2011 APSR Congress opens with fanfare

Delegates gathered at the Shanghai International Convention Center to celebrate the opening of the 16th congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology.

Congress President Professor Bai Chunxue officially declared the start of the APSR 2011 and challenged delegates to think deeply about prevention and disease management and to share their ideas with colleagues from around the world.

Dr. Jieming Qu, director of the Shanghai Health Bureau and a Shanghai native, noted the unique opportunity to talk about the common challenges of respirology across borders. "I believe that this ceremony will be the milestone event in the advance of respiratory science in Shanghai and an unforgettable moment in the history of the APSR," he said.

Professor Mary Ip, president of the APSR, gave the opening address, and noted that, at 1,000, the congress received a record high number of submitted abstracts.

The opening ceremony also marked the handover of the "baton" — a golden spirometer — for World Spirometry Day 2012 to the American Thoracic Society.

The global event, begun by the Federation of International Respiratory Societies, is set to coincide with the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. As such, Professor Klaus Rabe, president of the European Respiratory Society, said the theme will emphasize lung health, exercise and mental health.

The first World Spirometry Day, held in October 2010, was a way to raise awareness about lung disease, particularly COPD, a leading cause of global mortality, in communities via free spirometry tests, saw over 100 thousand testing events in more than 60 countries around the world.

Professor Nicholas Hill, president of the ATS, accepted the golden spirometer of the 2012 World Spirometry Day from Professor Ip with a large puff.
Welcome!

Professor Bai Chunxue

Professor Bai Chunxue
Congress President,
APSR 2011

Thanks to everyone for joining us here in Shanghai at the 16th Asia Pacific Society of Respirology Congress. With nearly 3000 participants from 21 regions around the world joining us, this congress is truly an international event.

I am honored to have you here with us to spend the next several days discussing a truly important topic.

Chronic respiratory disease is one of the most common afflictions in the world, responsible for increasing rates of morbidity and mortality. According to the World Health Organization, some 235 million people currently suffer from asthma. Millions die from COPD yearly, and almost 90 percent of all COPD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

I hope that this congress will be a platform for key opinion leaders, clinicians and researchers to share their ideas and knowledge. I challenge all delegates and young physicians to think more about prevention and better disease management protocols, which may, in turn, inspire new and practicable standards in the field.

The full-day post-graduate courses that took place today were packed with topics which I hope will equip our young physicians to take on leadership roles within their communities to improve respiratory disease.

Once again, many thanks for joining us and I wish you a fruitful congress!

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to the 16th congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology here in Shanghai.

The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology is a relatively young regional Society. It was first established in 1986, making it 25 years old. It has since grown to over 30,000 members from the Asian Pacific region and beyond.

The Asian Pacific region is a very populous area and we have a diversity of culture, language and different stages of socioeconomic development. It can be a challenge to work in unison. Congresses such as this one help to hold us together to promote respiratory health in the region as well as globally through collaboration. I would like to express my thanks and delight to have the leadership presence of our sister societies in America and Europe.

The APSR congress is held in different cities in the Asian Pacific region each year. Our local hosts in Shanghai are the Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases and the Shanghai Medical Society.

There was a record high number of abstracts, over 1,000 this year. We hope our young colleagues, clinicians and scientists use this occasion and venue to share work and learn from each other.

We have prepared a rich and high caliber program for you all but I hope you still have time to see Shanghai.

Welcome again to the 16th Congress of the APSR.

Professor Mary Ip

Professor Mary Ip
President of APSR

http://www.apsr2011.org
Award Categories

APSR Medal
The 2011 APSR Medal recognizes the individual who demonstrated great commitment to advancing respirology in the Asia-Pacific region through advocacy, teaching, clinical practice and leadership, and for incuding major achievements in advocacy, teaching, research, clinical practice and leadership, and for exceptional contributions to the growth of the APSR.

Best Oral Presentation
The best oral presentation will be chosen from a group of seven speakers by presidents from the Asia Pacific Society of Respirology and the APSR congress, American Thoracic Society, American College of Chest Physicians, European Respiratory Society ERS president, and the 2011 APSR Medal winner.

Fukuchi Award
The Fukuchi Award recognizes the best original research paper published between 2010 and 2011 in Respirology, the official journal of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology.

Best Poster
The best research poster will be selected onsite based on the recommendations of the congress scientific committee.

Young Investigator Award
Three Young Investigator Award winners are selected from among the oral and poster presentations.

Travel Award
The travel awards are granted to outstanding researchers from dev countries to come to Shanghai and participate in the Asia Pacific Society of Respirology congress.
Harasawa Memorial Lecture: Lung cancer in never-smokers needs more personalized therapy

10:30 - 11:00 AM, Auditorium 3F

Professor Pan-Chyr Yang of Taiwan will deliver the 2011 Harasawa Memorial lecture, arguing that optimized therapy for lung cancer in non-smokers may require a more personalized approach involving gene testing of all primary tumors and subsequent lesions.

An internationally renowned professor of internal medicine and dean of the College of Medicine at National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei, Taiwan, Professor Yang said global increase of lung cancer in people who have never smoked is a new emergent health threat, especially in East Asia.

Evidence shows this cancer is a distinct disease with high prevalence in females, high adenocarcinoma cell type and high epidermal growth-factor receptor (EGFR) mutations.

Research has shown that EGFR activating mutations (>50%) and EML4-ALK rearrangement (5-10%) drive genetic changes in lung adenocarcinoma. These discoveries, together with new developments in effective targeted therapy with specific kinase inhibitors, indicate that genotyping-based personalized therapy may be possible.

However, not all EGFR mutations are the same. Twenty to 30 percent of patients with this mutation do not respond to tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) therapy. Instead, a second T790M mutation is responsible for the TKI resistance.

Also, different tumors in the same patient may have different mutation and even mutation of the same tumor may change dynamically after therapy, he said.

High demands in East Asia to elucidate the pathogenic mechanism of lung cancer and develop better strategies for early diagnosis and multi-pronged therapeutic approaches may help in treating the emerging endemic cancer.

Who are we?

Abstract Submissions
1339 submissions from 37 regions

Percentage by region

- China: 66%
- India: 29%
- Pakistan: 5%
- Australia: 5%
- Singapore: 5%
- South Korea: 5%
- Sri Lanka: 5%
- Sweden: 5%
- Taiwan: 5%
- Thailand: 5%
- Turkey: 5%
- Vietnam: 5%
- the rest of the world: 5%

No of regions represented = 42
No of oral presentations = 94
No of delegates = 2009
No of symposiums = 107
No of abstracts = 1339
No of posters = 900
No of postgraduate courses = 38
No of satellite symposiums = 12
Ready, set, go!

Delegates arrive in Shanghai to get APSR 2011 started
Q & A: APSR 2011 Congress President Professor Bai Chunxue

Department of Pulmonary Medicine
Zhongshan Hospital
Fudan University
Shanghai, China

Q. What does the conference theme mean to you?

Prof Bai: The theme this year is “Respiratory Health in Asia Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities.” We have much to gain from obstacles because if there is no challenge then there is no chance to fight and, subsequently, no chance to succeed. We accept the challenge to fight actively, and have already harvested benefits.

Q. How will this congress differ from APSR conferences in years past?

Prof Bai: This year's Congress attendance has more than doubled compared to last year. There are more than 1,300 abstracts from about 40 regions around the world. We will also exhibit new, never-before-seen technologies, including mobile phone-based spirometry that uses cloud computing techniques and interventional pulmonology. Importantly, updated GOLD guidelines for COPD will be released during the APSR and the conference will be followed by a meeting of the International COPD Coalition.

Q. What do you hope participants will take away from their experience here at the APSR in Shanghai?

Prof Bai: First, new friendships. I also hope participants will be able to learn about new technologies and gain insights to improving the clinical experience. And perhaps our guests will also take away a better understanding of China.

Q. What are the major trends in respirology research at the moment?

Prof Bai: There is more and more research on respirology diseases such as COPD and lung cancer. As we understand more about the diseases, especially cancer, patients have the opportunity to received individualized treatment using new techniques such as molecular targeted therapy, for example. These will also help us to delve further into interventional pulmonology, evidence-based medicine and translational medicine.

Q. What are the important respirology issues facing people in China and other parts of Asia?

Prof Bai: COPD is a very prevalent disease and mortality is very high, about 1.3 million people per year. Lung cancer and asthma also continue to disproportionately affect people in China and Asia, so we hope delegates can gain some important insights on these widespread diseases from their colleagues.

Q. What is the best way for doctors to raise awareness about lung disease in their communities?

Prof Bai: In addition to educating themselves and their own patients, local governments and media outlets are good opportunities to raise awareness about the importance of good respiratory health.

http://www.apsr2011.org
Revised GOLD guidelines to recommend changes

The revised guidelines of the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) will recommend some modifications in the global strategy for diagnosis, management, and prevention of COPD.

GOLD was formed in 1998 by the US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the World Health Organization to increase awareness of COPD and to help millions affected by it globally.

In 2001, a panel of experts in respiratory medicine, epidemiology, socioeconomics, public health and health education reviewed the existing guidelines and combined them with latest information on pathogenic mechanisms of the disease to create the first consensus report titled Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of COPD.

The document, revised almost every year since then, includes the latest wisdom from the research papers on COPD published since the previous one was released.

COPD is one of the most common lung diseases and can manifest as chronic bronchitis, emphysema or both. In China, more than 38 million people suffer from COPD and increases in smoking and an aging population could make it the fourth leading cause of death worldwide by 2030.

A network of international experts, known as GOLD National Leaders, is continuing their investigation into the causes and prevalence of COPD in their countries. The network was tasked with implementing the first report’s recommendations.

COPD GOLD guidelines update and some Asia Pacific perspectives
Sunday 4 November
8:00-11:00 Auditorium, SHICC

Overheard at the APSR 2011...

“I’m looking forward to meeting friends from all over the Asia Pacific region and talking about things which are of great concern to do with lung health in general and COPD in particular.”

-----Dr. Peter Calverley, University of Liverpool, UK

“This is my second time in Shanghai and I’m thrilled to get exposed again to respiratoryists and pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons from this part of the world. I’m chairing a plural disease session and participating in one on interventional pulmonology. It’s a wonderful way to mix and exchange ideas.”

-----Dr. David Feller-Kopman, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, US

Sudoku Game

Every Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically. Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

<p>| | | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APSR 2011 Secretariat
UBM Medica China 9F, Circo’s Plaza, 388 West Nanjing Road, Shanghai 200003, China
Tel (O): +86 21 6157 3888  Fax (O): +86 21 6157 3899 E-mail: secretariat@apsr2011.org

http://www.apsr2011.org