

Inaugural Scientific Meeting on Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine

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Faculty of Medicine

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OPENING ADDRESS BY THE DEAN, FACULTY OF MEDICINE:

Y.Bhg Prof Dato' Mohd Amin Jalaludin.

It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning to deliver this address for the Inaugural Scientific Meeting on Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine. I am delighted that University Malaya Medical Centre has been chosen as the venue for this inaugural scientific meeting.

It is heartening to observe that there is good participation from various countries around this region, namely Australia, Singapore, India and the Philippines, and also from various agencies and universities within Malaysia, namely the private sector, Malaysian Army Medical Core, National University of Malaysia (UKM), University Science Malaysia (USM) and University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

I see from the programme that there are some prominent speakers who are experts in the field of Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine. It will be an interesting meeting as they will be able to share their experiences with you here today.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is something new here in Malaysia as there are only a few centers that offer these services. We have heard that hyperbaric oxygen therapy may bring us youthfulness, well that might be true but there are still not enough evidence to back it up.

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But today you all will be discussing the Evidence-Based basis of the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for various other medical conditions; like problem wounds, multiple sclerosis, carbon monoxide poisoning and acute sensory neural hearing loss. I, being an otolaryngologist am certainly interested to look at other modalities of treatment for my patients with acute sensory neural hearing loss.

Beside that I see that there is also a topic on Diving Medicine in Malaysia. From what I understand, in Malaysia there is still no regulation to government recreational and commercial diving, although we have heard and know of many fatalities. I hope that during the discussion these problems will be addressed.

I also understand that, the meeting for the formation of the Asia Hyperbaric & Diving Medicine Association (ADHMA) has just been completed last night, right here in the University. I hope that the association will represent the Evidence Based Baro-medicine practice in Asia and able to provide an avenue to promote and improve the use of hyperbaric therapy and also the safety and health of the diving communities, both the recreational and commercial divers.

I wish you all, all the success in the Meeting and the Association.

Lastly, I would like to wish all our visitors to Malaysia a happy stay and hope that you will enjoy the country and the people.

Now, I hereby officially open this Inaugural Scientific Meeting, thank you.