



Newsletter

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Message from the President - April 2004



Discussions have been ongoing for quite some time for the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) to join the APSR en bloc at a reduced subscription rate. I am glad to report that the APSR has now signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the JRS in March 2004, drawing to a successful conclusion a long process of planning, discussion and negotiation. This is indeed a milestone event for both the APSR and the JRS, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the prime movers of the whole process, Dr S Kira, Dr Y Fukuchi, Dr T Horie, Dr N Berend, who helped to draft the MOU, and the APSR Executive Committee and the JRS Board for facilitating and approving the MOU.

The APSR is a young Society dating back only to the mid-1980s, and has enjoyed a long-standing good, and special relationship with the JRS.

We share the same objectives of advancement and promotion of science, education and clinical practice of respirology in this region and beyond. In fact, the idea of the APSR was first conceived by the late Dr M Harasawa when he presided over the 22nd Annual Meeting of the JRS in 1982. He subsequently formed an international steering committee to establish the APSR, and became its Founding President and also the President of the 1st Congress of the APSR in Tokyo in 1988. Many of the JRS organizing committee members of the 1st APSR Congress in 1988 have since become key officers of the APSR, including Dr S Kira, our ex-president, Dr Y Fukuchi, our Secretary General and President-Elect, and Dr T Horie, our Treasurer. Over the years, the JRS has rendered the strongest support to the APSR, including adopting RESPIROLOGY as the official English journal of JRS, and now joining the APSR as Member Society.

The signing of this momentous MOU has far-reaching implications. Immediately, it increases the membership of the APSR tremendously, which offers a stabilizing effect on the Society. RESPIROLOGY can be printed at a much reduced cost per copy, and advertisement revenues are expected to increase significantly. With the expansion of readership, the number and quality of articles submitted to our Journal is also expected to reach yet another higher horizon. Similarly, our annual congress should be better attended. This pilot MOU should serve as a model for other national chest societies of the region and beyond to join the APSR. On behalf of the APSR, I extend our cordial invitation to all national and regional chest societies to join us as member societies. Indeed at this time (April 2004), the APSR is discussing with two other national societies regarding en-bloc membership.

A Supplementary Agreement between the APSR and Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd (publisher of RESPIROLOGY) was also signed in March 2004 to allow distribution of RESPIROLOGY to members of a national society that has joined the APSR en bloc and to clearly state the terms of advertising and printing of the journal. I am glad to report that we have plans to increase the frequency of publishing of RESPIROLOGY to five issues per volume in 2005, and six issues per volume in 2006. I must thank Dr P Thompson, Editor-in-Chief, the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board for their outstanding efforts in elevating our Journal to new heights.

Our Congress has been going *annually* for two years, and is now the only congress for

Post-Show Report: 4th Triennial World Asthma Meeting (WAM) 2004

comprehensive lung health and disease in the Asian Pacific region. The 9th APSR Congress will be held in the Convention & Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong from 10th to 13th December 2004. The Organizing Committee will organize a most comprehensive and exciting programme in respirology that will be interesting and relevant to specialists and general practitioners alike. The Congress will feature postgraduate workshops (covering chest imagings, molecular biology for clinicians, obstructive sleep apnea, interventional pulmonology, and respiratory care), plenary lectures (including the M Harasawa and AJ Woolcock Memorial Lectures), satellite symposia, parallel symposia, Radiology Grand Rounds, Best Young Investigators sessions, posters sessions and others. The poster sessions will include conducted discussions chaired by Asia Pacific and other international experts. A number of competitive Traveling Fellowships and Scholarships will be awarded to young and aspiring APSR members for attending this Congress. You are invited to visit the congress website for further information (www.APSR2004.com, Secretariat: MediMedia Pacific Ltd, email : meeting@medimedia.com.hk). Hong Kong enthusiastically welcomes all of you to attend this exciting Congress.

Wah Kit LAM, M.D.
President, APSR

Since this was the first WAM to be held in the region (the 1st and 3rd Editions were held in Chicago, USA and the 2nd in Barcelona, Spain), the organizers wanted to have an Edition they could be proud of, and as it tuned out, their efforts were greatly rewarded.

Dr. Suchai Charoenratanakul, Congress President for WAM 2004, envisioned a WAM that had not only a cutting edge scientific program but also delightful social events that would leave the charm and hospitality of the Thai people forever ingrained in the participants' minds. "After an exhausting day of lectures," he said, "there should be moments of relaxation where colleagues can catch up and meet new people."

Speakers, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors all agreed that this was one of the best conferences they had attended in the region. Speakers were pleasantly surprised on how pampered they were. *Dr. Homer Boushey*, President of the American Thoracic Society commented: "As for 'creature comforts', the social amenities for the speakers were generous. I felt welcomed, even cosseted, throughout the stay." *Archie Turnbull*, Executive Director of the European Respiratory Society, commented that WAM 2004 was "a very well organized and very successful meeting"

Exhibitors were the happiest because the coffee breaks were held in the exhibition



area which meant they had good daily traffic around their booths. The post-show survey showed that they rated the quality of visitors as 92% 'good and very good', while 83% said that they would definitely join the next WAM exhibition. As for their overall rating of the exhibition, 20% said Excellent, 60% said Satisfactory and 20% Moderate. No one rated it as Unsatisfactory or Poor.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who gave out plaques of appreciation to the seven sponsoring organizations. These were: the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR), the American Thoracic Society (ATS), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD).

There was also a special lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra at his residence in honor of the event. Those invited were members of the Thai co-hosting societies, sponsoring organizations and other distinguished guests.

The Speaker River Cruise was well attended, with almost all speakers attending and other parties joining. Everyone ended up dancing the night away and the boat crew were asked to extend the cruise a bit longer so that all could have their fill.

"The success of WAM 2004 was because of close collaboration and support from all sectors of the industry" Dr. Suchai concluded. "Without the support of the Thai co-hosts, the sponsoring organizations, the industry sponsors, exhibitors and speakers, it would have been hard to pull off. It was so gratifying to receive gracious comments from everyone. It made all our efforts in organizing this event worthwhile".

Barbara Jane Tandog
Bangkok RAI

Report of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society

Professor Takashi Horie, Dr. Shu Hashimoto,

and other staff of the First Department of Internal Medicine, Nihon University School of Medicine and Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS), showed their finesse at holding the 44th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society from March 31 to April 2, 2004. The congress venue was the Tokyo International Forum. The weather was bright with beautiful cherry blossoms. It was a huge scientific congress in terms of attendance and scientific programs. Keynote lectures, invitation lectures, and educational lectures were delivered by internationally known foreign and domestic speakers. The quality and quantity of free papers and posters were comparable with those of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS). The quality of the English poster presentations was particularly excellent. Most chairpersons of these presentations had their timekeeping abilities stretched due to the energetic discussions. Many investigators from abroad, especially Dr. Sharon Rounds, the President-Elect of ATS, actively participated in the discussions. In a business meeting, the delegates of JRS, APSR, ATS, and ERS sincerely stated their opinions on the further development of the JRS Annual Meeting. I might say that I experienced the vision of the JRS via the 44th congress. One of the prominent features of the congress was the opportunity to become acquainted with young investigators in APSR member countries through the exchange of their research results in a common field. Moreover, I could not help noting the openness and passion of Professor Horie for the development of respiratory care in Asian countries, which was revealed by his addresses and statements during the congress.

Younsuck Koh, M.D.
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Ulsan College of Medicine
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The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR) 15th anniversary A history of the close relationship between the APSR and the JRS

1. The early days of the APSR

2003 was an important year as it marked the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology

(APSR). The history of the APSR has been closely intertwined with that of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS). The forerunner of the JRS was the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest, which was founded in 1961 and which contributed greatly to the studies concerning respiratory diseases in Japan and also to the application of that knowledge. With the continuing contributions made in the field, it was realized that there was no international society in our area corresponding to that field.

Therefore an international committee was formed in April 1984 on the occasion of the 24th Annual Congress of the society. The committee was chaired by Professor Shiro Kira, and included Dr. Takahide Izumi, Dr. Takeo Kawashiro, Dr. Hidetada Sasaki, Dr. Yoshihiro Hayata, Dr. Fukushima, Dr. Yoshinosuke Fukuchi and Dr. Takashi Horie. In 1985 the committee formally announced that “the APCDC international congress for internists and surgeons involved with the respiratory organs and circulatory organs was established under the umbrella of the ACCP in Asia in 1969, but that there is no international congress owned by Asian countries that was devoted purely to respiratory tract organs. In North America the ATS, and in Europe the ERS, provide an opportunity for participation by respiratory specialists from throughout the world in an international setting. In consideration of that, a respiratory organ society should be established in the Asian Pacific region.” This pronouncement was adopted by the Board of Regents of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest. Professor A. Woolcock of Australia, consulted with Professors Kira and Fukuchi and drew up a list of the main researchers in Asia. In the summer of 1985, a preliminary meeting was held to discuss the viability of establishing a society devoted to respiratory diseases in the Asian Pacific region.

A meeting was held in the following August during an international symposium on respiratory insufficiency, to which participants were invited from countries throughout the Asian Pacific region. This meeting was held under the aegis of Professor Michiyoshi Harasawa, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor Takeo Takizawa, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Professor Shiro Kira, Chairman of the External Affairs Committee, Professor Shohei

Watanabe, Chairman of the General Affairs Committee, Professor Yoshihiro Hayata and Professor Patrick Barron, who recorded all the transactions of the initial meetings. On that occasion another meeting was held at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo, attended by Dr. S. Bovornkitti (Thailand), Dr. T. De Guia (Philippines), Dr. M. Hadiarto (Indonesia), Dr. K. Kim (Korea), Dr. K. M. Moser (U. S. A.), Dr. J. F. Murray (U. S. A.), Dr. A. J. Woolcock (Australia), Dr. T. Takashima (Japan), and the other above named members of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest.

It was decided to set up an international society on respiratory diseases. Initial discussions covered the possibility of including the United States, Canada, and various South American countries as well as the pan-Pacific area but because the ATS chose not to fully participate, it was decided to form the society consisting of countries from the Asian-Pacific region.

In late 1986, during the IUAT congress in Singapore, the establishment of the society was once again discussed by the above members and it was decided to call the society the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology. Initially it had been tentatively decided to call the society the Asian Pacific Society of Pulmonology but Professor P. T. Macklem of Canada, strongly promoted the use of the new term ‘respirology’ and this was agreed. The prevailing argument was that pulmonology was related only to the lung whereas the original purpose of the respiratory disease society involved all aspects of respiration in sickness and health, and respiratory musculature. Therefore ‘respirology’ was a more suitable name. Later the term ‘respirology’ was adopted as an official term in Canada.

During this meeting in Singapore, new representatives included Professor W. C. Tan of Singapore, Dr. Luo Wei Ci of Beijing, China, Professor S. P. Yang of Taipei, China, and Dr. M. Zainnudin of Malaysia. It was decided to hold an APSR congress every two years with the first in Japan in 1988. The Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest (President Tetsuro Yokoyama) accepted this at the Board of Directors meeting and established an organizing committee centered on its board of directors. The President was Dr. Michiyoshi Harasawa, the Secretary General was Dr. Shiro Kira, the Treasurer was

Dr. Takeo Takizawa, the Program Committee Chairman was Dr. Tetsuro Yokoyama, and the External Affairs Committee Chairman was Dr. Tsutomu Takishima. Centered on this group, preparations moved forward.

The first APSR congress was thus held in 1988 with great success as a result of the strong backing of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest. With this success, the APSR went on to prepare its second congress with a spirit of optimism, and the foundations of the society gradually solidified. In this initial period, the prime moving force for the establishment of the APSR was the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest and the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand centered on Professor A. J. Woolcock. These events require special mention in the history of the society.

2. The role of the APSR as an international society

The second APSR congress was held in Bali, Indonesia in 1990, the third congress was held in Singapore in 1992, the fourth in Beijing, China in 1994, and the fifth in Sydney, Australia in 1996. This was in keeping of its original plan for biennial meetings in different countries in the region, where the APSR became gradually better and better known.

In 1996 the official journal of the APSR, *Respirology*, began to be published on a quarterly basis and in the second year of its publication, it was accepted for indexing in *Index Medicus*. It has become an increasingly important mouthpiece for the field of respiratory medicine in the Asian-Pacific area. From its establishment, the president of the society was Dr. Michiyoshi Harasawa, the Secretary General was Shiro Kira and the Treasurer was Dr. Takeo Takizawa. They ran the society for two full terms (eight years), during which time they contributed significantly to its stable development. The sixth APSR congress in 2000 coincided with the World Lung Health Conference in Firenze, Italy. This conference was held conjointly in August and September of that year with the ATS, ERS and IUATLD, with the APSR representing the Asian Pacific region. This marked the APSR's recognition as a world level international society.

The President of the APSR at that time was the late Professor W. J. Woolcock and

she played a very important role in the history of the APSR by making it widely known throughout the world. This was an epoch-making event. Professor Woolcock had poured all her energy and efforts into the internationalization and international acceptance of the APSR ever since she was a founding member of the Executive Committee. It was only about half a year after the WHLC that she suddenly passed away. The fact that Professor Woolcock was able to bring the APSR to this great height gave to me some small measure of comfort for this great loss. The holding of the World Lung Health Conference actually was a realization of one of the purposes of the foundation of the APSR and thereafter the position of the APSR was well-established. From 2001 onward, the APSR has always been recognized and present at worldwide respiratory field meetings.

3. The close relationship between the Japanese Respiratory Society (formerly Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest) and the APSR

From the initial establishment of the APSR, the JRS has continued to give considerable amounts of moral and financial support. In particular, the 36th Annual Congress (President: Professor Satoshi Kitamura) included the APSR Workshop Symposium as a formal segment of the JRS meeting. Also, the International Affairs Committee of the JRS (Chairman: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi) coordinated participation from invited young investigators from 12 countries throughout the APSR region. On the first such occasion, Professor John F. Murray and Professor G. Huchon attended as representatives of the ATS and ERS and established a program in combination with lectures from five different APSR countries. Since then there have been more than 20 young investigators invited to give lectures from various APSR countries at the JRS/APSR Workshop Symposium. From its 6th volume, *Respirology* became the official English language journal of the JRS and this is recorded on the cover. This reflected the JRS Board of Directors' decision made in 2000. Publication in *Respirology* can be used for obtaining board registration and renewal of registration, in the same way as publication in the Japanese language journal of the society.

Respirology has received an impact factor rating since 2003. This will further improve

the quality of the papers in the journal, attracting ever better papers. A joint arrangement between Respiriology and the journal of the JRS has made it possible for cross publication for certain specially-selected papers and this will further enhance the relationship between the JRS and the APSR.

4. Contribution of the JRS to the future of the APSR

After the establishment of the APSR, there were many areas in which some degree of competition with the APCDC, first formed as an international regularly-occurring activity (not society) in the 1960's, could not be avoided. However, through the tremendous efforts of the Secretary General of the APSR, Dr. Shiro Kira, and other members of the Executive Committee, agreement was reached with Dr. Sidney Braman and Dr. Udaya Prakash of the ACCP, the umbrella organization of the APCDC. Based on this agreement, it was decided that the APCDC name would not be used after 2004. In 2005, there will be a joint meeting in Guangchow and this, the 10th meeting of the APSR, will be held in conjunction with the ACCP. Thus the APSR will become in both name and reality, the only scientific organization concerning respiration for the Asian Pacific region. Originally the APSR meetings were biennial but from 2003 it was decided to change to annual meetings. The 2003 meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia (the 8th congress) and the 9th congress will be held in 2004 in Hong Kong.

The APSR is now moving very practically toward the idea originally broached at the meetings in the mid-1980's, that of having entire national thoracic societies join as members of the APSR. At present several countries are seriously considering the option of joining en bloc. One of the obvious motivations for this is that a larger number of members and subscribers means a reduced subscription fee. As mentioned above, the JRS, with its 10,000 members, has given great support to the APSR ever since, and even before, its founding and has contributed to the funding of the APSR journal. The JRS has also continued to support the APSR through the APSR Symposia held on the occasion of the JRS annual congresses. It is reasonable that the JRS should be as positive and contribute as much as it can, as a member of the developed countries of Asia. The Board of Directors of the JRS has already considered, from this point of view,

the en bloc registration of all JRS members to the APSR and after careful consideration, the majority of the Board of Governors voted for this policy. For the policy to be finally ratified we must wait until the decision of the annual general meeting. In order for all the representatives and members of the JRS to understand the close historical connection between our two societies, I have tried to present something of the historical background. I hope that all concerned will have no hesitation whatsoever in contacting the JRS Secretariat with any questions that they may have about the situation.

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, M.D.
Chairman, Board of Directors
Japanese Respiratory Society
- The original Japanese version was published in 2003 in the JRS journal-

Postgraduate Courses in Paediatric Respiratory (GCPRS) and Sleep Science (GCPSS)

The Department of Respiratory Medicine at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth, is establishing the following postgraduate part-time courses in GCPRS and GCPSS through the University of Western Australia.

The courses are primarily for scientists, but will also be of interest to physicians, general practitioners and allied health workers who wish to better understand the scientific principles underpinning clinical measurement in paediatrics.

Commencement: 2005

Course: Four online units over one year covering physiology, measurement methods, clinical interpretation and quality assurance

Fees: approx. \$A4,500 (Australian students)
\$A7,000 (international students)

Credits :
120 MOPS points for Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.
Endorsed by the Australian & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Scientists and the Australian Sleep Technologist Association.

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2005
TSANZ ASM
March 18-23, 2005, Perth, Australia
website : www.thoracic.org.au

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Japanese
Respiratory Society (JRS)
April 14-16, 2005, Chiba, Japan
e-mail : 45jrs-office@umin.ac.jp
website : jrs.or.jp/jrs45/

American Thoracic Society (ATS)
International Conference
May 20-25, 2005, San Diego, USA
website : www.thoracic.org

CHEST 2005-Annual International Scientific
Assembly of the American College of Chest
Physicians
October 29-03, November, 2005 Montreal,
Canada
e-mail : registration@chestnet.org
website : www.chestnet.org

10th APSR Congress and 1st APSR/ACCP Joint
Congress
November 11-15, 2005, Guangzhou, China

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2004

ERS 14th Annual Congress
September 4-8, 2004, Glasgow, Scotland
website : www.ersnet.org/glasgow

CHEST 2004 - 70th Annual Scientific
Assembly of the American College of Chest
Physicians
October 23-28, 2004, Seattle, USA
website : www.chestnet.org

9th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology (APSR)
December 10-13, 2004, Hong Kong
e-mail : meeting@medimedia.com.hk
website : www.APSR2004.com



The 9th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology will be held in Hong Kong from 10 to 13 December 2004 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Theme of the Congress is "Respiratory Counterpoint", as we aim to converge and diverge different opinions at the Congress.

Important Dates:

<i>Deadline for Abstract Submission:</i>	<i>31 July 2004</i>
<i>Deadline for Early Bird Registration:</i>	<i>31 August 2004</i>
<i>Deadline for Hotel Registration:</i>	<i>15 October 2004</i>

Please check out regular updates at <http://www.apsr2004.com>

Organizers

Hong Kong Thoracic
Society



American College of Chest
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Hong Kong Lung Foundation



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Presidents of the Congresses:

1st Congress	Tokyo	1988	Michiyoshi Harasawa
2nd Congress	Bali	1990	Hood Alsagaff
3rd Congress	Singapore	1993	Wan-Cheng Tan
4th Congress	Beijing	1996	Wei-Ci Luo
5th Congress	Sydney	1998	J. Paul Seale
6th Congress	Florence	2000	Ann J. Woolcock
7th Congress	Taiwan	2002	Kwen-Tay Luh
8th Congress	Selangor	2003	Chong-Kin Liam
9th Congress	Hong Kong	2004	Wah Kit Lam

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