**HOPE Asia 2019, Kolkata India – Highlights of Past EHA**

**August 23 – 25, 2019, Kolkata, India**

The HOPE Asia 2019, highlights of past European Hematology Association, got underway for the very first time in Asia in the city of Kolkata, mainly concentrating on recent advancements in both benign and malignant haematology including stem cell transplantation, immune-oncology and cell therapy. It was a great opportunity to meet and interact with fellow trainees, researchers and hematologists not only from India and Asia but experts from Europe.

On the first day of the meeting, the event kicked off with a well organized registration and a haematolgy quiz and the topics covered on the first day were very much inclined to clinical problems faced on a daily affair. Various topics were discussed and after each topic,

there were cases presented by fellow haematologist from India and these cases were discussed by a group of distinct panelists from all over the world sharing their experiences and knowledge. Interesting topics that were discussed on day one were challenges and management of IRIDA (Iron Refractory IDA) in adults, opportunities and challenges of personalized approaches in High Risk ALL, NGS technologies in AML, recent advancements of refractory Immune Thrombocytopenia and many more. The meeting on day one ended with a well organized and colorful cultural program highlighting the Eastern Indian Culture.

On the second day of the event, various other topics were covered including treatment goals and emerging therapy in Hemophilia, correlation between disease biology and clinical phenotype in MPN and in the session of Hemoglobinopathy, the various countries from Asia, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippines and Pakistan presented their local data and current state of Thalassemia in their respective countries. The meeting also ended with a very beautiful Indian dance program which I truly enjoyed.

On the last day of the meeting, the highlight was the debate that was held between Professor Andrew Davies (Southampton, UK) and Professor Igor Aurer (Crotia) regarding “ Is R-CHOP 21 Standard Front Line Therapy for High Risk DLBCL”, both Professors had presented various and extensive data to support each others stand. The event ended by representatives from EHA and the Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion giving valedictory speeches and prize giving ceremony.

Just before leaving the City of Joy, Kolkata, I had a great opportunity to visit Tata Medical Center, where we were brought to see their well organized and most advanced centre in Eastern part of India. I also had the opportunity to visit a few tourist spots before flying back to Malaysia.

In conclusion, I definitely found the meeting to be very educative and truly enjoyed the great amount of knowledge and clinical experiences shared by experts from all over the world. I would like to express my gratitude to MSH for sponsoring me to this symposium.

Report prepared by,

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