

World Congress of Surgery

13-17 August 2017



Attending Officers:

DR ENG AIK HWEE, Technical Advisor (Latex Products)

MS LOW SZE SHEEN, Executive, Marketing & Development

1.0 Background of the Congress

The 47th World Congress of Surgery was held from 13 to 17 August 2017 in Basel, Switzerland by the International Society of Surgery (ISS). The ISS/SIC World Congress of Surgery (formerly International Surgical Week) is held every two years in collaboration with its integrated societies, participating societies and national societies of the host country. The congress offers specific lectures by international speakers, hands-on courses for breast surgeons and gastrointestinal (GI) surgeons as well as scientific writing courses to the participants.

Founded in 1902 by the initiative of Belgian surgeons Antoine Depage and his colleagues, the International Society of Surgery - La Société Internationale de Chirurgie (ISS/SIC) is considered today as one of the most distinguished and prestigious international surgical societies in the world. The ISS/SIC, representing 6 collective member societies and surgeons from more than 100 countries, has a goal to work for international teaching in surgery, both specialized and general surgery, in developed and developing countries. The 6 collective member societies are:

- 1) The International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES)
- 2) The International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC)
- 3) The International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition (IASMEN)
- 4) Breast Surgery International (BSI)
- 5) International Society for Digestive Surgery (ISDS)
- 6) Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP)

After the challenges of the 2011 meeting in Yokohama (due to the Fukushima nuclear disaster) and of the 2015 meeting in Bangkok (due to the terror attack), a safe 2017 meeting was expected. Basel was selected by considering the strong and stable economic and political situation in Switzerland. Basel, considered as the cultural capital of Switzerland, is located just a few miles from the border of both France and Germany, and can be easily accessed from any city in the world. The 48th World Congress of Surgery will be held in Krakow, Poland from 11-15 August 2019 whereas the following edition will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2.0 MREPC's Participation

MREPC has once again participated in the World Congress of Surgery (WCS) after the past participation in the 2013 edition held in Helsinki, Finland. MREPC had registered but withdrawn for the 2015 edition which was organized in Bangkok, Thailand due to the terror attack.

The objectives of MREPC's participation in WCS 2017 are as follows:

- 1) To enhance the trade visitors' awareness and perception towards Malaysia as ultimate source of quality rubber medical devices particularly rubber surgical gloves to Switzerland and The European Union (EU).
- 2) To gather market information on the latest trends and development of medical devices and healthcare industry in Switzerland and The European Union (EU).
- 3) To conduct market intelligence on the latest innovative products during the show.
- 4) To promote latest innovation and customized products by Malaysian manufacturers, particularly on the surgical gloves.
- 5) To gather 20 trade leads and arrange for potential business matching.

There were 15 exhibitors, including MREPC, participated in the event occupying a total of 18 booths at the exhibition area in Hall 4.1 of Basel Exhibition Centre. Hall 4.1 which was located at the second floor served as the poster area, exhibition area as well as coffee break area during the event. There were approximately 500 posters put up by the participants, mainly on the findings from various surgical field research projects.

MREPC's 18sqm Umbrella-Concept promotional booth housed one Malaysian glove manufacturer, Wear Safe (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd during the event whereas another Malaysian glove maker, Adventa Health had their own booth. Upgraded shell scheme booth with full wall posters was opted as the MREPC booth concept.

The booth was strategically located as it could be easily seen by anyone who entered the hall via the escalator. In addition, the booth was also facing a concourse where the coffee breaks were held twice a day, i.e. 10.00 - 10.30am and 3.30 - 4.00pm.

The congress was held from 13 to 17 August 2017. However the exhibition was held for only 3 and half days including several hours during the opening ceremony day and ended 1 day earlier on the 16 August 2017. The opening hours were as follows:

Sunday, 13 August 2017 18:30 – 21:00
Monday, 14 August 2017 09:00 – 16:30
Tuesday, 15 August 2017 09:00 – 16:30
Wednesday, 16 August 2017 09:00 – 16:00

Table 1.1 World Congress of Surgery 2017 - Details of Participating Malaysian Manufacturers

No.	Malaysian Exhibitors	Booth Number	Products
1.	MREPC	37 & 38	Rubber Medical Devices
2.	Wear Safe (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd	37 & 38	Medical Gloves
3.	Adventa Health Sdn Bhd	54	Medical Gloves



Diagram 1.1: World Congress of Surgery 2017 – Hall 4.1 Layout



2.1 Exhibits

The capability and a variety of Made in Malaysia surgical and examination gloves, particularly from the range of materials used to produce the gloves as well as different physical properties of each type of the glove were featured throughout the 3.5-day event.



Table 1.2 World Congress of Surgery 2017 - MREPC Exhibits Details

Exhibits	
Surgical Glove Formers	General surgical glove former
	Deformed hand surgical glove former
Surgical Gloves	Latex Surgical Gloves
	Latex Surgical Gloves – Spot
	Polyisoprene Surgical Gloves
	Long Length Latex Surgical Gloves
	Surgical Gloves – Flexylon (Aegis)
	Surgical Gloves – Flexylon (Corium)
Examination Gloves	Latex
	Latex (Cyntek)
	Nitrile
	Nitrile (COATS)
	Nitrile (Low Derma)
Rubber Catheters	2-way Foley Catheter
	Urethral Tamponade Catheter

2.2 MREPC-Umbrella Concept Participant - Wear Safe (Malaysia)

Wear Safe (Malaysia), also known by its acronym WSM, is a subsidiary of Kossan Group of Companies. WSM participated in the event with the purpose looking for potential distributors for their iNtouch series medical gloves for surgical procedures and also their latest new product, the LOW DERMA™ enhanced nitrile examination gloves which are the first in-house proprietary technology of KOSSAN.

WSM claimed that LOW DERMA™ is a technology could be implemented on any nitrile gloves and it had a unique colour similar to that of blueberry which the company named it as 'Berryblue'. At the moment, the LOW DERMA™ enhanced nitrile examination gloves have not been marketed under any specific brand.

Besides, WSM's team also conducted an insightful survey among the visitors who were medical gloves end users to obtain their opinions on glove usage, issues encountered as well as their expectations for future new product development.

Table 1.3 iNtouch Series of Medical Gloves

Type	Features
iNtouch Slide	Damp Donnable, Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Spot	Damp Donnable, Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex, Blue
	Surgical Under-Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Micro	Damp Donnable, Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex, Blue
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile (Microsurgeries)
iNtouch Powder Free	Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Powdered	Powdered
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Lite	Powdered
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile (Economical)
	Powder-Free

iNtouch IsoCare	Polyisoprene (Non-Latex)
	Surgical Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch IsoCare	Powder-Free
	Polyisoprene (Non-Latex), Green
	Surgical Under-Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch RPG	Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Radiation Protection Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Natural	Polymer Coated, Powder-Free
	Natural Rubber Latex
	Examination Gloves, Sterile
iNtouch Synthetic	Powder-Free
	Nitrile
	Examination Gloves, Sterile

In order to increase the visitors' awareness and enhance their knowledge related to glove induced adverse reactions, Wear Safe (Malaysia) prepared an interactive activity for the visitors. Visitors were asked to match the adverse reactions that due to glove use, the conditions that cause the adverse reactions and the ways of diagnosis. Prizes were given to those who could correctly match the combinations within the stipulated time as well as those who had tried but unsuccessful.





2.3 MREPC's Member Individual Participation – Adventa Health

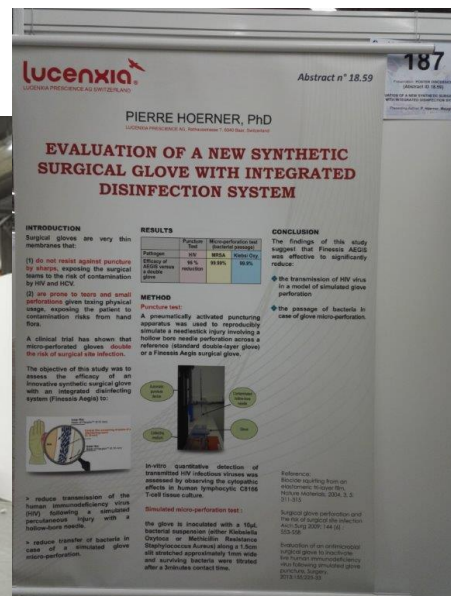
Adventa Health took up a 9sqm intermediate individual booth, booth No 54 at the congress to promote their relatively new surgical gloves under the Finessis brand and produced with the “Flexylon” material, using the so called Molecular Layer Technology. Flexylon is a patented high performance elastomer. The focus of promotion was on the three main products of Finessis series, namely Zero, Corium and Aegis which were soft-launched 2 years ago.

Table 1.4 Finessis Series of Surgical Gloves

Type	Features
Finessis – Zero	White Colour
	Zero Accelerators
	AQL 0.10
	Made from Flexylon
Finessis – Corium	Green Colour
	Zero Accelerators
	AQL 0.10
	Made from Flexylon
	Smooth textured surface, comfortable with with enhanced grip sensitivity

	Exert half the stress compared to latex and synthetic latex gloves
Finessis – Aegis	Light Green – White Bi-Colour
	Zero Accelerators
	AQL 0.10
	Response Triggered Disinfecting System (Encapsulated with disinfecting liquid in the middle layer, which releases in the event of glove puncture)

A paper titled 'Evaluation of a New Synthetic Surgical Glove with Integrated Disinfection System' was also exhibited at the poster area by Dr Pierre Hoerner of Lucenxia Prescience AG Switzerland, a subsidiary of Adventa Health with the objectives to assess the efficacy of an innovative synthetic surgical glove with an integrated disinfecting system (Finessis Aegis) in reducing transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) following a simulated percutaneous injury with a hollow-bore needle and also to reduce transfer of bacteria in case of a simulated glove micro-perforation. It was concluded that the Finessis Aegis glove could effectively reduce the transmission of HIV virus in a model of simulated glove perforation and the passage of bacteria in case of glove micro-perforation.



3.0 Enquiries

A total of 54 enquiries from 30 countries, 6 regions were recorded throughout the 4-day event. Majority of the enquiries, 25 in total which accounted for 46.30% were received from Asia Continent, especially 7 from India and 6 from Bangladesh. There are 12 enquiries received from 10 European countries visitors which made up 22.22% of the total enquires received. The rest of the enquiries including 7 from Middle East (12.96%), 5 from Africa (9.26%), 5 from Central and South America (7.41) and 1 one Australia (1.85%).

52 out of 54 enquiries received were from surgeons specialized in various fields, only 1 was medical consumables distributor whereas the other one was procurement officer for hospital.

More than half of the enquiries, 37 out of 54 (68.52%) were on surgical gloves in particular whereas the rest 17 enquiries (31.48%) were on medical gloves in general.

Table 1.6 Enquiries Breakdown by Countries and Regions

Region	Country	Number	Total	Percentage, %
Central & South America	Argentina	1	4	7.41
	Ecuador	1		
	Mexico	2		
Oceania/Australasia	Australia	1	1	1.85
Asia	Bangladesh	6	25	46.30
	Hong Kong	1		
	India	7		
	Korea	3		
	Malaysia	3		
	Philippines	1		
	Sri Lanka	2		
	Uzbekistan	1		
	Vietnam	1		
	Middle East	Egypt		
Saudia Arabia		2		
Turkey		3		
Yemen		1		
Africa	Ethiopia	2	5	9.26
	Libya	1		
	South Africa	2		
Europe & Russia	Germany	1		

Greece	1		
Italy	1		
Latvia	1		
Lithuania	1		
Russia	2	12	22.22
Serbia	1		
Spain	1		
Switzerland	1		
Ukraine	2		
Total		54	100.00

3.1 Feedback from Enquirers

- Dr C.S. Chamania from India mentioned he was using surgical gloves made in India and facing difficulty in double donning.
- Dr Bonita Mark from Hong Kong revealed that she was using powder free natural rubber latex surgical gloves supplied by Ansell and facing the issue of glove tearing after several hours of use.
- Dr Adnan Hut from Turkey informed that he was suffering from adverse skin reactions allegedly due to natural rubber latex gloves.
- Dr Raul Soria from Ecuador mentioned he used powder free natural latex gloves but suffered from skin reaction issue within 30 mins of usage.
- Dr Stamatakis Georgios from Greece revealed that he was using powder free gloves made in China, no issues encountered so far.
- Dr Byungchul Yu from Korea explained he experienced difficulty to don powder free gloves as compared to powdered gloves even though he was a user for both types of gloves. Durability of the surgical gloves was an issue as the gloves tend to tear easily. He was interested to explore long cuff surgical gloves.
- Dr Anton Telshevskiy from Russia was glad to share that he visited MREPC's booth during Helsinki edition of the congress in 2013 and he personally liked the gloves sample provided. MREPC Officers introduced him to WSM's and Adventa Health's booths to explore wider range of surgical gloves.

3.2 Observations

- 1) Gloves tearing seems to be a common issue among the surgeons, especially after using the gloves for a certain period. Majority of the surgeons do not practice changing surgical gloves until the gloves perforated or torn even though some surgeries may took few hours or longer time to complete. Generally, they were unaware about the recommendation of changing the gloves after 90 to 120 mins of use. There was a surgeon visitor mentioned he looked forward to have new creation of gloves that are unable to perforate in future.
- 2) Skin adverse reactions issue is another general problem for the surgeons that visited MREPC booth. Rashes are noticeable on some of their hands. Some of the surgeons have to bear with the skin reactions issue because they were unaware of the alternative solution of using synthetic rubber gloves.
- 3) According to the visitors, many hospitals in the European countries have switched from using natural rubber latex to synthetic rubber gloves. Using only synthetic rubber medical gloves could be a standard practice in these hospitals.
- 4) There were quite a number of the visitors who were unaware of the fact that Malaysia is the world's No. 1 supplier of medical gloves as well as the availability of different varieties of medical gloves from Malaysia such as colours and materials.
- 5) Majority of the visitors were impressed with the technology and stringent quality of medical gloves produced in Malaysia, particularly the glove with an AQL level as low as 0.1. In addition, Malaysian manufacturers' capability to cater for individual needs including manufacturing of deformed hand surgical gloves has also impressed the visitors.
- 6) Since majority of the visitors were the end users, they were keen to try surgical gloves MREPC was promoting. Unfortunately, not all sizes were available for them to try, especially the smaller sizes.



4.0 Business Matching

MREPC managed to arrange one business matching session for participating Malaysian manufacturer during the 4-day event.

The potential buyer, Mr Vladimir Bässler is currently a distributor for medical consumables in Switzerland but his business did not cover medical gloves. Therefore, he would like to explore the possibilities of extending his business to include medical gloves products. His details are as follows:

Mr Vladimir Bässler
CEO
Anel GmbH
Zähringerstrasse 15,
CH-3012, Bern
Tel: +41 (0) 31 333 2635
Fax: +41 (0) 31 333 2636
Email: vb@anelmed.ch
Website: www.anelmed.ch



5.0 World Congress of Surgery 2021

It was officially announced that the World Congress of Surgery 2021 will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More information is to be obtained from the organizer and explore possibilities for areas of collaboration during that particular edition.

6.0 Conclusion

The exhibition gathered a good number of enquiries and was considered an overall success. It is recommended that MREPC participate in the World Congress of Surgery 2019 which is going to

be held from 11-15 August in Krakow, Poland to continue efforts of promoting Made in Malaysia quality medical gloves to the world.

Prepared by

Low Sze Sheen

Executive, Marketing & Development

Reviewed by

Dr Eng Aik Hwee

Technical Advisor (Latex Products)