

ISPE Singapore Conference & Exhibition 2021 Thoughts

After 3 days and almost 100 exciting speakers, the **ISPE Singapore Conference & Exhibition 2021** is a wrap! It was a privilege this year to serve as the conference chairman. This year's theme "From Factory to Frontline" served to celebrate teams across the globe, that have continued to manufacture safe and effective medicines.

Much like the rest of the industry, ISPE Singapore had to learn how to stay agile and pivot at a moment's notice. While our original intent was to hold a hybrid conference with in-person elements, the local pandemic conditions had a different opinion. The ISPE Singapore conference team (and our speakers & delegates!) were resilient as we shifted to an online only platform, to continue our annual tradition of bringing the best knowledge and networking opportunities.

I had the pleasure to start the conference by introducing Dr. Timothy J.N. Watson, Executive Director & Team Leader, CMC Advisory Office, Pfizer to deliver his Keynote presentation on **Global Regulatory Harmonization**. As ISPE Singapore is a melting pot of international organizations, his keynote was of particular relevance to the audience. His presentation showed the ways that the world is collaborating together to improve speed-to-market and performance of pharmaceutical products.

Tim followed his talk by moderating a panel discussion on **Global Regulatory Harmonization**. This panel included:

- Dr. Sarah Pope Miksinski, Senior Director, Regulatory CMC, Global Regulatory Excellence, AstraZeneca, United States
- Dr. Nitin Bagul, Director – Prescription Medicines Authorisation Branch, Australian Department of Health
- Ashley Boam, Director, Office of Policy for Pharmaceutical Quality, OPQ, FDA/CDER/OPQ/OPPQ, United States

Having a diverse group of international speakers gave the audience an illuminative range of perspectives. The resounding message of the group is that while there may exist some minor differences in perspectives, there must be a one-team approach when it comes to promoting patient outcomes.

Following this discussion, I introduced our recently elected ISPE board member, Dr. Georg Singewald, Vice President, Head of Quality Control, Genentech. In tune with the conference theme of

'From Factory to Frontline', Georg hosted a panel discussion on **Global Collaboration & Quality: Post-COVID-19 Learnings**. We learned that attention to product quality can never be compromised, including sharing of lessons on what manufacturers have had to overcome.

On Day 2, I introduced our Keynote speaker Dr. Jerome Kim, Director General, International Vaccine Institute (IVI). As we battle the pandemic, his thoughts were apropos to our situation. In a particularly engaging Q&A session, the ISPE Singapore Conference delegates were able to gain valuable insights on how vaccines are progressing in technology and distribution.

Following his Keynote, was a session chaired by myself on **Pharma Experts Think-Tank: Beyond COVID-19: Applying Lessons Learnt Post Pandemic.** Our panel consisted of:

- Ee Lynn Kok, Director, Enterprise Regulatory Compliance Independent Audit, Johnson & Johnson, Singapore
- Murali Nair, Director of Manufacturing, Cerecin, Singapore
- Dr. Dinesh Khokal, Director, External Affairs, Corporate Quality, JAPAC & Intercontinental, Amgen, Singapore
- Ellen Sem, Associate Director, Regulatory Policy Lead APAC, Janssen, a division of Johnson & Johnson, Singapore
- Dr. Niki Wong, Director, Global Technical Operations, CMC, AbbVie, Singapore

We had an incredible roundtable session with our guests taking questions online from delegates in real-time. Topics included remote inspections (including online collaboration with industry & regulators), managing supply chains, and defining what the new "normal" will consist of. I have just given a small sampling of sessions I was a part of, but I would encourage anyone to visit www.ispesingapore.org to learn more!

Although this year's conference and exhibition has concluded, the conversation continues. We have many more events through the rest of the year and am looking forward to connecting with everyone then!

Geoffrey Brown
Conference Chair, **ISPE Singapore Affiliate**