

Report on the 6th Asian-Oceanian Congress of Neuropathology (AOCN), Chongqing, China

The 6th Asian-Oceanian Congress of Neuropathology (AOCN) was held on November 13–14, 2025, in Chongqing, China. The congress was jointly organized with the 23rd China National Conference of Neuropathology and was held under the inspiring theme, “Crossing the Ocean, Connecting Wisdom: Drawing a New Blueprint for Neuropathology.”

Chongqing is one of the largest cities in southwestern China, with a population of approximately 30 million. Located inland at the confluence of two major rivers, the city is well known for its mountainous geography and its characteristic mist-covered skyline. The congress venue, Lebanshan Hotel Chongqing, was conveniently located about 45 minutes by car from Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport.

The meeting was organized under the guidance of the Asian Oceanian Society of Neuropathology (AOSNP) and hosted by Jinfeng Laboratory, in cooperation with several leading local institutions. Despite being held in a hybrid format, the congress attracted strong participation, with 311 attendees (261 domestic, 18 overseas, and 32 online) from 16 countries and regions.

Professor Xiuwu Bian, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chair of the congress, opened the meeting with an online welcome address.

Scientific Program – Day 1

The first day began with an impressive keynote lecture session. Herbert Budka, Gabor G. Kovacs, and Markus Glatzel presented cutting-edge updates on neurodegenerative diseases, offering valuable insights into current concepts and emerging challenges.

Pieter Wesseling provided a comprehensive overview of the most recent updates to the WHO classification of CNS tumors, which was of particular interest to both clinicians and pathologists. In addition, Ichizo Nishino shared updated research findings on myositis, highlighting recent advances in neuromuscular pathology.

The AOSNP Presidential Oration was delivered by Chitra Sarkar, who reflected on the society's progress and future directions. She also introduced the flagship initiative of AOSNP viz. ADAPTR and presented the results of the survey study on resource availability for CNS tumor diagnostics in the Asian Oceanian region. This was followed by a lecture from Catriona McLean, President-elect of AOSNP, who discussed non-inflammatory muscle diseases.

Infectious neuropathology was another major focus, with engaging presentations on zoonotic infections, filamentous fungal infections, and rabies by Kum Thong Wong, Bishan Radotra, and Anita Mahadevan, respectively.

The Executive Body meeting of AOSNP was also held on the first day and was chaired by Chitra Sarkar, President of AOSNP. She gave a brief summary of the activities of the society from 2021-25. She also thanked all the members for their support and contributions to the progress of the society. Finally, she welcomed the new leadership of the society to take over from 2025-29. The incoming President Catriona McLean emphasized her commitment to advancing Neuropathology in this region.

Scientific Program – Day 2

The second day opened with sessions on cerebrovascular diseases. Chen-Hui Mao presented on cerebral amyloid angiopathy, while Hajime Miyata discussed segmental arterial mediolysis, providing perspectives from different regions. This was followed by an informative lecture on epilepsy-associated brain tumors by Yue-Shan Piao.

At midday, the AOSNP General Body Meeting was held and chaired by Chitra Sarkar, President of AOSNP. A key highlight of this meeting was the formal handover of society leadership from India to Australia, marking an important transition for the organization.

Neuro-Oncology and the ADAPTR Initiative

The afternoon sessions were devoted primarily to neuro-oncology. The first half focused on the AOSNP-ADAPTR initiative, which aims to adapt diagnostic approaches for practical use in resource-limited settings.

Lectures were delivered by Vani Santosh, Takashi Komori, Jae Kyung Won, Maysa Al-Hussaini, and Michael Buckland, covering adult diffuse gliomas, pediatric low-grade gliomas, pediatric high-grade gliomas, medulloblastoma, and ependymomas, respectively. These talks provided structured, practical guidance that was highly relevant to daily diagnostic practice across diverse healthcare environments.

The second half of the session highlighted region-specific perspectives on neuro-oncology, addressing the realities and challenges faced in different parts of Asia and

Oceania. Speakers included Ho-Keung Ng, Shanop Shuangshoti, Geeta Chacko, Fouzia Ziad, and Eka Susanto, each sharing valuable experiences and local insights.

Summary

In summary, the 6th AOCN successfully showcased the remarkable diversity of neuropathological research and clinical practice across both neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases of the nervous system. The meeting brought together neuropathologists from across the Asian-Oceanian region, many of whom were able to meet face-to-face for the first time in several years.

Beyond the program's high scientific quality, the congress strongly promoted personal interaction and collegial exchange, making it a truly memorable and successful meeting for the AOSNP community.



