

Dr Manju Chandran

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International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) Olof Johnell Science 2021 Awardee, Professor Manju Chandran, is an internationally renowned Endocrinologist. She is a Senior Consultant and Director of the Osteoporosis and Bone Metabolism Unit at Singapore General Hospital, and the inaugural Executive Committee Chairperson of the [Asia Pacific Consortium on Osteoporosis \(APCO\)](#).

After completing her Fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, Dr Chandran, an American citizen who was born and brought up in India, moved to Singapore in 2003, where she has been practicing ever since.

Dr Chandran is Chairperson of the Singapore Ministry of Health's Appropriate Care Guidelines for Osteoporosis Working Group. She was elected to the Board of the IOF in 2020.

She is immediate past Chairperson and current Board member of the Chapter of Endocrinologists of the College of Physicians, Academy of Medicine Singapore, elected member of the Council of Scientific Advisors of the IOF, and a past President of the Endocrine and Metabolic Society of Singapore. Dr Chandran was the first woman from Asia to hold a position as a member of the Publications Committee of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR), and currently serves on its Women in Bone and Mineral Research Committee.

Dr Chandran is also an appointed Faculty Member of the Skeletal Rare Disorders Academy of the IOF, a Task Force member of the 5th International Workshop on Parathyroid Disorders, and a Steering Committee Member of the Rare Bone Disorders Summit – a multistakeholder coalition that provides a platform for collaborative efforts to improve the lives of patients with rare skeletal diseases. She is also a Task Force Member of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Aspects of Musculoskeletal Health and Aging and ESCEO Workshop on Phosphate Wasting Disorders, a Task Force Member of the APAC XLH Working Group and Task Force Member of the WHO Expert Working Group on Locomotor Capacity.

In addition, she serves as Treasurer of the Osteoporosis Society of Singapore, as Deputy Chair of the Asia Pacific and South Africa Regional Advisory Council of the IOF, and as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Panel of the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD).

Dr Chandran's research and clinical interests include the Epidemiology and Health Economic Burden of Osteoporosis, Rare Bone Disorders, Renal Bone Disease, and Parathyroid Disorders. She is a highly published academician and a regular speaker at regional and international conferences in the fields of Endocrinology and Bone Metabolism.



In addition to the IOF Olof Johnell Science award which recognises a distinguished medical professional and researcher who has an outstanding record of achievements in education, research and policy implementation in the bone and musculoskeletal field, Dr Chandran has won a multitude of other international awards, including the IOF-ESCEO International Young Investigator Award for 2013, and the IOF Committee of National Societies Medal in 2015. She is a nominee for the 2023 International Society of Clinical Densitometry Clinician of the Year Award.

Her Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) at Singapore General Hospital, OPTIMAL, was the first in Asia Pacific, and the third worldwide, to clinch the Gold Star in the IOF's global *Capture the Fracture* campaign in 2015.

Dr Chandran is also the winner of the 2021 Singapore General Hospital Most Inspiring Mentor award, and winner of the light-hearted, but meaningful, Singhealth DUKE National University of Singapore Most Caffeinated Researcher Award 2019 – awarded to the researcher in the Singhealth group of institutions with the most positive attitude, who never gives up, and who always goes the extra mile when collaborating with others. Her commitment, passion, and global perspective that she brings to APCO, has helped to quickly establish the entity in the field of osteoporosis.

“A perfect storm of a rise in osteoporosis among Asia Pacific populations is expected to occur due to the region's rapidly aging population, mounting urbanisation, and subsequent increase in sedentary lifestyles.

“Currently, an osteoporotic fracture occurs every three seconds worldwide¹ – a staggering statistic that has a far-reaching, deleterious impact on populations,” said Dr Chandran.

“Unless urgent steps are taken, we will be facing an epidemic of osteoporotic fractures that could have been avoided through appropriate, preventive measures, early diagnosis, and treatment.

“APCO members are charged with developing tangible solutions to the challenges facing osteoporosis management in the world's most populous, linguistically, and culturally diverse region. Our committed group of 46 osteoporosis experts representing 19 Asia Pacific countries and regions, are confident we can counter these challenges, armed with support from local governments, policy makers, healthcare providers, philanthropic organisations, pharmaceutical companies, and other stakeholders from both the private and public healthcare sectors throughout the region,” Dr Chandran said.

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Reference

1. International Osteoporosis Foundation. *A fracture every 3 seconds worldwide. That's osteoporosis!* 2019 [cited Dec, 2022]; Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/55hh4psc>.