



Newsletter

Editor : YoungSoo Shim

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Message from the President



I am very pleased to report on the continuing close cooperation between the APSR and our sister international respiratory societies. At the ATS 2010 in New Orleans, we signed an MOU with the ATS for the formalization of reciprocal invitations for the leaderships to attend each other's annual meetings and travel awards for members. We also met there with the ERS leadership to discuss a similar agreement with them. Due to the restructuring of new membership categories and fees of the ATS and ERS, there will be some changes in the previously agreed 15% reciprocal membership fee discount. For the ERS, the discount is still effective for tier 1 & 2 countries of the APSR. New negotiations began with the ATS and I hope a continuing reciprocal discount arrangement will be signed at the ERS Meeting in Barcelona. In relation to APSR

membership, I am delighted that the TSANZ, TSPCCM and JRS have extended their MOU's as National Member Societies providing en bloc membership of the APSR for all their members.

Last year, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) launched the international 'Year of the Lung' (YOTL) at a meeting in Mexico. The APSR has participated in many activities to raise awareness of the importance of lung diseases and lung research throughout 2010 and the upcoming Manila Congress will be the high point of the APSR's YOTL activities. From September, the APSR will assume the leadership of the FIRS and Dr. N Berend, former President of the APSR, will be the FIRS Chairperson.

One of the main goals of the APSR is to develop educational opportunities for its members. The APSR Short-Term Research/Training Fellowship started in 2008 and this year Dr. Mohammed Shameem from India has been awarded that fellowship to visit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Malaysia for postgraduate training.

Dr. CL David Lam from Hong Kong and Dr. Hidenori Kage from Japan were selected to receive APSR Travel Awards to attend the ATS 2010 in New Orleans. (See the reports from each awardee on the following page.)

ESAP (Educational Seminar of the APSR) is another educational programme offered by the APSR and in Singapore, a successful ESAP was held with the title 'Pleura and Pleuroscopy 2010'. This meeting was held with the collaboration of the Singapore Thoracic Society. The local organizing committee, under Dr. Pyng Lee, did an excellent job and the meeting was very well attended and highly successful. A new ESAP-Roadshow on bronchoscopy is scheduled to be held in China this year through the leadership of Dr. Bing Lam, chairperson of the Education Committee.

Respirology, the official journal of the APSR, also has been very successful with its new Editor-in-Chief Dr. YC Gary Lee. He has implemented many changes to improve the standards of the journal and strengthen its international profile. (See the message from the Editor-in-Chief).

It is now only a few months to the 15th Congress of the APSR to be held in Manila from 22nd to 25th November through the cooperation of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Kwun Fong, chairperson of the Central Congress Committee, and the Assembly Heads, have been working hard with Dr. Teresita de Guia and her colleagues from the Local Congress Committee of the 15th APSR Congress to put together the scientific programme. The programme has content for both scientists and clinicians covering recent developments and state-of-the-art knowledge on airway diseases, respiratory infection, lung cancer, critical care medicine, pediatric lung disease, bronchoscopy and interventional pulmonology, respiratory neurobiology and sleep medicine, pulmonary circulation and smoking cessation. The invited speakers from Asia Pacific, the USA, Europe and elsewhere, are outstanding.

The Congress also features five postgraduate courses on the first day regarding 'Tropical Pulmonary Diseases and Travel Medicine', 'Procedural Pulmonology', 'Practical Tips on Pulmonary Function Testing and Imaging', 'Prevention and Control of Chronic Respiratory Diseases' in collaboration with WHO, and 'Tuberculosis' in collaboration with PTSL.

In line with recent Congresses, a large number of travel awards will again be offered to assist our younger colleagues and trainees to attend the Congress. I would like to remind you to apply for the travel awards when you submit your abstract.

The Manila Congress will provide you with memorable experiences both in scientific knowledge and your cultural encounter with the legendary Filipino hospitality, the trademark of the Philippines.

I very much look forward to seeing you all again in Manila. So please enter the dates on your calendar and submit your abstracts.

YoungSoo Shim
President/APSR

Message from the Secretary General

The year 2010 is already half gone, and the past 6 months have been an active half-year for various office-bearers of the APSR executive committee and the secretariat.

The annual Congress continues to be a key event of the Society. Preparations continue for the upcoming one to be held in Manila, Philippines, on 22nd-25th November 2010. Thanks to the relentless efforts of the Local Congress Committee led by Dr. Teresita de Guia, the experienced guidance and coordination by Dr. Kwun Fong and the input of various APSR Assemblies, a superb scientific programme is awaiting you, and an attractive social programme of golf and culture beckons. So do join the event and encourage your colleagues to come too.

In 2011 the Congress will be held in Shanghai. So if you are not going to the World Expo this year, here is a good chance to visit this wonderful city in China. Watch out for the dates and programme through the APSR website and Bulletin.

In addition to an ESAP on Pleural Diseases held in Singapore in April 2010, a Roadshow on Interventional Bronchology, traveling to several cities in China, is actively planned for the end of the year 2010.

The APSR Bulletin is now sent electronically to members every month, and I hope that as time goes on, you will find that you "anticipate" this communication from APSR and you look forward to reading it. You are invited to submit local health and professional news and information through the APSR secretariat or directly to the Convenors, Dr. David CL Lam or Dr. Shu Hashimoto.

The APSR leadership has met with the leaderships of different international and national societies, including the ATS, ERS, JRS and ICS, to discuss collaboration and mutual benefits for members.

Dr. Norbert Berend has been representing the APSR at the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), and the APSR is proud that he is poised to take up the Presidency of FIRS in 2011. FIRS is promoting the Year of the Lung of 2010 energetically. Through our APSR network of local societies, many countries in the Asia Pacific region have been holding events through the year to enhance community and government

awareness of the importance of respiratory health and disease. Do note the World Spirometry Day on 14 October 2010.

Finally, I would like to remind you to actively participate in the Society through the Assemblies, Subcommittees, and Bulletin. The form for APSR membership has been revamped to facilitate your expression of interest in specific professional areas represented by Assemblies. Encourage your colleagues to join as individual members. The APSR is OUR as well as YOUR Society!

Mary Sau-Man Ip
President-Elect and Secretary General

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report continual growth of the journal in my first year as Editor-in-Chief.

In 2009/10, *Respirology* continued to flourish. There were increases in subscriptions (26% for institutional subscriptions), PubMed Link-Outs and circulation. Although the number of submissions of manuscripts to the journal has remained stable, there was a clear rise in the quality of the submitted manuscripts. This is a reflection that *Respirology* has increasingly secured its place as a front-line respiratory journal that authors worldwide would consider publishing their quality work.

In line with the goals I set out in my inaugural editorial to raise the impact factor and standard of publications in *Respirology*, we continue to raise the publication standards. The acceptance rate for original manuscripts is now tightened to our target of around 25%. The new manuscript screening system pioneered in 2009 has significantly improved the manuscript turnaround time to an average of 16 days, putting *Respirology* in a very competitive place among other leading respiratory journals. I would like to thank Professors Helen Reddel and Martin Kolb for leading the screening process.

Respirology has continued to develop review series and articles with originality. The Pro/Con Debate and Think Tank review series featuring throughout 2010 have generated significant interest. The first of the Pro/Con Debates entitled '*Management of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection in Australia: A failure!*' has stimulated considerable discussion (and controversies!), resulting also in headline press coverage in national newspapers. *Respirology* has also enjoyed significant media coverage

through press releases of newsworthy original articles. One of the most publicised articles: '*The effects of a swimming intervention for children with asthma*', was picked up by more than 30 media outlets worldwide.

Respirology remains committed to cover topics of great regional significance, and a very high quality review series on tuberculosis, written by leading experts of the field and edited by Professors WW Yew (Hong Kong), Giovanni Migliori (Italy) and Christoph Lange (Germany), was published over the first five issues for 2010. This will be followed by further reviews on bacterial infections, edited by Dr. Jeremy Brown, on host response to pneumococci and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections. Another review series on the practical theme of how to set up pulmonary specialty departments (e.g. interventional bronchology units and pulmonary rehabilitation services) will feature in issues later this year. This year we continued with our popular 'A year in review series', which focused on advances in different areas of respiratory medicine and highlighted the contributions from articles published in *Respirology* in each field.

Virtual Issues continue to be published online with the addition of our most recent issues collating reviews from recent series on 'Pulmonary Fibrosis' and 'Complications in Lung Procedures', which are now available on the journal's website. The introduction of Virtual Issues has been successful with increased download of featured articles.

I would like to express my thanks to our former and continuing Editorial Board members and welcome our new members Yoshinori Hasegawa (Japan), David Chi-Leung Lam (Hong-Kong) and Ian Yang (Australia). I would like to acknowledge the tireless effort of the staff behind *Respirology*: our team of Editors, Editorial Board, the staff at the Editorial Office and our publisher Wiley-Blackwell.

Respirology is the journal of the APSR and I, as always, strongly encourage interested members of the APSR to participate in journal activities. Many of the members have over the years contributed with their time and untiring effort to ensure the success of the journal. With the rapid growth of *Respirology*, there is a greater need now than ever for members interested in journal publishing work to join us in contributing to our journal.

Y.C. Gary Lee
Editor-in-Chief, *Respirology*

CometoManila in 2010
Learn and experience beyond the usual!

15th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology
November 22 - 25, 2010
Philippine International Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract Submission	July 31, 2010
Notification of Acceptance	August 31, 2010
Travel Grants	August 31, 2010
Accommodation bookings	October 8, 2010
Early Registration	September 15, 2010

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We strongly enjoin our younger colleagues to submit abstracts, to showcase studies being done globally. Both oral and poster presentations are offered at the Congress. All accepted abstracts will be published in a special supplement of *Respirology*, the official journal of the APSR. We also invite our partners from pharmaceutical companies to support this conference through sponsorship of the various scientific activities of the Congress.

Aside from the learning activities, don't miss the chance to relax and mingle with your colleagues at the social events. We have prepared various entertainment programmes during the Congress. The country's rich cultural heritage, complemented by its scenic tropical tourist destinations and the legendary warm hospitality of Filipinos will make your visit truly memorable.

For more detailed information about the 15th Congress of the APSR, please visit the Congress website: www.apsr2010.org or email us at pccp@skybroadband.com.ph

Teresita de Guia
President of the 15th Congress of the APSR

15th Congress of the APSR: *Asia-Pacific Respirology: Symbiosis in the 21st Century*

Preparations for the 15th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology are now in the final stages. The Congress will be held on November 22–25, 2010 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila. With the theme: 'Asia-Pacific Respirology: Symbiosis in the 21st Century', key developments in pulmonology and critical care will be reviewed and highlighted side by side with dissertations on state-of-the-art and recent advances in the field. The APSR Assemblies have lined-up international and regional experts—each a formidable authority on their assigned topic.

As a pre-convention activity, there will be postgraduate courses on tropical pulmonary diseases and travel medicine, procedural pulmonology, practical tips on pulmonary function testing and imaging, prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases and tuberculosis.

Recent ESAP in Singapore: Pleura and Pleuroscopy 2010

We held a very successful symposium on Pleura and Pleuroscopy, April 7-8 2010, in Singapore, co-organized by the Singapore General Hospital, Singapore Thoracic Society and Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology. We are very grateful to the APSR for endorsing the course as an Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP).

The symposium consisted of lectures on pleural disease management conducted in a lively pro-con style debate by overseas and local faculty. The overseas faculty included Dr. Henri Colt, Dr. James Jett and Dr. Gary Lee. Local faculty consisted of Dr. Pyng Lee, Dr. Lim Tow Keang, Dr. Agasthian, Dr. Cheah Foong Koon, Dr. David Ng, Dr. Lim Chong Hee and Dr. Khoo Kay Leong.

2010 is a special year as it marks a hundred years since the inception of thoracoscopy by Jacobaeus, and a full day was dedicated to



ESAP in Singapore

flex-rigid pleuroscopy, rigid thoracoscopy and video-assisted thoracic surgery that culminated in a hands-on workshop on dogs.

The symposium was oversubscribed and registration was limited to 60 participants due to the hands-on session. Participants came from Dubai, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and Australia.

Feedback about the symposium and hands-on workshop was excellent, and we saw a lively exchange of questions between faculty and participants after each pro-con debate. In addition, we had special segments on staging classification, early detection and targeted therapy of lung cancer, which were well-received.

Overall, most participants have expressed interest in attending another ESAP symposium in Singapore and we, as organizers of the 2nd ESAP (the first being on lung cancer and bronchoscopy in 2009), are extremely encouraged by the response.

Pyng Lee
National University Hospital, Singapore

Report from the award winners to attend the ATS International Conference 2010 in New Orleans

It was my great pleasure to be given this prestigious award and opportunity to attend

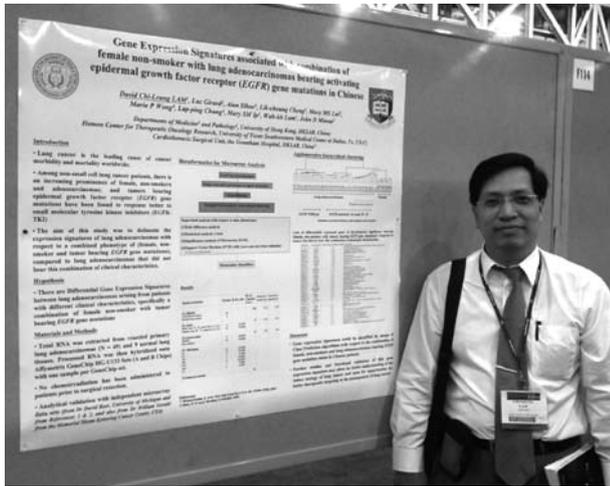
the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Annual Meeting held in May 14–19, 2010, New Orleans, supported by the APSR as well as the ATS.

My abstract on ‘Gene expression signatures associated with combination of female non-smokers in lung adenocarcinomas bearing activating epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*) gene mutations in Chinese’ was selected for thematic poster presentation on the first day of the Meeting. It was a great opportunity for me to vocalize my presentation and I received very constructive comments from the session facilitators and visitors.

The next day of the conference I took up the job of being a facilitator for the Thematic Poster Session on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Pathogenesis. I was very impressed with the quality of abstracts, and their presenters, selected for presentation. There was indeed much to learn from the presenters and the material they presented.

The Meeting this time was very well organized and coherent. We did not have to run too much to join parallel sessions of interest: pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, from basic to translational to clinical topics.

There were also valuable opportunities to meet with representatives from different professional societies, including delegates from the PCCP who were busy promoting the upcoming APSR Congress in Manila; Prof. YS Shim, APSR President; Mr. Yamanaka from the APSR; as well as Dr. Norbert Berend, APSR Immediate Past-president.



Overall, it was great time to be an APSR Member to receive such a prestigious award from the APSR with the opportunity to attend the ATS Annual Meeting 2010, which gave me much food for thought both in research and clinical practice.

Many thanks indeed to the APSR and ATS.

David CL Lam
University of Hong Kong

The ATS International Conference 2010 was held in New Orleans from May 14 to 19, and I was able to attend, having received the APSR Travel Award. There were numerous symposiums and poster sessions on basic, translational, and clinical research in the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine; much more than any one person could attend. Before reaching New Orleans, I had already decided that the focus for this year would be basic science in pulmonary medicine.

I reached New Orleans on the afternoon of May 15, after an 11-hour flight from Tokyo to Houston, and a 50-minute flight from Houston to New Orleans, where I spotted several of my fellow pulmonary medicine specialists from other hospitals, and many carrying posters. The experience of New Orleans was immediate: it was raining and humid. I bought an umbrella and went directly to the Convention Center so I could receive my programme and prepare for the downpour of information in the days to come.

The conference was structured so that symposiums and poster discussion sessions were held in conference rooms on early mornings and afternoons. Thematic posters were posted throughout the day and poster sessions were held in one large hall on late mornings. This enabled the attendees to

examine all the posters and discuss the contents with the presenters. Every day there were numerous posters on basic research and it was a joy to have discussions with my fellow (mostly) young investigators.

The symposiums and poster discussion sessions I attended included 'Epigenomics and development', 'Regulation of epithelial-mesenchymal transition', 'Epigenetic mechanisms in lung fibrosis', 'Cell fate decisions in lung development and repair', 'Scientific breakthroughs of the year: stem cells and regenerative medicine', and 'Top Notch decisions in lung development and repair'. It was a pleasant surprise that epigenetics and stem cells/development were attracting greater interest in pulmonary medicine, especially because epigenetics and cancer is the primary interest at our lab.

On May 18, I presented my poster entitled 'Delivery of short interfering RNA using adeno-associated virus type 2/5'. Those who have had experience using siRNAs in their experiments know that siRNA transfection efficiencies and the length of inhibition often cause problems. I used a viral vector, AAV type 2/5, to carry a short hairpin RNA against *Tgfr1* and showed that the transduction is high and suppression of gene function is efficient in lung alveolar epithelium-derived cells. It was a joy to talk to other investigators about siRNAs, small RNAs in general, and gene delivery.

On May 19, I was the facilitator at a thematic poster session entitled 'Interesting cases of tumors and more'. The cases were not only interesting but also challenging. They highlighted the fact that through the tough choices we must make every day, and through the sharing of experience, the patients provide us with the best learning opportunities.

Finally, I would like to thank the organizers from the ATS and the APSR for providing me with the opportunity to experience this exciting conference. I would love to go back to Denver for the conference in 2011. I would also like to thank my colleagues at University of Tokyo and my family. Without their support, I could not have been gone for a week of information, motivation, and inspiration.

Hidenori Kage
Department of Respiratory Medicine
University of Tokyo

Glance at inter-society collaboration in past 9 months

The APSR continues to have close dialogue with other international Societies, strengthening our collegial relationship and mapping out new benefits to members. This has included the following recent meetings with the senior leadership of our sister Societies:

Meeting with; ERS	16 November	2009
; ACCP	17 November	2009
; ATS	17 November	2009
; ATS	22 April	2010
; ACCP	16 May	2010
; ERS	16 May	2010
; ATS	17 May	2010

In addition, the APSR continues to give strong support to the activities of the Forum of International Respiratory Society (FIRS), including participation in:
FIRS meeting 16–17 January and 16 May 2010.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2010

ESAP Basic Bronchoscopy Roadshow
4 August 2010, Changsha, Hunan province, China
Website: www.apsresp.org/education/esap.php

11th Annual Respiratory Congress, Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases
19–22 August 2010, Changchun, China
Email: csrd2008@126.com
Website: www.csrd.org.cn

ESAP Basic Bronchoscopy Roadshow
18 September 2010, Beijing, China

ERS 20th Annual Congress
18–22 September 2010, Barcelona, Spain
Website: www.erscongress2010.org/

2nd International Conference on Lung Health- "Pulmocon 2010"
13–14 October 2010, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Email: bennoor@gmail.com

ESAP Basic Bronchoscopy Roadshow
16 October 2010, Shanghai, China

CHEST 2010-Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
30 October- 4 November 2010, Vancouver, Canada
Website: www.chestnet.org/CHEST/

The KATRD Annual Autumn Conference
11-12 November 2010, Seoul, Korea

ESAP Basic Bronchoscopy Roadshow
20 November 2010, Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui, China

15th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
22–25 November 2010, Manila, Philippines
Website: www.apsresp.org/congress/2010.php

Annual Meeting of Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
11–12 December 2010, Taiwan
Website: www.tsppcm.org.tw/

2011

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meetings 2011
1–4 April 2011
Website: www.thoracic.org.au

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society
22–24 April 2011, Tokyo, Japan
Website: www.jrs.or.jp/

ATS International Conference
13–18 May 2011, Denver, USA
Website: www.thoracic.org

ERS 21st Annual Congress
24–28 September 2011, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Website: www.erscongress2011.org/

CHEST 2011-Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
22–27 October 2011, Honolulu, USA

16th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
3–6 November 2011, Shanghai, China

2012

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society
20-22 April 2012, Kobe, Japan

ATS International Conference
18–23 May 2012, San Francisco, USA

CHEST 2012-Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
20-25 October 2012, Atlanta, USA

17th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
Hong Kong, China

YOTL Campaigns in 2010

- Immunization Awareness Month;
August 2010
- Healthy Lung Month;
October 2010
- Child Health Day;
4 October 2010
- World Spirometry Day;
14 October 2010



- Respiratory Care Week;
24–30 October 2010
- Lung Health Day;
27 October 2010
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month;
November 2010
- World Pneumonia Day;
2 November 2010

(Website: www.2010yearofthelung.org)

Notices from the Secretariat

1. Invitation to Congress 2013 bid!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the APSR Congress in 2013. 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 Congress Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (kyu00671@nifty.com)

2. APSR Research Awards

The APSR is pleased to announce two Research Awards; the Harasawa Research Award and the Woolcock Research Award, to all current APSR members. The two awardees will deliver lectures at the APSR Congress in Manila, November 2010. Nominations can come from any current member of the APSR and nominees can be any current member of the APSR whose work enshrines excellence in respiratory research. Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat and will be considered by the APSR Research Committee.

Deadline for nominations: 31st July, 2010

3. The APSR Medal

The APSR Medal will be bestowed during the 15th Congress of the APSR in Manila, November 2010. The award of this medal is made for the advancement of respirology in the Asia Pacific region in fields other than research but including major achievements in advocacy, teaching, or clinical practice. Any current member of the APSR fulfilling the criteria is eligible for this award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat and will be considered by a committee comprising of the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee, Chairperson of the Education Committee, Secretary General, Past President and President of the APSR.

Deadline for nominations: 31st July, 2010

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