

3RD APLC SUMMIT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Penang, Malaysia
7 - 9 November 2025

Opening & Welcome

The 3rd APLC Summit opened with remarks by Prof. Goh Yeow Tee, Prof. Wang Jianxiang, and Prof. Ng Soo Chin, who welcomed delegates from across Asia-Pacific and reaffirmed the consortium's mission: to bridge global scientific advancements with regionally grounded, practical solutions for leukemia care. The 2025 Summit brought together international leaders including Prof. Robin Foà, Dr. Othman Al-Sawaf, Prof. Mark Levis, and Prof. Jane Apperley, whose contributions set the stage for discussions centered on precision medicine, diagnostic equity, and the evolving therapeutic landscape.

in ALL therapy—particularly in Ph+ disease—where ponatinib-based TKI regimens paired with blinatumomab now outperform traditional chemotherapy-based approaches. Achieving deep MRD negativity, rather than administering maximal cytotoxic therapy, has become the central determinant of long-term outcomes. Discussions among clinicians from across Asia-Pacific highlighted the region's diverse diagnostic and access landscapes, underscoring the importance

of scalable and adaptable implementation strategies. While advanced MRD platforms and next-generation TKIs are readily integrated in some centres, others are actively building capacity through regional collaboration, referral pathways, and shared expertise. These discussions reinforced the value of APLC as a platform to align molecular diagnostics, optimize treatment sequencing, and support equitable adoption of MRD-guided, chemo-minimal approaches across varied healthcare settings.

"Ph+ ALL is rapidly evolving toward chemo-minimal, MRD-guided strategies, with continued efforts & support across APAC to expand equitable TKI access, strengthen MRD standardization, and broaden genomic diagnostics to support wider adoption."

Session 1 — Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

Plenary Lecture: Novel Agents and the Changing Landscape in Frontline Treatment for ALL

Speaker: Prof. Robin Foà

In his plenary, Prof. Robin Foà outlined the transformative shift



“Treatment of CLL in the APAC region is at the cusp of change where it is increasingly genomics-driven and in some settings clinical approaches are empirical – highlighting opportunities to further strengthen precision-guided care.”

Session 2 — Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

Plenary Lecture: Evolving Concepts in CLL 2025

Speaker: Dr. Othman Al-Sawaf

In his lecture, Dr. Othman Al-Sawaf emphasized that BTK inhibitors and venetoclax have replaced chemoimmunotherapy as the backbone of CLL management. IGHV mutation status and TP53 abnormalities now determine optimal frontline therapy, segregating patients into fixed-duration regimens versus continuous BTK inhibition. Across Asia-Pacific, genomics-driven CLL care reflects a diverse and evolving practice landscape. Integration of IGHV and TP53 testing, access to newer-generation BTK inhibitors, and availability of resistance mutation profiling vary across healthcare systems, influencing real-world treatment strategies. As fixed-duration and targeted approaches become more widely adopted, continued expansion of molecular testing and equitable access will further support optimized risk stratification, retreatment decisions, and management of immune-mediated complications across the region.

“APAC is a dynamic, evolving landscape where early dialogue, regional trials, and collaborative access strategies are key to translating innovation into patient benefit.”



Session 3: Industry Engagement

Industry partners—including AbbVie, Amgen, Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, and Servier—highlighted the dynamic and rapidly evolving healthcare landscape across Asia-Pacific. Discussions emphasized how regulatory diversity and varied reimbursement models, while complex, also create opportunities for early dialogue, regionally relevant clinical trials, and collaborative access strategies. Collectively, these approaches were recognized as essential to translating innovation into meaningful patient benefit across diverse healthcare systems.

Session 4 — Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) Plenary Lecture:

Integrating Novel Agents in the Frontline Management of AML 2025

Speaker: Prof. Mark Levis

Prof. Mark Levis described AML's evolution toward highly personalized therapy using FLT3, IDH1/2, and emerging menin inhibitors alongside HMA-venetoclax combinations. DNA-based MRD testing is becoming the gold standard for defining remission depth and long-term relapse risk. Clinicians shared insights into how molecular diagnostics and venetoclax-based strategies are being integrated across Asia-Pacific.

“AML care is being reshaped by targeted agents and venetoclax-based induction, with ongoing efforts across APAC to expand molecular diagnostics, improve access to novel therapies, and harmonize MRD assessment.”

“APLC Working Groups are developing scalable, APAC-adapted clinical frameworks that reflect both scientific rigor and the region’s resource diversity.”

characterized by differing turnaround times and resource availability. These discussions highlighted the importance of flexible treatment pathways, early planning for molecular testing, and continued collaboration to accelerate access to targeted therapies and MRD-guided decision-making.

APLC Working Group Updates

The Working Groups presented clear progress toward strengthening diagnostic standards, aligning treatment approaches, and improving data infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific region.

The AML Working Group reported active development of regional consensus guidelines covering diagnosis, molecular testing, and MRD monitoring, with the aim of harmonizing practice despite wide variation in resources. These guidelines will support more consistent adoption of venetoclax-based and targeted therapy strategies across APAC.



The ALL Working Group announced the completion of an MRD consensus statement and shared findings from a regional survey on blinatumomab access, which highlighted significant disparities in availability and reimbursement. These insights will inform practical recommendations to help centres integrate contemporary chemo-minimal regimens. The CLL/LPD Working Group confirmed that updated CLL management guidelines are ready for publication. The group has also broadened its remit to include mature B-cell lymphomas and is collecting regional data on secondary malignancies and autoimmune complications to guide

future recommendations. The Registry Working Group reiterated the importance of building a robust regional real-world data foundation. Recognizing ongoing challenges such as privacy constraints and technical variability, the group recommended starting with country-level registries as a pragmatic step toward a unified APAC data network. Together, these updates reflect APAC’s continued transition from discussion to coordinated action—advancing diagnostic equity, guideline harmonization, and data-driven improvement in leukemia care across the region.



“CML care is increasingly milestone-driven, with ongoing efforts across APAC to strengthen PCR standardization and expand access to advanced TKIs in support of optimized sequencing and treatment-free remission.”

Session 6 — Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)

Plenary Lecture: Evolving Strategies in CML Care — Redefining Goals with the 2025 ELN Recommendations

Speaker: Prof. Jane Apperley

In her plenary, Prof. Jane Apperley outlined the ELN 2025 recommendations, emphasizing early molecular response, individualized TKI selection based on comorbidities, and the long-term goal of treatment-free remission. While second-generation TKIs (dasatinib, nilotinib, bosutinib) and the allosteric inhibitor asciminib can deliver faster and deeper responses, overall survival remains comparable to imatinib, which continues to be a safe and cost-effective first-line option for older or comorbid patients. Panel discussions reflected the variability of molecular monitoring infrastructure across the region, reinforcing the need for context-sensitive application of ELN recommendations. Participants emphasized that thoughtful TKI selection, dose optimization, and patient engagement remain highly effective strategies, even as efforts continue to expand access to standardized PCR monitoring and next-generation agents.



Future Directions

The APLC leadership outlined the consortium’s continued evolution into a coordinated regional platform driving improvements in leukemia care across Asia-Pacific. Now in its third year and steadily expanding in membership and influence, APLC remains committed to purposeful, invitation-based growth to ensure scientific rigor and focused collaboration.

Partnerships with industry continue to play a meaningful role, particularly in expanding diagnostic infrastructure, supporting real-world data initiatives, and enabling broader access to emerging therapies and technologies. These collaborations are positioned not as transactional, but as long-term enablers of systemic improvement across diverse healthcare settings.



“APLC is becoming a unified regional catalyst for advancing leukemia care through innovation, meaningful collaboration and relevant pragmatic initiatives.”

THANK *You*

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our sponsors for their generous support. Your partnership has been instrumental in advancing APLC's mission, and we look forward to deepening our collaboration through more meaningful and impactful initiatives ahead.

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