



Newsletter

Editor : Mary Sau-Man Ip

Associate Editors : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, J. Patrick Barron, Kwun M. Fong, Yasutomi Yamanaka

Message from the President



Eight months have gone by since my term as APSR President began in November 2010. It has been a challenging time for me, but much more so for many individuals in the Asian Pacific region who have gone through serious natural disasters. The people of Japan braved the devastating series of earthquakes, tsunamis and radiation power plant damage in March 2011, while those in Christchurch of New Zealand experienced one of the worst earthquakes in their country in January 2011. We admire the courageous resilience demonstrated by the people in the face of calamity and we sincerely hope that their communities will recover very soon. Mr. Yamanaka and his team at the APSR Secretariat office in Tokyo have worked almost uninterrupted, despite the turmoil they must have faced.

The APSR has been steadfastly making a number of evolutionary steps, in order to fulfill its vision and mission. We have moved forth to advance connections with the respiratory community in the Asian Pacific region, and to consolidate our relationship with international sister societies.

I. Reaching out to the respiratory community in the region

1. The Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Paul Reynolds, has been charged with the major challenge of promoting membership in the region. The Executive Committee has come up with a number of viable suggestions for attracting both individual and en bloc members. Some excellent ideas have been floated in order to provide more opportunities for APSR members, and these will be further discussed and hopefully implemented in the coming year.

2. Organization of Annual APSR Congress and other educational activities:

The APSR Congress is conducted annually in different localities in the Asian Pacific region. The 2010 Congress in Manila, under the leadership of Dr. Teresita de Guia and her team in Philippines and Dr. Kwun Fong from the Central Congress Committee, was a stunning success with its top quality science and cost-effective organization. We look forward to the coming ones; in Shanghai in only a few months time, in Hong Kong in 2012, and Yokohama in 2013. The annual Congress is not only a key "symbolic" event of the Society, it is also the main source of revenue to support the many other activities of the APSR. We need to vigilantly ensure efficient and smooth congress organization which is becoming increasingly complex and competitive.

The ESAP, conceived over 10 years ago as an educational activity of the APSR, has been taking place a few times a year in different member countries. It is in need of a booster to enhance its value, so the formats of ESAP and related activities have been revised. The revised procedures will be available on the website in July 2011.

3. *Respirology* and other published materials:

Respirology, as the official journal of the APSR, has been steadily advancing in quality and international standing, as reflected by its impact factor and other indicators. The APSR has recently signed an agreement with the World Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WABIP) to provide electronic subscription to its members en bloc. The Fukuchi Best Paper Award was established last year to encourage quality submissions. The journal also has plans for further strategic developments in the next few years. We would like to express our deep appreciation for

Dr. YC Gary Lee, who has served the journal for over 12 years and led as its Editor-in-Chief (EIC) for the past two years. We now welcome Dr. Peter Eastwood as the new EIC and pledge our full support.

The APSR Bulletin has been disseminated on time every month, thanks to the consistent efforts of the APSR Secretariat Office and coordinators, and the contribution of members from different countries in the submission of local news. Special thanks are due to Dr. David Lam and Mr. John Cochrane.

The APSR Respiratory Updates continues its excellent production on specific themes and acts as a very useful and timely resource on respiratory topics for our members. Many thanks to Dr. Richard Beasley who initiated and nurtured this series to maturity, and recently passed on the work to good hands.

II. Enhancing International collaboration

1. The APSR has continued its traditional cordial and mutually beneficial relationships with other sister societies such as the American Thoracic Society (ATS), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) as well as our good friendship with the Latin American Thoracic Association (ALAT). We are pleased to have the participation of their leadership at our annual Congresses. Similar to our arrangement with the ATS, we have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ERS leadership regarding the exchange of young investigators to attend the annual congress of the respective societies every year. The APSR also takes part in a scientific symposium at the ACCP's CHEST meeting. The APSR will further promote education in the Asian Pacific region, in collaboration with the expertise available in these sister societies, while our own leadership continues to represent the APSR in various areas on the international stage.

2. The APSR is one of the founding members of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and Dr. Norbert Berend, representing the APSR, is the current chairman of the FIRS. The FIRS launched the successful World Spirometry Day on 14 October 2010 globally. We continue to participate actively in the FIRS, which is now focusing on a global RoadMap to promote respiratory health.

Having reported on our very positive steps and progress, I would like to draw your attention to the call for active participation in APSR matters. Inevitably, the talented, established

and upcoming leaders in different localities are all very busy. But for those who share the vision and mission of the APSR, I would appeal to you to spare some of your time and commitment in the work of the APSR.

Finally, to conclude this message, may I invite all of you to join us at the coming 17th Congress of the APSR on 3–6 November 2011 in Shanghai, China. It promises a star-studded scientific programme held in the setting of an enigmatic city!

Mary Sau-Man Ip

Message from the Secretary General

It is over six months since Dr. Mary Sau-Man Ip took over the presidency of APSR, as well as various other new office-bearers. New initiatives have been discussed and many are during the development process.

The 15th Congress of APSR in Manila, Philippines 22–25 November 2010 was the real success both scientifically and financially. APSR Executive Committee owed Dr. Teresita de Guia and her team a pat on the back for their excellent effort - Well Done. Preparation of the 16th Congress in Shanghai, China, is in full swing. A superb scientific programme has been arranged as well as an attractive social programme. The details of these activities can be monitored through the APSR website and Bulletin. Make sure you have marked down in your calendar 3–6 November 2011 for this special event of the year for all APSR members and their families. So do join the events and hope to see you all in Shanghai.

In 2010, the APSR joined many sister respiratory societies through the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) in order to increase awareness of the burden and impact of respiratory diseases to the world's population. The Year of the Lung 2010 closed with reasonable success. Many APSR Member Countries held events throughout the year but the biggest event of all was likely to be World Spirometry Day on 14 October 2010. The next World Spirometry Day should be held in 2012. You will be informed through various channels for this activity and many others which are planned for 2012 by FIRS, which includes all prominent respiratory societies in every corner of the World. FIRS is in the process of developing a World Atlas/Roadmap on Respiratory Disease. I have the privilege to represent the APSR on the Steering Committee for this project of which Dr. Klaus Rabe of the ERS was elected to chair.

The main target audience of this World Atlas/Roadmap will be decision makers and the general public. The World Atlas/Roadmap on Respiratory Disease should be available before the end of 2012. I will inform all members from time to time on the progress of this project and other FIRS activities.

APSR leaders (President, Immediate-Past President, Secretary General) and the Executive Manager, have met leaders of different international and national respiratory societies at the recent ATS International Conference in Denver during the month of May. The main purpose of this dialogue is to foster relationships between the societies as well as future collaborations and benefits for respective society members. Those societies included the ATS, ACCP, ERS and also representatives of other societies.

Looking forward to see you all in Shanghai.

Arth Nana

Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

I am honoured to be taking on the role of Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology*, the official journal of the APSR, from Dr. YC Gary Lee. On behalf of all APSR members I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort made by him in growing the stature of *Respirology* to be a journal of international importance within our field.

I look forward to continuing many of the initiatives that he has instituted over the past two years. For example, in 2012 *Respirology* will continue its Review Series, each of which will consist of between 6 and 14 'themed' review papers. Some of the series already planned for 2012 include: Obesity and *Respiratory Diseases*, to be edited by Amanda Piper; Translational Advances in Respiratory Diseases, to be edited by Drs. David Lam and John Heffner; Stem Cells and the Lung, to be edited by Dr. Philip J Thompson and Dr. Yuben Moodley and Air Pollution, to be edited by Drs. Ian Yang and Stephen Holgate.

In 2012 *Respirology* will also continue its Ad-Hoc Reviews and Think Tank Reviews on areas of interest to the readership of the journal that do not necessarily fit under the theme of a Review Series. It will also continue the successful Pro-Con Debates, and Guest Editorials from invited experts on selected manuscripts from the same issue.

The backbone of the journal is an outstanding international Editorial Board with a wide

range of expertise. The selfless involvement of these individuals has resulted in an increasingly high quality of reviewer feedback, improved quality of articles published and number of citations to them, and a continually increasing impact factor. These academic activities remain well supported by an extremely experienced and efficient Editorial Office, managed by Ms. Lieve Bultynck.

I would like to encourage all APSR members to submit their research paper to *Respirology* and to feel free to contact either myself or the Editorial Office with any suggestions or comments related to the journal and its activities.

Peter Eastwood

Homage to the Past Editor-in-Chief

With some reluctance, because the departure of Dr. YC Gary Lee is an immense loss to *Respirology* and the APSR, I have accepted the assignment of paying homage to him following his resignation as Editor-in-Chief (EIC). Dr. Lee assumed the position of EIC on 1 February 2009 when he moved from London, UK to Perth, Australia. He had already been working with Dr. Philip J Thompson, then the EIC, for almost two years as the Editor-in-Chief Elect.

When I met Dr. Lee in person for the first time at the ATS International Conference in San Diego, USA in May 2009, I was quite impressed by his enthusiasm and ambition to push *Respirology* to a higher ground. I could understand the reason why Dr. Thompson had chosen him as his successor. I thought it would not be easy for him to succeed Dr. Thompson, who served as the EIC for eight years, because Dr. Thompson had achieved great results. To my surprise, Dr. Lee was at ease and confident in assuming the role as EIC. In his inaugural statement, he proposed his short, intermediate and long term goals as follows:

- to continue to improve the quality and efficient running of the journal
- to increase the global profile of the journal
- for *Respirology* to take an active role in education, and raise research interest and standards in the Asian Pacific region.

It meant that he wanted to improve the status of *Respirology* from being a globally recognized respiratory journal to become a globally respected and excellent journal.

I found that he was a man of many ideas and of enterprise, and in retrospect, I realize

that he has succeeded in all his initial goals during the past two years. He revamped the format of *Respirology* from the cover to the content. *Respirology* now has a new cover and is packed with up-to-date information on recent advances in pulmonary medicine through the invited lectures and review articles from world renowned pulmonologists. Experts in the field were invited to write accompanying editorials on highlighted papers in the same issue. To improve the turn-around time of submitted manuscripts, he started a new screening system. Now, the average turn-around time for submissions is 26 days. He also raised the threshold of acceptance close to the standard of established journals to improve the quality of the accepted papers. The virtual (electronic) issue of *Respirology* is another success story with enthusiastic feedback from pulmonary physicians. He also resurrected the monthly publication of the APSR Respiratory Updates after its two-year absence. This provides new knowledge and introduces hot issues to APSR members with the purpose of taking an active role in raising research interest in the Asian Pacific region. As a result of his enormous effort, *Respirology* draws attention from respiratory specialists throughout the world.

In addition to his success in improving the scientific status of *Respirology*, he also put much effort into improving the financial status of the editorial office and the APSR itself. He achieved this by containing the management costs of the editorial office and generating new income sources to strengthen the financial status of the APSR. He has succeeded in recruiting the World Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology as a new international en-bloc member of the APSR. This deal will add a new financial resource to the APSR and broaden the audience of *Respirology* to those outside pulmonology.

All these achievements would not have been possible without his deep devotion, in spite of his busy schedule of research and academic duties as a full time faculty member. The APSR owes him a lot for success in establishing its present position in the world of international pulmonary societies, without any financial compensation for his valuable time consumed in editorial duties for *Respirology*. The APSR will always remember his productive EIC term as a big turning point in increasing its global profile as an international respiratory society.

Personally, I shared many rewarding moments with him. Since our first meeting at San Diego in 2009, every time I met him at international and APSR congresses, I could broaden my perspective on medical journals and professional societies, and have deep

discussions to impose the health of both the APSR and *Respirology*.

I wish him the best for his future research and academic career.

YoungSoo Shim

Message from the 16th Congress President

It is my great pleasure and honour as Congress President, to welcome you to the 16th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR). The APSR is renowned as a dynamic organization showcasing the breadth and depth of respiratory medicine across the Asian Pacific region. Following the success of the two previous meetings held in China, this year's Congress, hosted by the Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases (CSRD) and the Shanghai Medical Association, will be held at the Shanghai International Convention Center, in the vibrant and international metropolis of Shanghai. Since its inception and first meeting held in Tokyo in 1988, the Congress has gone from strength to strength and we are expecting this year's meeting to be no exception and continue this momentum to be an outstanding success.

Scheduled for 3–6 November 2011, this four-day Congress will feature a comprehensive scientific programme, including post-graduate courses, lectures and symposia conducted by keynote speakers, who are experts in the field of respirology. In addition, oral and poster presentations will provide exposure for researchers, as a platform for academic exchange on exciting new topics currently under investigation. The Local Congress Committee has organized a range of social events and tours to encourage participants to experience the diverse local culture and traditions of the host city.

I hope this Congress will be an exciting and productive gathering of pulmonologists from the Asian Pacific region, provide an opportunity to share their knowledge, experience and views on current respiratory disease topics, and provide a platform for networking and collaboration between researchers and clinicians across the field.

I would like to thank the APSR 2011 Local Congress Committee for their dedication and support in making this Congress a success. I would also like to thank all participants for their continued interest and involvement in APSR Congresses and look forward to meeting you in November in Shanghai.

Bai Chunxue

2011 SHANGHAI
16th Congress of the
Asian Pacific Society of Respirology

Abstract Submission Deadline: 31 July, 2011
Early-Bird Registration Deadline: 15 September, 2011

Date:
3-6 November, 2011

Hosted by:
Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases
Shanghai Medical Association

Congress Venue:
Shanghai International Convention Center

www.apsr2011.org

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Postgraduate Courses: Mechanical Ventilation, Pleural Disease, Sleeping and Breathing, Applied Respiratory Physiology
- 2011 COPD GOLD Guidelines Announcement – Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of COPD
- For the latest news and updates, please visit www.apsr2011.org



ESAP Report;
Bronchoscopy Course in China

To promote basic techniques of bronchoscopy in China, the APSR collaborated with the Chinese Medical Association and the Chinese Journal of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, to co-organize a Basic Bronchoscopy Course in six cities of China (Dalian, Taiyuan, Beijing, Jinan, Guangzhou and Chengdu) from July 2010 till March 2011. All the basics of bronchoscopy were covered in the half-day lectures, followed by half-day hands-on workshops of bronchoscopic procedures. The faculty included Dr. S J Jiang, Dr. B Lam, Dr. Q Li, Dr. S Y Li, Dr. Z H Tong, Dr. G F Wang and Dr. J Zhang. The activities were well received with more than 330 participants attending the course. The participants were from those six cities and surrounding

areas, and feedback from the delegates was excellent. Hopefully the educational activity will promote appropriate use of bronchoscopy in the region.

Bing Lam

Report from the award winners to attend the ATS International Conference

It was my great pleasure to be given this prestigious award and opportunity to attend the American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference held 13–18 May 2011, in Denver, Colorado, supported by the APSR and the ATS.

The ATS International Conference is one of the largest conferences devoted to respiratory medicine. There were numerous symposiums and poster sessions on basic, translational, and

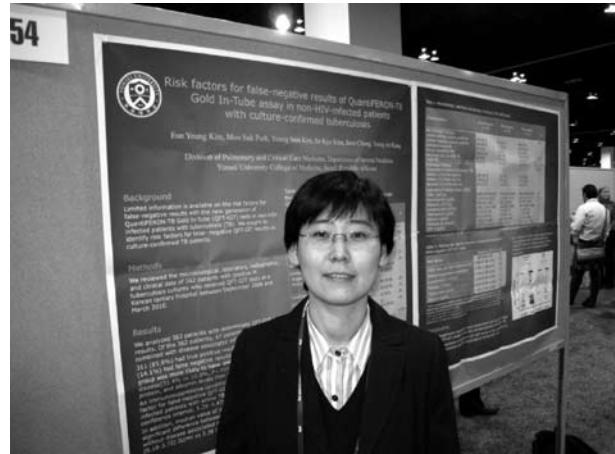
clinical research in the fields of pulmonology, critical care and many other subjects. As a result, I had opportunities to participate in many interesting scientific symposiums and to discuss with other researchers from around the world. Before reaching Denver, I had decided that my focus for this ATS meeting would be pulmonary infections, including mycobacterial infection and drug-resistant bacterial infection.

I participated in symposia about the management of multi-drug resistant pathogens, tuberculosis and nontuberculous mycobacterial infections. The active discussion between the investigators attending the symposia and poster sessions were impressive and became a useful guide for me. The passions of the young investigators from around the world made me even more enthusiastic and motivated. On 17 May, I presented my poster entitled 'Risk factors for false-negative results of QuantifERON-TB Gold assay in active TB patients'. It was about the diagnosis of tuberculosis infection and the limitation of the interferon-gamma release assay in routine clinical practice. My colleagues and I are interested in the new biomarker for the diagnosis of tuberculosis infection to overcome the limitation of the interferon-gamma release assay in Korea, so the constructive comments from the other investigators became a new theme of my further research. In addition, I took up the job of being a facilitator for the thematic poster session on 'Diagnostics and biomarkers for latent and active tuberculosis'. I was very impressed with the quality of abstracts, and their presenters. There was indeed much to learn from the presenters and the materials they presented.

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 this enabled the attendees to examine all the posters which they were interested in.

Overall, it was a great time to receive such a prestigious award from the APSR with the opportunity to attend the ATS Annual meeting 2011. It provided me with an opportunity to learn more about the new scientific research methods and to deepen my understanding of the interesting issues.

I would like to thank the organizers of the ATS and the APSR for providing me with the opportunity to experience this exciting conference.



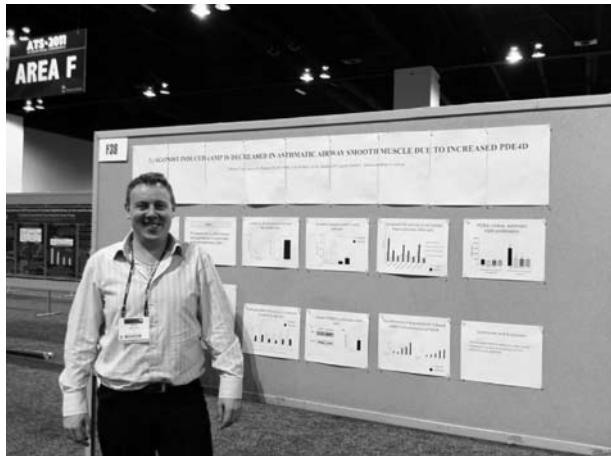
Young Ae Kang
Yonsei University College of Medicine

I would like to begin by thanking the APSR for giving me the opportunity to attend the ATS International Conference in Denver, May 2011. Large conferences sometimes run the risk of having too many parallel sessions, and rooms which are physically separated by walks of up to ten minutes. However, I am happy to report that this was not the case at this year's ATS conference. Of course some sessions that I would have liked to have attended were held at the same time as other sessions, but perhaps this reflects the quality and diversity of the meeting.

I presented three posters on different aspects of our work, which could collectively be described as studies aiming to better understand the molecular pathophysiology of asthma and COPD. Many participants were interested in our work, from PhD students to professors, and from a range of subspecialties. Having our work reviewed by a large dynamic cross-disciplinary group was really good, and I received some excellent feedback and suggestions for areas to investigate. It was also reassuring to talk to other researchers in the same field and find that they have had similar experimental issues, and to obtain their ideas on how to overcome these problems. The general atmosphere at the conference was extremely supportive.

Through the APSR award I was also given the opportunity to chair a poster discussion session with Drs. Adcock and Belvisi on new therapies for asthma. This was a great opportunity for me, both in terms of being mentored by world renowned experts in the lead-up to the session, and the chance to understand how to effectively chair a session. This for me was one of the highlights of the meeting.

Once again I would like to thank the APSR, and the organisers of the ATS conference, for enabling me to attend and participate in the 2011 ATS International Conference.



Brian Oliver
Woolcock Institute & The University of Sydney

Past Awardees of APSR Award

APSR Medal

2010 Nan-Shan Zhong
2009 Yoshinosuke Fukuchi
2008 Philip J Thompson

Fukuchi Best Paper Award

2010 Hiroshi Kimura

Harasawa Research Award

2010 Mary Sau-Man Ip
2009 Masaharu Nishimura
2008 Michiaki Mishima
2007 Toshihiro Nukiwa
2006 Takayuki Kuriyama
2005 Shoji Kudoh
2004 Hidetada Sasaki
2003 Masayuki Ando

Woolcock Research Award

2010 Richard Beasley
2009 Judith Lee Black
2008 David Hui
2007 Peter Sly
2006 Alan James
2005 Cheryl Salome
2004 Peter Gibson
2003 Guy Marks

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2011

Annual ISR (Indonesian Society of Respirology) Congress
6–11 July, Bukittinggi, Indonesia

Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases Annual Meeting
16–18 September, Guangzhou, China

ERS 21st Annual Congress
24–28 September, Amsterdam, Netherlands
<http://erscongress2011.org/>

Malaysian Interventional Pulmonology Course
5–7 October, Sabah, Malaysia
<http://www.jknsabah.gov.my/hospital/hqe/respiratori/>

CHEST 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
22–27 October, Honolulu, USA
<http://2011.accpmeeting.org/>

16th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
3–6 November, Shanghai, China
<http://www.apsr2011.org/>

KATRD Annual Conference
10–11 November, Seoul, Korea

2012

The 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
31 March – 3 April, Canberra, Australia
<http://www.thoracic.org.au/meetings/annual-scientific-meetings/>

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

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

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

17th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
Hong Kong, China
Date/Month to be informed soon

2013

ATS International Conference
17–22 May, Philadelphia, USA

CHEST 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
26–31 October, Chicago, USA

17th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
11–14 November, Yokohama, Japan

On behalf of the Members, Officers and Secretariat of the APSR, we wish to extend our sincerest sympathies to the people of New Zealand and Japan, and our deepest condolences for the terrible loss of lives from these recent natural disasters. The big earthquake in New Zealand in February and the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March claimed more than two thousands of lives, and destroyed much infrastructure especially in East Japan. For the survivors, the grief suffered from loss of family members and friends, the loss of their homes and property, and the loss of their jobs and livelihoods, is just too enormous to comprehend.

We very much applaud the rapid reaction of international aid organizations and it was heartening to see the success of the immediate rescue and relief operations undertaken by organizations from all parts of the world.

During this period of recovery from these disasters, our thoughts and prayers remain with the people of New Zealand and Japan.

Notices from the Secretariat

1. Invitation to bid for the 2014 Congress!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the 18th Congress of the APSR in 2014. Bids will be considered at the next Executive Committee Meeting. You will be asked to present your thoracic society's plans for the arrangements, financial planning 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 two current APSR members. The two awardees will deliver lectures at the APSR Congress in Shanghai, November 2011. Nominations can be made of any current member of the APSR and nominees shall 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, 2011

3. The APSR Medal

The APSR Medal will be bestowed during the 16th Congress of the APSR in Shanghai, November 2011. The award of this medal is made for the advancement of respirology in the Asian 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, 2011

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