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Newsletter

Editor : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi

Associate Editors : Takashi Horie, Norbert Berend, J. Patrick Barron, H. Sato Cochrane

Message from the President



It gives me great pleasure to extend this invitation for you to attend the 11th Congress of the APSR to be held on 19th-22nd November 2006 at the Kyoto International Conference Hall. This year we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the APSR since its launch in 1986.

The main theme of this congress is "New Horizons of Respiriology - Harmonization Beyond Diversity" which encompasses the scope as well as the vision of the Society, to be explored in the third decade of our history. The Society witnessed a steady growth over two decades with 11,000 members spreading more than 12 Asian-Pacific countries/regions. The local organizing committee, with the full support of the Japanese Respiratory Society, wishes to meet the expectations of all the participants.

As a result, we have developed a congress programme which is full of both high quality science and practical knowledge in clinical medicine.

Some of the highlights are: a Satellite Symposium in Tokyo on respiratory physiology (ESAP2006 Tokyo, which is an educational seminar of the APSR to be held on 18th November entitled "Physiology in Respiriology - Classics, Updates and Frontiers"); a Special Seminar on the creation of scientific papers (with a faculty of the Editors-in-Chief of APSR, ATS, ACCP and ERS); a Symposium on GOLD Revision 2006 (featuring six Executive Members), and many more symposia/seminars embracing major respiratory diseases common to this part of the world. The total number of submitted abstracts now exceeds 700, which is a remarkable increase in comparison with previous Congresses.

The participants will be most fortunate in acquainting themselves with the world famed beauty of Kyoto City with ample cultural heritage and a natural serenity. Kyoto had been the capital of Japan for nearly 1,100 years and visitors can appreciate the genuine tradition of Japanese temples, shrines, gardens and most importantly, the warm hospitality of the people of the city. It is at its best in November with autumnal colour changes of maple trees and a pleasant climate.

I am fully convinced that this congress will provide you with memorable experiences both in scientific knowledge and cultural encounter.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee and the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, we look forward to welcoming you in Kyoto in November 2006.

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, M.D.
President of the APSR,
and Congress President
11th Congress of the APSR

Message from the Secretary General

There has been a lot of activity in recent months which has seen the joining of another national society and appointments of new Committee Chairs, Assembly Heads and Councillors.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM) under the Presidency of Professor Pan-Chyr Yang, has signed an MOU with the APSR to become an APSR Member Society, being the third Society after the JRS and TSANZ to join en bloc. This is an excellent result for both Societies and we look forward to strengthening our ties to enhance respiratory medicine in the region. Negotiations are continuing with several other Societies and we hope to have more good news by year's end.

The new Education and Research Committees have now been formed under the Chairmanship of Professors Beasley and Mishima, respectively and this will strengthen our ability to develop educational activities, assist in developing Congress programs and foster research collaborations.

The new Assembly structure came into being in 2005 and a number of new Assembly Heads have been elected as follows: Cell and Molecular Biology (K. Fong), Critical Care Medicine (A. Ishizaka), Paediatric Lung Disease (S. Stick), Pulmonary Circulation (E. Gabbay), COPD (P. Black) and Lung Cancer (Y. Nakanishi). The other Assemblies are still going through the nomination/election process.

The Taiwan Society by virtue of en bloc membership is entitled to five Councillors. Three are already appointed and we welcome Drs Reury-Perng Perng and Ying-Huang Tsai as the additional Council members representing Taiwan. There has been a recent increase in membership from Bangladesh which is now entitled to two Council seats. We welcome Drs M. Ali Hossain and Asif Mujtaba Mahmud to the Council. It is important to have representatives from membership countries on the Council to ensure that the APSR meets the needs of respiratory physicians and scientists from every country of the region.

In January I attended the meeting of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) in Buenos Aires. This forum includes the ATS, ERS, IUATLD, ALAT and APSR. There are a number of FIRS initiatives including a pulmonary function test working group, a PAL (Practical Approach to Lung Health) group, the FCTC tobacco control working group and a group working on

the impact of biomass fuels. Reports on progress of these groups were received. FIRS will contribute to projects undertaken by GARD (Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases) which was recently launched at a ceremony held in Beijing with FIRS represented by Professor Fukuchi. Other business included a discussion of how FIRS could assist in major natural disasters and development of other regional societies. FIRS will follow the lead of the ATS and actively and financially support the formation of a Pan African Thoracic Society. There has been discussion about holding a World Congress on Lung Health in 2010 to follow on from previous Congresses held in 1990 and 2000. If there is agreement to hold such a Congress, the APSR has volunteered to organise it in conjunction with its own Annual Congress.

There have been further developments in generating travel awards with the ATS sending two people to the APSR Congress in Kyoto and the APSR providing 2 awards for APSR members to attend and present at the ATS in San Francisco in 2007. Details and conditions of the awards will be provided shortly. A new travel award has also been developed by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science, sponsored by Pharmaxis, for one of their members to attend the APSR Congress.

The next major events in the calendar are the Kyoto Congress and three educational seminars (ESAPs) which will be reported on by Professor Fukuchi. Planning for the 2007 Congress, held jointly with the ACCP in Surfers Paradise, Australia, is well underway.

Norbert Berend, M.D.
Secretary General, APSR

Message from the Editorial Office

- June 2006

Respirology Second ISI Impact Factor

We have just been notified of our new impact factor for 2005 of 1.264. Although a little low by international standards it is gratifying to see it increase by 36% and we remain committed to a similar or greater improvement each year.

In 2005, Respirology has also seen a 23% increase in circulation and libraries subscriptions by 43%. There was a 15% increase in articles downloaded and last year's review series on pleural disease was hugely successful with reviews from the series making 8 of the top 10 downloaded articles and 2 of the top 10 cited articles. The review by our Associate Editor Dr. Y. C. Gary Lee and Board Member Dr. R. Light, and the article by Prof.

Y. Fukuchi, were both among the top 10 cited articles.

Special Series

We are proud to announce that we are continuing publication of the Presidents' Series and Lung Cancer Review Series.

Supplements:

The TSANZ supplement: "**Respiratory function tests and their application.**" (Respirology, November 2005 - Vol. 10 Issue s2 Page S1-S19) is available on-line for all APSR members. Please visit:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/res/10/s2>

Respirology: Philosophy and Goals

A few times recently, I have been asked to articulate the philosophy and goals of Respirology and I thought it would be useful to share these with you. They broadly fall into two categories; those relating to the type of publication we produce and secondly, how we manage and run the journal. Principally, we are trying to produce an international respiratory journal that:

- Competes with all other major respiratory journals
- Bridges laboratory science & clinical medicine
- Covers all facets of respiratory medicine including surgery and allied health areas
- Represents the Asian Pacific region and the medical issues important to the region

In addition we are keen to:

- Foster good communication, science & only publish high quality work
- Support non-English speaking authors
- Provide leadership in journal standards and services to authors and readers alike
- Practise the highest ethical standards
- Provide an open, friendly & transparent operation
- Operate cost-effectively

Latest Statistics on the Journal

Manuscript Central has vastly improved turn-around time and capacity for management of submissions which continue to increase dramatically. The latest statistics from now on will be published in each issue of Respirology.

Submission Activity 1st Nov 2005 - 1st May 2006

250 manuscripts received (Invited review: 10, Invited Editorial: 1, Letter to the Editor: 7, Original Article: 151, Short communication: 4, Technical Report: 5, Case report: 72)

Time to decision for original submissions: 1st Nov 2005 - 1st May 2006

Average time to first decision: 36 days

Average time for deciding revised manuscripts : 18 days

Accept/reject ratio for all manuscripts submitted 1st Jan-31st Dec 2005:

Total Manuscripts received: 335

Accepted: 30%,

Rejected: 61%,

Pending: 9%

New reader service introduced by Blackwell

This allows authors to track articles online.

See www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor

New Respirology Editorial Team 2006

Editor-in-Chief

Philip J. Thompson, *Australia*

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G. Y. C. Lee, *UK*; C-K Liam, *Malaysia*

T. Nagase, *Japan*; T. Nukiwa, *Japan*

S. Stick, *Australia*

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Faisal Yunus, *Indonesia*; N. S. Zhong, *P.R.China*

Invited Review Series Editors: Lung Cancer

W-K Lam, *Hong Kong*

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Assistant Editor

C. Norman, *Australia*

Honorary Assistant Editor

V. Hawthorn, *Australia*

Administrative Editor

N. L. Misso, *Australia*

Philip J. Thompson, M.D.

Editor-in-Chief, Respirology

Message from the President of the Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM)

I am delighted to bring you the message that the Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM) has joined the APSR en bloc in 2006. The TSPCCM has more than 800 active members, and I hope

our active participation may contribute to the growth and progress of the APSR.

The TSPCCM, founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit, professional, scientific and educational society for pulmonary and critical care medicine. It is committed to treatment and prevention of respiratory diseases through education, training, research, patient care and advocacy. The scope of its activities includes organizing and coordinating congresses and meetings, publishing the official journal "Thoracic Medicine", promoting, coordinating and fostering research activities, actively participating in international activities, and organizing and directing fellow training programs for pulmonary and critical care medicine in Taiwan. On December 9 and 10, 2006, the Annual Conference of the TSPCCM will be held in Taipei. The scientific program includes keynote speeches, workshops and symposia designed to cover important issues regarding the progress of respiratory medicine in Taiwan.

The members of the TSPCCM actively participate in the activities of the APSR, including the fruitful 7th Congress in Taipei, Taiwan. This year, more than 40 abstracts have been submitted for the coming 11th APSR Congress in Kyoto, and many TSPCCM members will attend which I hope will contribute to the Society to continue to play a significant role in fighting against respiratory disease and promoting lung health.

The TSPCCM is a rapidly growing society in Taiwan, and is committed to enhance the health of people. I strongly believe that by joining the APSR our members may have more chance to participate in the APSR activities and promote our activities as the Society of Respirology in Asian Pacific area.

Pan-Chyr Yang, M.D.
President, TSPCCM

Education Committee

The Education Committee is looking forward to expanding the educational activities of the APSR. The role of the Committee is to identify educational goals for the Society and develop a strategic plan for implementation. Initially this will focus on the annual scientific meeting and the one-day "hands-on" respiratory workshops planned to be held throughout the region next year. Consideration will also be given to developing novel CME initiatives such as internet-based reviews of the key respiratory publications worldwide. The Committee welcomes

suggestions from members of the APSR. The members of the Education Committee are:
Prof Richard Beasley (New Zealand) - Chair
Dr Yongjian Xu (China)
Dr Bing Lam (Hong Kong)
Dr Eli Gabbay (Australia)
Dr Kazuhisa Takahashi (Japan)
Dr Shu Hashimoto (Japan)
Dr Arata Azuma (Japan)

Richard Beasley, M.D.
Chairperson, Education Committee

Councillor's Report

Philippines

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) is an organization of chest physicians committed to: (1) the generation, assimilation, exchange and dissemination of knowledge in pulmonary medicine; (2) the establishment and maintenance of standards of excellence in pulmonary training and practice for the promotion of health among Filipinos and (3) the enhancement of the members' feeling of identification and pride with the organization by promoting personal growth, camaraderie and unity among members. Every year, the PCCP holds an Annual Chest conference in March usually held in Manila and a Mid-year conference in August usually held in a city or province outside of Manila. Currently preparations are ongoing for its joint conference in August with the Philippine Coalition Against TB (PhilCAT) an advocacy organization composed of TB stakeholders and TB interest groups both from the private and public sector and the country's pulmonologists. The theme of this year's conference is aptly titled: "*Pinoy Big Burdens: Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Asthma and COPD*". The venue is the Taal Vista Hotel, famous for its backdrop, the Taal Volcano, the smallest active volcano in the world. A unique feature of the conference is a dialogue between the Secretary of Health of the Department of Health and all the TB stakeholders, NGO organizations, TB interest groups in the public and private sectors and the country's leading pulmonologists. At the end of the conference, the leaders in both organizations aim to set a plan towards "unburdening" the Filipinos of the four leading pulmonary conditions which are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the country.

As a specialty organization, the PCCP looks towards learning from its Asian neighbours. The PCCP has developed its own local guidelines on Asthma, COPD, TB and Pneumonia, adapted to the PINOY, a uniquely

Filipino term. The Pinoy is a strong workforce in foreign countries. Thus, the Filipino physician has to be “globally” prepared too. Membership in the APSR will provide the opportunity to exchange researches and “new” discoveries in asthma, COPD, pneumonias and tuberculosis. It will be a venue where we can tap speakers for the annual scientific meetings and learn from the expertise of well renowned researchers/experts. Hopefully, through exchange programs, learning opportunities for fellows-in-training in “uniquely Asian” will materialize.

Jennifer Wi, M.D.

Bangladesh

We have 3 thoracic societies working in the field of Respiratory Medicine - (1) Asthma Association, Bangladesh; (2) Bangladesh Society of Allergy & Immunology (BANSAI); and (3) The Chest & Heart Association of Bangladesh (CHAB) which is a forum for pulmonologists and cardiologists. At present it is working in the field of tuberculosis. BANSAI is working in the field of Immunology & Respirology.

The Asthma Association, Bangladesh is working in the field of Respiratory Medicine. It was established in 1995. Since then, it has been active with various seminars, awareness programs, doctors & nurses training programs, booklets for the general public and guidelines for physicians. This Association did a national survey of asthma patients in 1999 and in 2000, did a survey for risk factor for asthma among the population. Asthma Association continually tries to provide updated knowledge to its members.

All the thoracic societies in Bangladesh are very much active in the field of respiratory medicine and every year they organize scientific seminars, where physicians from all over the country participate, exchange opinions and update their knowledge. Physicians from abroad especially from India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, the UK and Japan participate on various occasions.

As an APSR Councilor, my hopes and expectations of the APSR are as follows:

- a) The APSR will give us update information in the field of respirology.
- b) If possible, direct exchange training programs among the APSR members.
- c) If possible, include our members in APSR research program.

Md. Ali Hossain, M.D.

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Thoracic Society has had another fruitful and productive year. Working

closely with the American College of Chest Physicians (HK & Macau Chapter) and the Hong Kong Lung Foundation, we organized an annual scientific meeting, an autumn respiratory seminar, five clinical/scientific meetings, a certificate course (for allied health professionals) and a COPD workshop (for GPs). In preparation for an influenza pandemic, a symposium on Avian Influenza was hosted in April 2005, where a panel of distinguished speakers from Thailand, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong gathered and delivered a comprehensive range of talks on this deadly disease. The Society has been actively coordinating research studies in the territory and encouraging young members to participate. Some studies e.g. the Hong Kong Adult Lung Function study, were completed and data published, and several others on COPD were near completion. Being a strong advocate of a smoke-free community, the Society has given strong support to the Government's initiative to ban indoor smoking. Two press conferences were organized in March 2005 & 2006, for this purpose.

Established in 1986, the Hong Kong Thoracic Society is 20 years old this year. The Society has gone from strength to strength in the past two decades and is now the leading respiratory society in Hong Kong. As of June 2006 we had more than 700 members including prominent respirologists, thoracic surgeons and allied health professionals. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary, the Council plans to organize a series of events. A scientific seminar will be held in September, 2006 where we will review development of chest services and advances of respiratory medicine in Hong Kong and in the region. Public talks and a walkathon are planned to increase people's awareness of various threats and strategies to maintain good lung health.

I hope the APSR can serve as a platform for us to interact constructively with sister societies in the region to advance our specialty for the ultimate benefit for our patients.

Thomas Mok, M.D.

Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP 2006)

The ESAP (Educational Seminar of the APSR) project was introduced by Prof. Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, President of the APSR, and the first will be held this year. As the name ESAP indicates, the purpose is to improve the level of study of respiratory diseases across

the Asian Pacific region by inviting the top class specialists from various respiratory fields, and organizing educational seminars.

The first event, an educational seminar on the Medical Intervention in Pulmonary Diseases such as Thoracoscopy, Bronchoalveolar Lavage, Micro-sampling Method, was planned for Jakarta, Indonesia on 24th, 25th June, 2006. However, this has been postponed to December, 2006 due to the earthquake which occurred in May in Java.

Another ESAP will open with a COPD Symposium on 3rd-6th August, 2006 in Chengdu, China, sponsored by the ESAP.

The 11th Congress of the APSR, for which Prof. Yoshinosuke Fukuchi is the Congress President, will be held on 19th-22nd November, 2006 in Kyoto. Prior to this, the ESAP Tokyo 2006 will take place on 18th November at the Otemachi Sankei Plaza in Tokyo (please see the details on the website:

<http://www.aprs2006.org/sessions/esap.php>).

Professors P. T. Macklem, J. Milic-Emili, P. D. Wagner, Mary S. M. Ip and I. Honma, who are the world's leading specialists of the pulmonary physiology, are giving the lectures and we are expecting a large audience.

Many more ESAP projects will be held each year in various countries.

Akitoshi Ishizaka, M.D.
Organizing Committee, ESAP

**Educational Seminar of the APSR
(ESAP Chengdu 2006)
-Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Symposium of the APSR-**

The APSR has launched ESAP (Educational Seminar of the APSR) to promote good respiratory science. We will hold an ESAP 2006 Chengdu following a proposal from Professor Fu-Qiang Wen of West China Hospital, Sichuan University. This proposal has been fully supported by the Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases. The theme of the symposium is "COPD: Update in the



11th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR)

New Horizons in Respiriology -Harmonization beyond Diversity-

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Hall
Date: 19-22 November 2006
President: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, MD

Important deadlines:
"Early Bird" Registration: 31 August 2006
Hotel Reservation: 31 October 2006
(Abstracts submissions now closed)

URL <http://www.aprs2006.org/>

Secretariat:
c/o Japan Convention Services, Inc.
Daido Seimei Kasumigaseki Bldg.
1-4-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-0013
Tel: +81 3 3508 1211 Fax: +81 3 3508 0820
Email: aprs2006@convention.co.jp
URL: <http://www.aprs2006.org/>

**Educational Seminar of the APSR
(ESAP Tokyo)**

09:55-16:15 Saturday, 18th November, 2006
Otemachi Sankei Plaza, Tokyo

Why not join the ESAP Tokyo and meet some of the most eminent doctors in the world!

Entrance is **free** to APSR2006 participants.

A complimentary lunchbox will be provided.

Details: <http://www.aprs2006.org/sessions/esap.php>

diagnosis and treatment".

Date: 3rd - 6th August, 2006

Venue: Chengdu Jin Niu Hotel, Chengdu, Sichuan 610036, China

Official language: English

Congress Chairman: N-S Zhong, Y.Fukuchi, Y-L Feng, S. Rennard

Secretariat: Dept. of Respiratory Medicine, West China Hospital of Sichuan University
Chengdu, China E-mail: Huaxihuxi@163.com

Main topics:

- 1 "Pathogenesis of COPD and the current treatment" (S. Rennard, USA)
- 2 "Updates in Japanese guidelines on diagnosis, management and home care for COPD" (Y. Fukuchi, Japan)
- 3 "Prevalence and clinical experience of COPD in China" (N-S Zhong, China)
- 4 "Airway infection as a cause of acute exacerbations and efficacy of long-term macrolid therapy" (S. Kudoh, Japan)
- 5 Novel pharmacologic directions (F-Q Wen, China)
- 6 Surgical intervention of COPD (T. Williams, Australia)
- 7 Pulmonary rehabilitation of COPD (P. Punzal, Philippines)

Fu-Qiang Wen, M.D.
Secretary General

- 7 "How to prepare the patient & thoracoscopy techniques (one port, 2 or 3 port of entries)"
A. Ng (Singapore)
- 8 "Pleural biopsy techniques & pleurodesis"
Menaldi Rasmin (Indonesia)
- 9 "Managing empyema & pneumothorax"
A. Ng (Singapore)
- 10 "Pleural malignancy, mesothelioma and other pleural diseases"
Y. Ishii (Japan)
- 11 "New development in interventional bronchology"
T. Miyazawa (Japan)
- 12 a lecture by M. Phillips (Australia)

10th December, 2006 : Hands on seminar

On the second day, there will be sections such as; How to handle and prepare the BAL sample, How to install the thoracoscope to patient, Pleural biopsy techniques & pleurodesis by lecturers.

Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP Indonesia 2006)

-Interventional Pulmonology Course on Bronchoalveolar Lavage & Medical Thoracoscopy-

Date: 9th -10th December, 2006

Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Organized by Prof. Faisal Yunus, President/
Indonesian Pulmonology Society

Sponsored by the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology (APSR)

An educational seminar in Indonesia was originally planned for June 2006 but had to be postponed due to the earthquake which occurred in May, 2006. We are pleased to inform you that the event has been re-scheduled for 9-10 December, 2006. The rearrangement has gone through very smoothly due to the kind cooperation of the lecturers.

Main topics:

9th December, 2006

- 1 "Bronchoalveolar lavage: overview", and
"Novel microsampling method to analyse
epithelial lining fluid – comparison with
BAL method" A. Ishizaka (Japan)
- 2 "Infectious lung disease and BAL: Is there
any place for it?" Y. Ishii (Japan)
- 3 "The use of BAL in respiratory care and
obstructive airway disease"
Nirwan Arief (Indonesia)
- 4 "Bronchoalveolar lavage: How I do it.
Handling & processing the sample (VTR)"
Y. Ishii (Japan)
- 5 "Medical thoracoscopy: overview"
A. Ishida (Japan)
- 6 "Anatomy & physiology of pleural space"
Boedi Swidarmoko (Indonesia)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2006

European Respiratory Society (ERS) 2006
Annual Congress

2-6 September 2006, Munich, Germany

Website: www.ersnet.org

CHEST 2006

Annual International Scientific Assembly of the
American College of Chest Physicians

21-26 October 2006, Salt Lake City, USA

Website: www.chestnet.org

11th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology (APSR)

19-22 November 2006, Kyoto, Japan

Website: www.apsr2006.org

2007

TSANZ ASM

23-28 March 2007, Auckland, New Zealand

Website: www.thoracic.org.au

ATS 2007 International Conference

18-23 May 2007, San Francisco, United States

Website: www.thoracic.org

World Asthma Meeting

22-25 June 2007, Istanbul, Turkey

Website: www.wam2007.org

ERS 2007 Annual Congress

15-19 September 2007, Stockholm, Sweden

Website: www.ersnet.org

CHEST 2007

Annual International Scientific Assembly of the
American College of Chest Physicians

20-25 October 2007, Chicago, United States

Website: www.chestnet.org/CHEST/

Notice from the Secretariat

Congress in 2008 and 2009!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the APSR Congress in 2008 and 2009. Bids will be considered at the next Executive Meeting. You will be asked to present your thoracic society's plans for the arrangements and infrastructure of the event (Local Organizing Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information.

The Annual General Meeting & Assembly Meetings

Please join "The Assembly Meetings" and "The Annual General Meeting" during the 11th Congress of the APSR.

Time/Date: Monday, 20th November, 2006

Assembly Meetings: 13:35-14:00

Annual General Meeting: 14:00-14:20

Venue: Room C-2, Kyoto International Conference Hall

WORLD ASTHMA MEETING WAM'2007 ISTANBUL

"BRIDGING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ASTHMA"
23-25 June 2007
IHH Kurba Convention & Exhibition Center Istanbul / Turkey

www.wam2007.org



It will be a great honour and privilege for us to host the 2007 World Asthma Meeting in Istanbul. This city is truly a bridge between Europe and Asia; a bridge between cultures and a melting pot of civilizations. Istanbul has always been a city of tolerance where mosques, churches and synagogues have existed side by side. Finally it will be a bridge between scientific and social aspects of asthma in 2007. The WAM committee wished to discuss regional perspectives of asthma in a city on two different continents, historically and geographically connecting Northern Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and East Europe.

Please come and enjoy the scientific program. Please come and let yourself be spoiled with the famous Turkish hospitality. Please come and feel the charm of the capital of three great empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman from where over 120 emperors and sultans ruled for more than 1,600 years!

Elif Dağlı, M.D.
Chair, World Asthma Meeting



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