

# **HEPATOPANCREATOBILIARY SURGERY SERVICES IN MALAYSIA: AN ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SERVICE IN GLOBAL SURGERY INITIATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

Dayang Azzyati Awang Dahlan<sup>1</sup>, Leow Voon Meng<sup>1,2</sup>, Suryati Mokhtar<sup>3</sup>, Nik Azim Nik Abdullah<sup>4</sup>, Thanesh K Maiyauen<sup>5</sup>, Kharlina Khairudin<sup>6</sup> & Manisekar K Subramaniam<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah <sup>2</sup> Advanced Dental And Medical Institution (AMDI), Bertam, Pulau Pinang <sup>3</sup> Hospital Selayang, Batu Caves, Selangor <sup>4</sup> Hospital Umum Sarawak, Kuching, Sarawak <sup>5</sup> Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, <sup>6</sup> Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bahru, Johor.

## **Introduction**

Since its pioneering days in the 1969 spearheaded by Professor Dr Balasegaram Manickavasager, hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgery services in Malaysia has been growing from strength to strength. Despite the dampening effect of the recent Covid-19 pandemic, HPB surgery team lead by the current National Head of HPB Surgery Service, Mr Manisekar K Subramaniam has been working diligently to deliver service to all corners of Malaysia including several district hospitals. Hereby we present a summary of essential HPB surgery services in Global Surgery Initiative perspective.

## **Discussion**

Currently, there are 5 main centers offering HPB surgery services - 3 in West Malaysia and 2 in East Malaysia. In West Malaysia, Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah lead by 2 senior consultants are covering 6 other hospitals scattered in the Northern region. Hospital Selayang lead by 2 senior consultants are responsible for 10 hospitals in the Central region. Hospital Sultanah Aminah is lead by 1 junior consultant are delivering service to 3 other hospitals in the Southern region. Meanwhile in East Malaysia, Hospital Umum Sarawak lead by 1 senior consultant are visiting 3 other hospitals, as far as 816 km away. Similarly, Hospital Queen Elizabeth lead by 1 junior consultant is covering 4 hospitals. Kindly refer to infographic for more details on the related services and workloads.

## **Conclusion**

Main challenges in HPB surgery services in Malaysia resonate with what other subspecialties are similarly facing - ensuring accessibility to HPB surgery services in the face of expected attrition in term of experienced and trained manpower. Hence, not only a robust succession plan is needed, developing other effective strategies to deal with reasons for attrition will secure a sustainable long term services, ensuring we are able to not only maintain current high quality service but also further expand it in the near future.