

# CeraNews

## Present Future

An interview with Jun-Dong Chang ,  
the president of the  
12<sup>th</sup> BIOLOX<sup>®</sup> Symposium

### Why did you support the holding of the symposium in Seoul?

Nearly half of the world's population lives in Asia. With its increasing economic power and changing patterns of life, arthroplasty is growing at a phenomenal rate in Asia. Sitting with crossed legs and squatting is more common than in the West, which makes impingement and wear even more significant problems in Asia. When I attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Biolox symposium in Rome last year, I was very impressed by its specific contents addressing these problems and by its high quality. I proposed having this meeting in Seoul and to my pleasure, CeramTec's CEO Dr. Zimmermann accepted.

### What will be the impact of the symposium in your region?

The questions regarding bearing surfaces are among the most important in arthroplasty. Asian researchers are very keen to adopt the latest innovations in terms of technology and quality. I think that the Biolox symposium will stimulate the academic enthusiasm of Asian researchers, and it will help provide scientific confirmation on the use of ceramics.

### What was new at this symposium?

With 10 sessions and plenary lectures and with a total of 52 presentations, there were too many new things to list here. Total knee arthroplasty with ceramic components was certainly something new to most Asian surgeons. As far as the hip is concerned, even though larger diameter heads is a widely discussed topic, we learnt quite a few new things about their mechanical and clinical performance.



**Jun-Dong Chang, M.D., Ph.D., is Past President of the Korean Hip Society, Past President of the Korean Musculoskeletal Transplantation Society, Professor and Chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Hangang Sacred Heart Hospital, Hallym University College of Medicine in Seoul.**

This was very important especially looking at Asian patients who require a great range of motion (ROM) of the hip joint.

### Which were the most important take-home messages for the participants?

There is no single perfect bearing surface yet. Among the three available bearing surfaces, ceramic-on-ceramic bearing has the lowest biological activity, but there have been concerns about breakage. The recently developed Biolox delta, with its higher stability, makes larger diameter bearings possible, thus lowering the risk of impingement. It seems that the use of this material will dramatically reduce the incidence of ceramic fracture. Moreover, it will be a good choice for the Asians for whom ROM is very important.

### How is arthroplasty developing in South Korea?

The latest available data are from 2005, when a total of 34,966 total knee arthroplasties were performed. From 2001 to 2005 this number grew by 226%. With a rapidly aging population and increasing economic power, we shall certainly see a steady and steep rise in the demand for total knee arthroplasty in the future. The most common cause for total hip arthroplasty in Korea today is osteonecrosis of the femoral head (ONFH), but its incidence doesn't seem to be increasing, due to a change of life patterns. At the same time, with prolonged life expectancy, the incidence of hip fractures related to osteoporosis is rising dramatically. Consequently, arthroplasty is expected to expand fast.

BIOLOX<sup>®</sup> Symposium Seoul

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Better material

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World of Ceramics

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## Focus on tribology

Prof. Yong-Sik Kim on the APOA 2007 Congress

### What should we know about the APOA?

The APOA has 19 member countries (Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey and Sri Lanka). The congress is held every three years, and orthopaedic surgeons from young surgeons to experienced veterans meet to share their experiences for improving orthopaedic practices. The APOA also welcomes young ambassadors from each country and traveling fellows. We have sections for the different specialty fields.

### What do you think about the fact that the CeramTec Symposium was held on the eve of your congress and in the same city?

A symposium with a long history like that of the CeramTec Symposium being held on the eve of our congress was a good opportunity for APOA participants to get to know the art and science of ceramic articulation in depth.

### What was the focus of this year's congress?

The APOA congress has sections for all specialties; however, at the APOA 2007 congress, there were symposiums, special lectures and in-depth discussions especially about articulation in THA. Ceramics was a central focus for the congress. Tribology was the highlight of the hip and knee reconstruction section, which concentrated particularly on the pros and cons of metal-on-metal and ceramic-on-ceramic.

### What are the main tribology trends in Asia?

The majority of patients in Asia are young and active since there are more cases of THA resulting from the sequelae of avascular necrosis or dysplastic hip than from primary osteoarthritis. Therefore choosing a joint with minimum wear and the ability to reduce osteolysis is essential; that's why ceramic-on-ceramic and metal-on-metal are far more attractive than polyethylene. For this reason, in Korea more than 60% of people choose ceramic-on-ceramic in THA.

### How do you see your organization's prospects?

Our member countries are currently experiencing rapid scientific and clinical im-

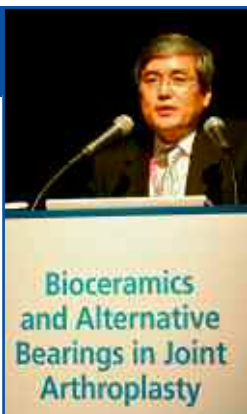


Prof. Yong-Sik Kim, General Secretary of the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA), is a hip specialist at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Kangnam St. Mary's Hospital of the Catholic University in Korea in Seoul.

provements and swiftly growing economies, which translates into an increased interest in medical care. Most importantly, more than 150 renowned speakers from all over the world and many orthopedic surgeons from developing countries were invited, so the APOA 2007 congress was an outstanding occasion for sharing knowledge and experience.

### Where will the 16<sup>th</sup> congress be held?

The decision has not yet been confirmed; however Taiwan and India are two of the countries suggested for the 16<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress of APOA, which will be held in 2010.



## Interview (continued)

### How is arthroplasty financed in Korea?

The national medical insurance system controls the total expenses related to arthroplasty. In general, patients have to pay about 20% of the arthroplasty surgery itself, and the other expenses are covered by the national medical insurance.

### What are the most important trends in arthroplasty in your country and in the wider region of East Asia?

The main points of interest are alternative bearings, minimal invasive surgery and computer-assisted orthopaedic surgery. Many Korean arthroplasty

surgeons are actively accumulating experience in these fields. At the same time, we see two – possibly divergent – developments in medical technology: mass production, low-price implants and procedures versus advanced technology and expensive, patient-specific procedures. Both trends will allow for dynamic changes in the near future. Regional companies are beginning to develop implants and devices for arthroplasty. We are watching the impact of these trends on the regional arthroplasty market with keen interest.