

## APFCB- Becton Dickinson Distinguished Service Award 2010



APFCB- Becton Dickinson Distinguished Service Award 2010 has been presented under the generous sponsorship of Becton Dickinson & Company, after which it is jointly named. It is the only honor within the gift of the APFCB, and is conferred once every 3 years if there is a suitable recipient.

The APFCB is a voluntary organisation. Its officers are senior academics or professionals with demanding responsibilities in their full-

time paid appointments. The idea for a Distinguished Service Award was proposed in 2002 to recognize and honour colleagues who have made substantial and outstanding contributions to our Federation for the advancement of clinical biochemistry within our Asian and Pacific region and beyond.

For 2010 award, a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Chris Lam and Professor Howard Morris, Dr Tan It Koon were members of the committee. Nominations were invited from the APFCB Council and the winner elected in October last year was Joseph Lopez of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Joseph Lopez has been a clinical biochemist since 1973 when he joined the Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur as a biochemist shortly after graduating from the University of Malaya. This was a time when quality control was being established in Malaysian laboratories and Joseph initiated a national QA program for government hospital laboratories in the country. In his 32 years at the IMR Joseph Lopez was actively and continuously involved in the tripartite responsibilities of a well-rounded clinical biochemist: diagnostic services, teaching and research.

From the IMR Joseph Lopez continued to seek additional outlets of his prodigious energy and enthusiasm for his profession. Together with some like-minded colleagues he brought about the birth the Malaysian

Association of Clinical Biochemists on 18 August 1990, exactly one day after the birth of his own daughter.

As an officer of the MACB he played a key role in organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> APCCB that was held in Kuala Lumpur. This did not escape the notice of the APFCB and he was elected its Secretary in October 1998, to be followed consecutively by his election to APFCB President for two terms since 2004.

Over the last 12 years as APFCB Secretary and President, Joe's energy, talents, motivation, sense of opportunity, and hands-on leadership have made substantial and outstanding contributions, in multiple directions, to the advancement of clinical biochemistry within our Asian and Pacific region and beyond.

He played a key role starting the APFCB Traveling Lectureship and other educational activities between the triennial Asian and Pacific Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry. During his tenure the APFCB's full membership has risen from 12 to 16. In 2002, he proposed the idea for corporate membership. Today the APFCB has 14 corporate members. The expansion of activities created the need for more committees. Joe proposed the formation of the APFCB's Laboratory Management and the Communications Committees. Where activities had been initiated by others, he was always ready with encouragement and practical support, to ensure that these projects were carried through

to their successful conclusion, such as publications in high-impact journals of clinical biochemistry.

From 2002 to 2009 he edited the APFCB News, which under his editorial leadership was significantly changed by way of expanded coverage and circulation. He initiated the formation of the Philanthropic Fund for APFCB's scholarships program, and authored or co-authored the guidelines for several APFCB committees and activities. Earlier this year, he led discussions for the development of a Strategic Plan that will serve as a roadmap for the APFCB for the next several years.

Joseph Lopez has also worked effectively in expanding the influence of APFCB beyond the region. He was instrumental in convincing the AACC to hold its automation meetings in conjunction with the APFCB. In addition, he was one of the key persons in bringing to the region workshops jointly organised with the IFCC.

In 2005 Joseph was elected as a member of the IFCC Executive Board. In this role, he further catalyzed a closer relationship between the APFCB and IFCC. A recent achievement of which he is especially proud has been signing of an updated APFCB-IFCC Agreement this year, a task that required him to painstakingly obtain the consensus agreement of all members of the APFCB. The APFCB has been the first federation to initiate such an agreement with the IFCC. These activities

have enhanced the respect that the APFCB has earned in the world community of clinical biochemists.

Joseph Lopez has been closely involved in all APFCB achievements since he became a member of the Executive Board. Joe's distinguished services have taken our Federation to much greater heights, befitting that of the largest and fastest growing geographical region serving the largest patient population of the world. The APFCB is a voluntary organization. Joe's dedication to the APFCB and the tremendous personal efforts and contributions that he has made are a reflection of the finest spirit of volunteerism and altruism.

The APFCB-Becton Dickinson Distinguished Service Award was presented to Joseph Bercmans Lopez during opening ceremony of 12<sup>th</sup> APCCB on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010.