

2/16/76



# ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

PATRON: PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE. DR. S. H. SHEARES  
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## III CONGRESS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC AREA LEAGUE AGAINST RHEUMATISM

20th February 1976

Acc. No.	NARC	
76	0024	1258 <del>1370</del>

Mr Baskaran  
Press Section  
Ministry of Culture  
Ground Floor  
City Hall  
Singapore 6

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find 10 copies of an account of III SEAPAL Congress.

Press Release has been given to Miss Nancy Byramji of Sunday Times and Mr Gerald Faucher of Rheumatology News International. We have been informed that Reuter has hired a room in the Congress venue, for the coverage of the Congress.

*S. Chandra*  
*1/15/76*

*Chia. N. N. N.*  
Radio Television Singapura, Straits Times, Berita Harian, Tamil Murasu and Nanyang Siang Pau will be invited to a Press Conference at 1 p.m. on Sunday 22nd at the Alumni Medical Centre, College Road. We are given to understand that you are unable to attend this meeting.

We will be grateful if you could extend your good offices to invite the above press for the above meeting.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Lim Swee Keng  
Hon Secretary  
Organising Committee  
III SEAPAL Congress

Encl. Please see list of overseas representatives who will be present at this press conference in addition to the organising committee.

*Lim Swee*

### III SEAPAL CONGRESS

The South East Asia and Pacific Area League Against Rheumatism (SEAPAL), was formed in 1963 in Sydney, Australia. Member countries include Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Philippines, Ceylon, Thailand, South Korea, Pakistan and Indonesia. The first Congress of SEAPAL was held in Bombay, February 1968. The Second Congress was held in Auckland, New Zealand, in February 1972.

The III Congress of SEAPAL is now being held in Singapore, in the Regional English Language Centre from 22nd February to 25th February 1976. About 268 oversea delegates have registered; these doctors and paramedical personnel come from 21 countries to discuss about "Rheumatism" "Rheumatoid Disease" and such allied disorders of connective tissue. The most common known disease of this group is Rheumatoid arthritis. In this disease there is chronic inflammation and destruction of joints. This produces debilitating pain and deformities. Such patients often become enormous liabilities to the state and country. Rheumatoid arthritis seemed to be more prevalent in temperate belt with the pine forest. In these unfortunate areas, these problems are so immense that National Associations of Rheumatism are formed to join in the fight against Rheumatism. We in Singapore are fortunate in not having to face this immense problem, but certainly will benefit tremendously from experts speaking in this field.

The Scientific programme will have physicians discussing about the medical treatment including drugs; Surgeons will deal with surgery in Rheumatoid disease; the biochemist, histopathologist, immunologist and other paramedical specialists will share their expertise and knowledge with the doctors to fight against rheumatism.

The Opening Ceremony will be at Singapore Hilton, on Sunday, 22nd February. Dr Ho Guan Lim, Permanent Secretary (Health), Director of Medical Services will declare the Congress open. Congress venue will be at the RELC. Simultaneous Sessions will be conducted. Two internationally famous Rheumatologists, Prof George Ehrlich and Dr Barbara M Ansell have been invited to deliver guest lectures. Other eminent doctors will be taking part in the Plenary Session on Monday. During the lunch breaks, drug symposias will be held. An additional drug symposia will be scheduled on Monday, 23rd evening. This will then be followed shortly by a Cultural Show at RELC. The Congress ends with the Official Banquet on Wednesday 25th evening. The occasion will be graced by the presence of President and Mrs B H Sheares.

After the Congress will be a one day meeting on "World Overviews on Rheumatology". This is a World Health Organisation meeting on Rheumatology; it is an extremely important meeting because 1977 has been designated "World Rheumatism Year". In this meeting experts discuss each aspect of Rheumatology in groups in the morning; in the afternoon they will meet altogether to collate all that has been discussed.

" A press conference will be held at RELC tomorrow Sunday at 1pm.

- UPI  
- AFP  
- Reuters

7/11/6

REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER RHEUMATIC SOCIETY/ASSOCIATION

- 1) Dr R G Robinson - Australia - President-Elect ILAR  
(Past President of SEAPAL)
- 2) Dr Selwyn Nelson - Australia - Chairman - Australian Arthritis  
and Rheumatism Foundation  
(Past President of SEAPAL)
- 3) Prof Vaclav Rejcholec - President of Czechoslovak League against  
Rheumatism. Secretary of EULAR
- 4) Dr I Machtey - Israel - Head of Dept of Medicine  
& Rheumatology Clinic
- 5) Dr Gregoris Mintz - Mexico - Prof & Chairman of Dept of  
Rheumatology.
- 6) Dr Barbara M Ansell - U.K. - Consultant Physician  
MRC Rheumatism Unit  
Canadian Red Cross Memorial  
Hospital. Taplow, Maidenhead  
Berks.
- 7) Prof George E Ehrlich - U.S.A. - Albert Einstein Medical Centre  
Section of Rheumatology,  
Philadelphia
- 8) Dr Tito P Torralba - - Philippines Rheumatism Associa-  
tion
- 9) Prof Serge Orloff - Sweden - Secretary-General for ILAR
- 10) Prof Yuichi Shiokawa - Japan - Vice-President of SEAPAL
- 11) Prof E Morscher - Basel - Switzerland