

Dr. Iqbal Mustafa's memorial lecture: My odyssey with the Bali Symposium

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Introduction

This memorial lecture is to honour the legacy of Dr. Iqbal Mustafa, our founder of the Bali Symposium, and the Critical Care and Shock Journal. Through my 24-year odyssey with both the Symposium and the Journal, I will also give a glimpse into their history, including the Western Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine (WPACCM).

Dr. Iqbal Mustafa (1950–2004) was a pioneering intensivist affiliated with the Intensive Care Unit at Harapan Kita National Cardiac Center in Jakarta, Indonesia. He was the Councilor, Treasurer, and President of the WPACCM. (1,2)

Iqbal - the name we usually addressed him by because he felt like a brother to us - initiated and spearheaded the annual Indonesian-International Symposium on Shock & Critical Care in 1994. His leadership attracted global experts and facilitated robust scientific discussions, bridging the gap between industrialized and developing countries in critical care.

The Bali Symposium on critical care and emergency medicine

I was first invited by Iqbal to the annual Symposium in 2002, which was held in the Bali International

Convention Centre in Sheraton Nusa Indah Hotel from Aug 22 to 25 (**Figure 1**). (3)

After his sudden demise on 18 July 2004, Dr. Tri Wahyu Murni and Prof. Joseph Varon took over as Chairperson of the Organizing Committee and Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, respectively (**Figure 2**). (4) The Symposium is usually held on the mystical island of Bali, though in the initial years, it was held in Jakarta, where the Symposium was inaugurated.

The venue of the Symposium was shifted from Nusa Dua to Kuta in 2005 to give the faculty and participants easy accessibility to explore the “Island of gods,” with its unique Balinese culture steeped in long history and tradition. (4,5)

To include the specialty of emergency medicine, the Symposium was renamed the International Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine in 2008. (6)

Between 2000 and 2011, there were 12 bomb attacks in Indonesia, with 5 in Jakarta and 2 in Bali. (7) Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the first pandemic of the 21st century, happened in 2003. (8,9)

In spite of the terrorist attacks in Indonesia and the SARS outbreak, I have never missed a single Symposium except for the international border closure from 2020 to 2022 because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Asia Pacific (formerly Western Pacific) Association of Critical Care Medicine and Critical Care and Shock Journal

Dr. Iqbal Mustafa was also the President of WPACCM from 2000 to 2004 (**Figure 3**). He was

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succeeded by Prof. Patrick Tan from 2004 to 2008. (10)

During the WPACCM Council Meeting on 14 Aug 2004 during the Bali Symposium, the Council unanimously adopted the name “Asia Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine (APACCM)” to replace “WPACCM.” (10) This was to include countries from the Asia Pacific region such as India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

In 2016, the International Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine was renamed Asia Pacific Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine because most of the speakers were from Asia Pacific countries. (11,12)

Four years after his inaugural Symposium, Dr. Iqbal Mustafa founded the Critical Care and Shock Journal in 1998 (**Figure 4**). (13) Following his death, Prof. Joseph Varon took over as Editor-in-Chief. (10) Dr. Simon Nanlohy has remained as Managing Editor since Iqbal’s time.

Conclusions

It was with extreme sadness that I had to bid farewell to a close comrade who was at his prime of life. (14) I will never forget our founder, Iqbal, who gave me the opportunity to share my experience with so many global and regional experts in this Symposium. Regardless of pandemics or terrorist attacks, “I shall return” on my annual pilgrimage to the Bali Symposium.

Iqbal left behind an enduring legacy through the following:

1. Education: The Asia Pacific Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine in Bali remains a respected international meeting, continuing the tradition he began in 1994.
2. Publication: The Critical Care and Shock Journal continues to publish peer-reviewed research in intensive care since 1998, serving as a hub for critical care education.
3. Scientific leadership: Through the Symposium and the Journal, he created opportunities for Indonesian and regional clinicians to learn from international experts.
4. Global reach: His initiatives impacted over 2 billion people in the Western Pacific region through improved critical care practice. (1) His vision placed Indonesia on the map of global critical care medicine.

I will always remember Iqbal with fond memories and nostalgia. (14) I will also cherish all the “friends of Iqbal,” who continue to keep his spirit alive 22 years after his sudden demise (**Figure 5**). As “friends of Iqbal,” we want to continue his legacy to nurture critical care in Indonesia and the region. (14)

Acknowledgment

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Figure 1. Abstract book of the 12th WPACCM Congress and certificate of attendance signed by Dr. Iqbal Mustafa



Legend: WPACCM=Western Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine.

Figure 2. Dr. Tri Wahyu Murni and Prof. Joseph Varon continue to spearhead the annual Bali Symposium



Figure 3. WPACCM Council Meeting on 24 Aug 2002 during the Bali Symposium



Legend: WPACCM=Western Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Iqbal Mustafa and Prof. Patrick Tan were seated in the front row, fifth and fourth from the left, respectively.

Figure 4. Inaugural issue of the Critical Care and Shock Journal, June 1998

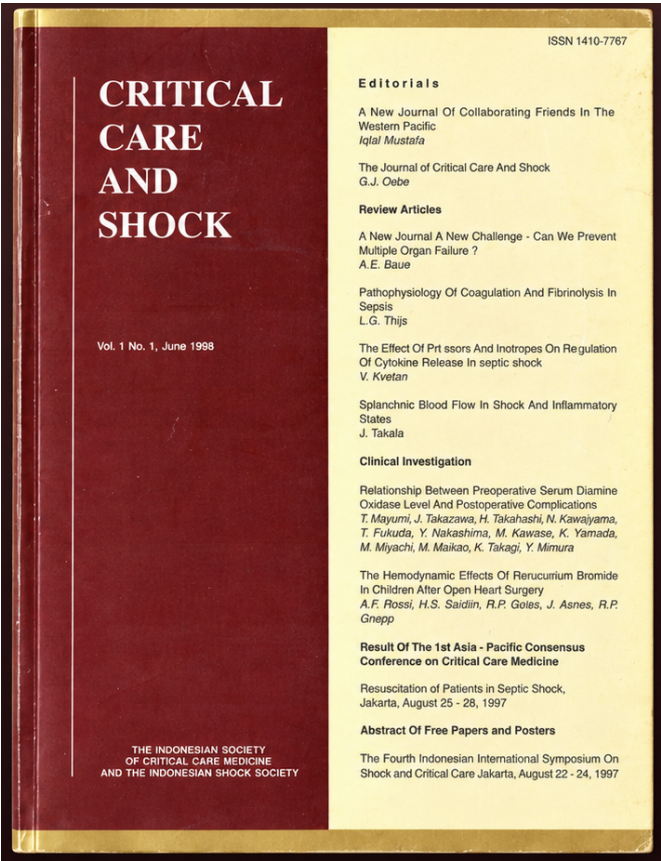


Figure 5. Friends of Iqbal who continue the legacy of Dr. Mustafa to nurture critical care in the region



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