004
Organiser: Prof. Dr. David S. Precious



Cleft 2005

1st International Live Surgical Workshop
of the ICPF
Chennai (Madras), India
December 3-6, 2005
Organiser: Prof. S.M. Balaji

Cleft 2006

4th International Biennial Conference of the
International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation
Eastbourne, U.K., June 25-27, 2006
Organiser: Prof. Dr. Peter Ward Booth



Cleft 2007

2nd International Live Surgical Workshop of the ICPF
Beijing, China, November 25-29, 2007
Organiser: Prof. Lian Ma



Cleft 2008

5th Congress of the International Cleft Lip
and Palate Foundation
Dallas, Texas, USA, September 22-26, 2008
Organiser: Prof. Kenneth E. Salyer



Cleft 2010

6th Congress of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation
Seoul, Korea, June 9-12, 2010
Organiser: Prof. Jong-Ryoul Kim



Cleft 2011

3rd Workshop of the ICPF
San Francisco, USA, June 9 - 12, 2011
Organiser: Prof. Marie M. Tolarová

Cleft 2012

7th Biennial World Cleft Lip and Palate Congress
Mahe, Seychelles, Africa, May 7-11, 2012
Organiser: Prof. S.M. Balaji



Cleft 2013

8th World Cleft Lip and
Palate Congress, ICPF
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam
November 25-28, 2013
Organiser: Prof. Dr. Nguyen Duc Hinh



Cleft 2014

4th Workshop of the ICPF
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
September 9-12, 2014
Organiser: Prof. Ariuntuul Garidkhuu



Cleft 2015

9th World Cleft Congress of ICPF,
Moscow, Russia
August 31 - September 04, 2015
Organiser: Prof. Adil Mamedov



Cleft 2016

10th World Cleft Lip, Palate and
Craniofacial Congress of ICPF,
Chennai, India
October 24 - 28, 2016
Organiser: Prof. S.M. Balaji



Cleft 2017

11th World Cleft Lip & Palate
Congress of ICPF,
Wuhan, China
November 10 - 13, 2017
Organiser: Prof. Lian Ma



Cleft 2018

12th World Cleft Congress of ICPF,
Kongresshalle Leipzig, Germany
April 19 - 21, 2018
Organiser: Prof. Alexander Hemprich



Cleft 2019

13th World Cleft Congress of ICPF,
Aichi Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan
July 26 - 29, 2019
Organiser: Prof. Nagato Natsume



Cleft 2022

The 14th World Congress of ICPF
Osaka, Japan
April 20 - 22, 2022
Organiser: Prof. Dr. Koichi Ueda



Cleft 2023

The 15th World Congress of ICPF
Seoul, Korea - June 16 - 18, 2023
Organiser: Prof. Seung-Hak Baek



Cleft 2024

The 16th World Congress of ICPF
Tokyo, Japan
July 17 - 19, 2024
Organiser: Dr. Kazuto Hoshi

ICPF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Marie M. Tolarova (USA)

Chair / Secretary & Treasurer

Nagato Natsume (Japan)

Vice-President

S.M. Balaji (India)
(Social media coordinator and
Editor to NewsLetter)

Lian Ma (China)

(Surgical specialties)

Akira Yamada (USA)

(Plastic Surgeon)

Pavel Calda (Czech Republic)

(Fetal Medicine and OBGYN)

Lateefa Al-Kharafi (Kuwait)

(Craniofacial Orthodontist)

Members:

S.M. Balaji (India)

A. F. Markus (UK)

Lian Ma (China)

Kazuto Hoshi (Japan)

Jong-Ryool Kim (Korea)

Jean-Charles Doucet (Canada)

Robert Alexander Sader (Germany)

Jin-Young Choi (Korea)

Adil Mamedov (Russia)

Alexander Hemprich (Germany)

Ariuntuul Garidkhuu (Japan)

Guomin Wang (China)

Adi Rachmiel (Israel)

Mario E. Esquillo (Philippines)

Gyorgy K. Sandor (Finland)

Nasser Nadjmi (Belgium)

Akira Yamada (USA)

Seung-Hak Baek (Korea)

B.M. Seo (Korea)

Council Members

Peter Schachner (Austria)

Andres Duque (Colombia)

Dayanath Kumara Dias (Sri Lanka)

Krishna Shama Rao (India)

Myra Elliott (Singapore)

Franz-Josef Kramer (Germany)

Srinivas Gosla Reddy (India)

Jalal Vddin Mahmood (Bangladesh)

Chiang, Pao-Chang (Taiwan)

Kyoung-Won Kim (Korea)

Leena Ylikontiola (Finland)

Martin Romero Maroto (Spain)

Claude Georges Herzog (Switzerland)

Parakrama Wijekoon (Sri Lanka)

Vesna Kozelj Oblak (Slovenia)

Anastasia MacLenan (Russia/Scotland)

Roberto Brusati (Italy)

Slim Bouchoucha (USA/Tunisia)

Asano (Japan)

Bee Tin Goh (Singapore)

Young-Wook Park (Korea)

Honorary Members

Eric Arnaud (France)

David J. David (Australia)

Mutaz Habal (USA)

Don LaRossa (USA)

Julian Little (Canada)

Fernando Molina (Mexico)

Louis Morales (USA)

Peter Mossey (UK)

Xiongzheng Mu (China)

Arun Kumar Singh (India)

Brian Clive Sommerlad (UK)

Elizabeth E. Sperry (USA)

Jean-Claude Talmant (France)

Chona Thomas (Oman)

Karin Vargervik (USA)

Roberto Brusati (Italy)

Advisor

Herman F. Sailer (Germany)

Byong Il Min (South Korea)

Emeritus Board Member

Hans Henning Horch (Germany)

Pill-Hoon Choung (Korea)

Myung-Jin Kim (Korea)

Ida A. Astuti (Indonesia)

Former Executive Members

Daniel Lew (USA)

Diego F. Wyszynski (USA)

William Magee (USA)

Peter Ward Booth (UK)

Hajime Sunakawa (Japan)

Yoshihide Mori (Japan)

Late Professors/ Members or Recipient of Humanitarian Award

Prof. Emeritus Hideo Tashiro (Japan) (2008 Humanitarian Award)(deceased on Jan. 7, 2023)

Prof. Emeritus Gen-iku Kohama (Japan)(2013 Humanitarian Award)(deceased on Jul. 24, 2022)

Prof. Kenneth E. Salyer (USA) (deceased on Dec. 28, 2020)

Prof. Samuel M. Noordhoff (Taiwan) (2008 Humanitarian Award recipient): (deceased on Dec. 3, 2018)

Prof. KoKoMaung (Myanmar) (2016 Humanitarian Award) (deceased in Jul. 2018)

Prof. M. Michael Cohen (Canada) (deceased on February 11, 2018)

Prof. Hans-Dieter Pape (Germany) (2008 Humanitarian Award) (deceased on Sept. 13, 2017)

Prof. David S. Precious (Canada) (deceased on February 3, 2015)

Prof. Emeritus Tsuyoshi Kawai (Japan) (deceased in June 2014)

Prof. Emeritus Tet Soeparwadi (Indonesia) (deceased in November 2013)

Prof. S. M. Balaji,

Editor, ICPF Newsletter,

Balaji Dental and Craniofacial Hospital,

63/30, K.B. Dasan Road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018, India

Phone : +91-44-42947222, E-mail : smbalaji@gmail.com, Web: smbalaji.com

JOIN OUR FOUNDATION!

NO MEMBERSHIP FEE IS REQUIRED

Please visit: <https://icpfweb.com/join-us/>