



Newsletter

Editor : Shiro Kira

Associate Editors : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, J.Patrick Barron

WORLD CONGRESS *on* LUNG HEALTH incorporating the 6th APSR Congress



Florence

30 August – 3 September, 2000

Message from the President

The World Lung Health Congress in Florence is fast approaching and I hope that there will be a large contingent from the APSR. Drs Harasawa and Kira (respectively the first president and secretary of APSR), in initiating the idea of a Respiratory Society in our region, wanted to form a scientific society that could join with the ATS and ERS in global meetings. This is the first such meeting a truly global meeting on lung health. It is, also in fact, our biennial meeting and we will have meetings of the Executive, the Council and the Editorial Committee at that time-presently scheduled for the 29th. Please make sure that those of you who attend those meeting arrive in Florence by the morning of the 29th and please pass by our stand at the exhibition.

There is still much to do to make the Society fully viable financially-we are trying to keep membership costs down and to run a journal-it is hard to do both because of the costs of the journal. We are financially dependent on the success of our meetings-which up to now have been held every 2 years. However, we may hold these meetings annually in the future and this is a subject for discussion at the Council and at the Executive. The Executive is interested to hear from individuals and from Respiratory Societies about workshops, courses or small meetings, which could be held in our region between September 2000 and October 2002 when the next APSR meeting is scheduled in Taiwan. We are also exploring new memberships-with individuals from South Africa and from India. New membership is vital if we are to progress. In addition, we need to focus on the diseases that affect our Region. Apart from acute infections and TB, the most important diseases are the group generally called COPD. We should try to define the prevalence and types of this group of diseases in our Region. The Research and Education Committee are working on a protocol which may help to do this, but much needs to be done!

As this will be the last Newsletter while I am President, I wish to thank all those who have helped me, especially the executive with special thanks to Professor Kira and to Professor Fukuchi. Mrs Sato has been most helpful at all times. I wish Professor Kira well as the incoming President and look forward to seeing you all in Florence.

Ann Woolcock, M.D.
President, APSR
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

For the World Congress on Lung Health 2000

It is a pleasure to see that the much longed-for World Congress on Lung Health is going to be held on 30th August in Florence, Italy lead by the ERS and incorporating the ATS, the IUATLD and the APSR. On behalf of you, the members of the APSR, I wish the success of the Congress, and sincerely hope for a smooth and full development of the harmony between these global respiratory societies and respirologists in research and clinical work.

The formation of the South American Chest Disease Society and its joining the World Congress has been announced, although definite details are not finished. This is welcomed from the point of view of a World Congress and global cooperation. The participation by international respiratory societies from the Indian Ocean, Middle-Eastern countries, and African countries, will help make this Congress a true World Congress. I wonder if European, North American and Asian societies should offer help to these developing areas through the IUATLD?

Although the timing has not been discussed, I am sure that the time will come when the APSR will see a World Congress in the Asia Pacific area. It is a pity that the APSR is not as ready for that as it could be at the moment, because its membership is under 1,000, we only have meetings biennially and our journal is only quarterly. Therefore, the APSR's rapid growth is required to fulfill such a goal.

I would like all of our members to consider carefully the relationship between the APSR and the APCDC, which I wrote about in the previous Newsletter. It is not practical for two Societies from the Asian district to join the future World Chest Disease Society. The capacity of the APCDC which lacks by-laws, a journal and a secretariat puts a large question mark over its participation. Naturally, the World Chest Disease Society will expect achievements of the APSR and accept the Society as a delegate from this area. It will also require our contribution to the World Chest Disease Society by holding a successful conference.

The activities of the IACPS, which was the mother foundation of the APCDC, was dissolved at the ACCP 1996 Congress in Miami, Florida and it was understood that the 1999 Congress in Manila was the last activity of the APCDC. If the APCDC could join in the APSR's activities from 2000, it is quite clear that the APSR becomes an even stronger candidate to be a

member of the World Chest Disease Society. It would also be possible to hold an annual Congress in the near future like the ATS and the ERS, and the sponsoring of a future World Congress in this area will be possible.

Shiro Kira, M.D.
President Elect, APSR
Professor Emeritus
Juntendo University and Jichi Medical College

Message from the Secretary General

The first World Congress on Lung Health has provided the APSR an unprecedented opportunity to be recognized as a unique academic organization dedicated to respirology representing the Asian Pacific Region. Therefore it is of utmost importance to make the other regional societies fully aware of our strength and enthusiasm in promoting high standards of clinical as well as basic science in this part of the world. I am very proud and pleased to report that the number of abstracts submitted from our region to this World Congress was over 420 by the deadline date. This total contribution is well comparable to the other co-sponsoring societies.

I believe this achievement should be highly appreciated by the organizing committee of the Florence Congress. I would like to thank all the Executive and Council Members of the APSR for making such great efforts to encourage young investigators to participate in this important meeting of the last year of the 20th century.

I would welcome you to our 6th General Meeting in Florence to be held from August 30 to September 3, 2000 in conjunction with the World Congress on Lung Health. There are permanent subcommittees in the Society and, to our regret, many of them have not been functioning as well as we expected. It is therefore with great satisfaction to learn of the emerging activities of a scientific committee aiming at collaborative study in the region. Let us hope that, through the continuing efforts of Drs. Zhong Nan San and Mary Ip, this venture will be successful.

The formal Executive and Council Meetings of the APSR are to be held in Florence at the General Meeting. We expect all the members of those meeting to join us to discuss important issues of the society, regarding the harmonization of the academic activities within our region, increasing interest for our official journal "Respirology" and enforcing academic exchanges among membership countries. The APSR work-

shop may serve as a good example of promoting scientific exchange of respiratory science in this area of the world. This workshop has been held since 1996 by the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) in conjunction with the APSR during the annual meeting of the JRS. The 7th APSR workshop in April 2001 in Tokyo will be a part of the "International Program of the JRS" and delegates from ATS and ERS will join the program. This International Program will also use submissions of English abstracts for a poster session, from all the membership of the APSR. We hope as many abstracts as possible are submitted, to encourage this novel plan for promoting intra-regional activity of the APSR.

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, M.D.
Juntendo University School of Medicine

Message from the Treasurer

Since succeeding to the position of Treasurer of the APSR after Prof. Fukuchi last fall, I have recognized how much Dr. Fukuchi had exerted to keep the economical situation of the APSR viable. Actually, the balance of income and expenses has not been stable, however the donations from companies and the annual contribution from the Japanese Respiratory Society are the great support for the APSR and these are mainly due for the efforts of Prof. Fukuchi.

The major expense of the APSR is for the publication of Respirology. Currently, 1,000 copies are printed. The problem is that only 400 of members paid their annual dues last year. To establish the stable financial status of APSR, we need to increase the number of paying members to at least 1,000.

For the World Conference of Respiratory Diseases held in Florence, about 200 abstracts have been submitted from the Asian-Pacific Area and about 500 participants are expected, therefore we have enough potential to increase the APSR members.

We are looking forward to cooperation from member countries in our area.

Takashi Horie, M.D.
Nihon University, School of Medicine

Reports from Member Countries

New Zealand

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) is the professional body representing respiratory physicians, scientists, nurses, physiotherapists and other health professionals in the two countries. Current membership of TSANZ is 935 of whom 410 are respiratory physicians.

TSANZ has a number of standing committees, each dealing with the major areas of activity of the Society, viz, Clinical Care and Resources, Professional Standards, Education and Research and the Central Programme Committee which has prime responsibility for organising the Annual Scientific Meeting and the Advanced Courses. In addition, there are a number of Special Interest Groups within TSANZ that facilitate interaction and collaborations among members with similar research or clinical interests.

TSANZ has close links with like-minded organisations within Australasia and frequently provides independent advice and submissions to Government and other organisations. Recently TSANZ has completely re-structured its office and is embarking on a period of expansion of the breadth and depth of its activities.

TSANZ regards the establishment and maintenance of close links with similar organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region as being to our mutual benefit. Organisations in the Region can learn a great deal from each other; the sharing of ideas and information are a high priority.

TSANZ has produced position papers, clinical guidelines and training guidelines that may be of interest to the APSR and regional organisations. I am sure that TSANZ can learn much from closer interaction with the APSR and other regional organisations. This year TSANZ will be attempting a mini-residency programme whereby a physician from the Asia-Pacific region can spend a short period (4-6 weeks) in a department in Australia or New Zealand and then attend the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting.

We strongly support the increasing influence of the APSR in the Region and applaud the success of *Respirology*. With increasing globalisation now a reality, it would seem opportune for there to be stronger formal links between our two organisations, with interchange of ideas on clinical care, professional standards, research and education. We should be aiming to facilitate meaningful interchange between our members - not only at the executive level, as our trainees and

researchers have much to gain from such an interchange.

May I take this opportunity to wish the APSR and its members every success in the future and I would hope that TSANZ might be a partner in that success.

John Kolbe, M.D.
President, TSANZ
Green Lane Hospital

Singapore

The Singapore Thoracic Society (STS) has been busy this past year. It conducted a workshop on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease for general practitioners concentrating bronchodilator treatment and antibiotic use. It also co-sponsored several younger members of the society at meetings and educational programs overseas (e.g. the European School on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Ghent). It also participated in the formulation of Clinical Practice Guidelines with the Ministry of Health, Singapore, on the management of community and hospital acquired respiratory infections. This culminated in the publication of these guidelines and a symposium on the appropriate use of antibiotics in April, 2000.

The STS held three clinical meetings last year for its members. Interesting and problematic cases were discussed at two of the sessions, and the third session consisted of lectures concerning mechanical ventilation.

In addition to these clinical meetings, the STS organised talks by fellow respiratory physicians from overseas to give lectures and conduct seminars during their passage through Singapore. The STS is also arranging for sponsorships for some of our members to attend the upcoming World Congress on Lung Health that is co-sponsored by the ERS and the APSR.

Nyat-Kool Chin, M.D.
NK Chin Chest & Medical Clinic

Japan

The 40th Annual Congress of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) was held in Hiroshima City, on 22-24 March, 2000. The President of the congress was Professor Michio Yamakido, and the venue was the Hiroshima International Conference Centre. The 5th JRS-APSR Workshop was held on 22nd March, 2000 from 14:00 to 16:30 during the congress.

Lectures

1. Apirak Palwatwichai, M.D.
Pulmonary Unit, Pramongkutklo Hospital, Bangkok, THAILAND
"Tuberculosis in Thailand"
2. G. Marks, M.D.
Respiratory Service, Chest Clinic, Liverpool Hospital, Liverpool, AUSTRALIA
"The incidence of tuberculosis in a cohort of South East Asian refugees arriving in Australia, 1984 to 1994"
3. A. Shimouchi, M.D.
The Research Institute of Tuberculosis, Anti-Tuberculosis Association, Tokyo, JAPAN
"Tuberculosis problems in Asian Pacific region"
4. T-K Lim, M.D.
Dept. of Medicine, National University Hospital, Singapore
"Utility of the roche cobas amplicor assay, bronchoscopy, computer tomography, and clinical judgement in the rapid diagnosis of smear negative pulmonary tuberculosis: A decision analysis"
5. J.H. Lee, M.D.
Seoul Municipal Boramae Hospital, Seoul, KOREA
"Bronchoscopic, radiologic and pulmonary function evaluation of endobronchial tuberculosis"
6. C-H Wang, M.D.
Dept. of Thoracic Medicine II, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taipei, TAIWAN
"Nitric oxide modulates interleukin-1b and tumor necrosis factor- α synthesis, and disease regression by alveolar macrophages in pulmonary tuberculosis"
7. W-X Lu, M.D.
Dept. of Respiratory Diseases, PUMC Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, P.R. CHINA
"Study of six cases of aids with pulmonary complications"
8. M.P. Lee, M.D.
Dept. of Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, HONG KONG
"Clinical manifestations of tuberculosis in human immunodeficiency virus infected patients"
9. S. Oka, M.D.
AIDS Clinical Center, International Medical Center of Japan, Tokyo, JAPAN
"Unexpected reactions following highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) in patients with HIV-1 infection and tuberculosis"

APSR Secretariat
Tokyo

From the Editorial Board

Greetings from a new Associate Editor

Since last November I have been serving as an Associate Editor for "Respirology", the official journal of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology. This assignment was initially proposed by Dr. S. Kira, the former Secretary General of the Society, and later approved by Council Members. I feel obliged and honored to accept such an important task that should definitely contribute to the future development of the Journal and also this Society.

On this occasion, I would like to express special thanks to members who have already submitted their manuscripts to our Journal and also to whom I have asked to review manuscripts. Our Journal appears in MEDLINE and Index Medicus, indicating that the Journal is truly international and is recognized in the scientific community. Currently, the Journal is issued quarterly, and hopefully will be issued more frequently so that accepted manuscripts will be published more.

As a member of the Editorial staff, I feel that we must make every effort to increase the scientific level of our Journal that will necessarily lead to an increased number of manuscripts submitted. To achieve this, a number of points must be taken into account. First, we must try to shorten the review process time so that submitted manuscripts are sent back to the authors within three months at most. Second, the reviewers of each manuscript must be chosen carefully, considering their field of specialty and also their English writing skills where they are not native speakers. Third, members of the editorial staff must exchange information as much as possible to help keep the acceptance rate of manuscripts for publication consistent.

In addition, those who submit manuscripts should follow the Instructions for Authors extremely carefully. Since evaluation is always on scientific merit, appropriateness of methods, results and interpretation, and structure as a scientific paper, authors should consider these factors when writing manuscripts.

Finally, I understand there are many members in our society whose mother tongue is not English. Being Japanese, I know how hard it is to write scientific manuscripts in English. Nevertheless, communication by a common language is wonderful and exchanging ideas is exciting. I hope that more and more pulmonologists in this region

of Asian Pacific countries will join our Society and consider our Journal for future submission of their manuscripts.

Masaharu Nishimura, M.D.
Hokkaido University School of Medicine

Forthcoming important meeting announcements in Respiriology

- 2000 August 30-September 3
6th APSR Congress/World Congress on Lung Health
(Florence, Italy)
- November 23-24
2nd European Conference on Paediatric Asthma
(London, UK)
- November 29-December 1
2nd International Workshop on Surgical Exploration of the Mediastinum and Systematic Nodal Dissection
(Barcelona, Spain)
- 2001 April 1-4
International Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy Congress
(Prague, Czech Republic)
- April 4-6
6th APSR Workshop
41st Japanese Respiratory Society Annual Conference
(Tokyo, Japan)
- May 18-23
97th ATS International Meeting
(San Francisco, USA)
- 2002 October 25-26
7th APSR Congress
(Taipei, Taiwan)

CALL FOR THE ABSTRACTS TO THE 41st JRS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) will hold the 41st Annual Meeting on April 4-6 in Tokyo, 2001. There will be an International Program conducted in English during the meeting. The English abstracts in any field of Respiriology is now called on from APSR membership countries. The dead line is October 31, 2000.

Please contact the APSR Office, or e-mail address at jrs@convention.co.jp. Scholarship or travel grant will be provided for application.

Notice from the Secretariat Office

1) Please note the membership fee is now US\$75.00, and remember the bank drafts or cheques are not normally accepted, as the bank handling commission is too high. Please pay your membership fee by credit card, bank transfer or cash. If you are unable to pay by any of these methods, please add an extra US\$12.00 to cover the bank charges.

2) The APSR will have a booth in the Building A, Block G/5 of the Conference Centre in Florence, and if you have any questions or just want a chat, please come and see us.

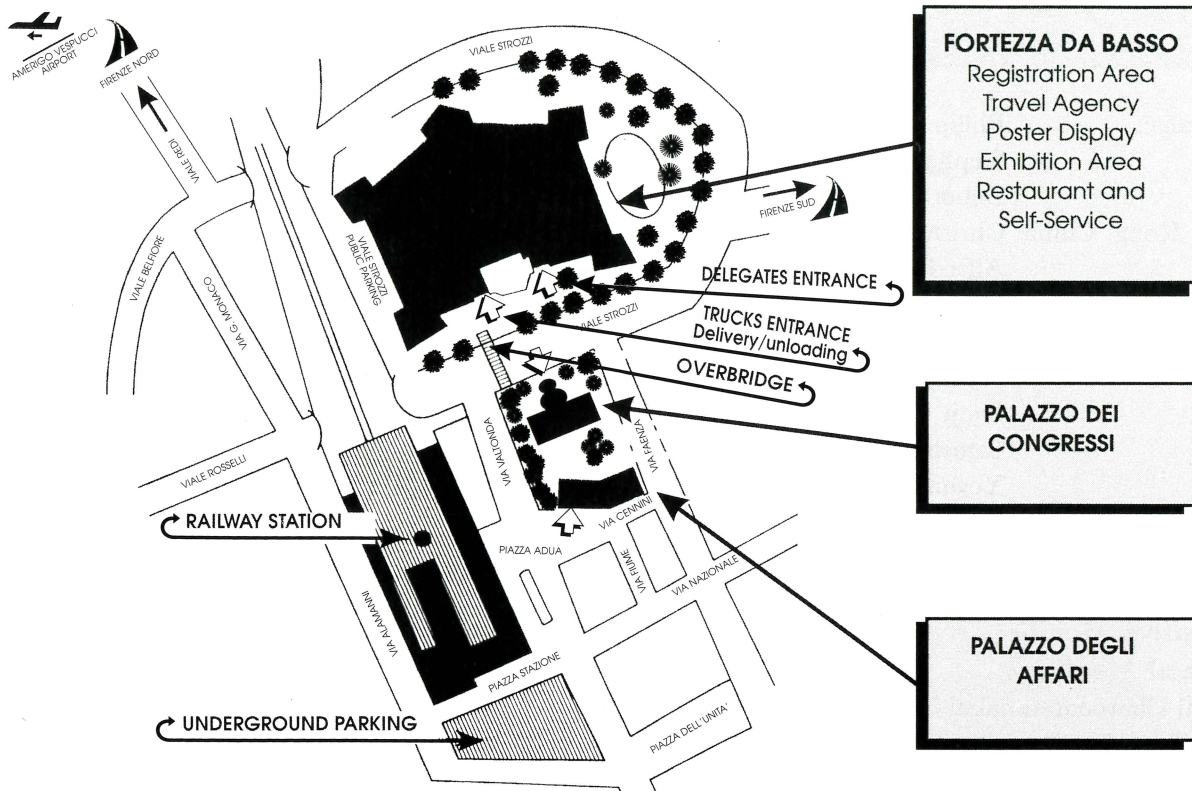
APSR Members (As of May, 2000)

Country Name	Number of Members
AUSTRALIA	63
BEIJING, CHINA	150
BELGIUM	1
BRUNEI	1
CANADA	4
FRANCE	1
FRENCH POLYNESIA	2
GERMANY	1
HONG KONG, CHINA	38
ILE DE LA REUNION INDIAN OCEAN	1
INDIA	4
INDONESIA	15
ITALY	4
JAPAN	397
KUWAIT	1
MALAYSIA	26
NEW ZEALAND	7
NORWAY	1
PERU	1
PHILIPPINES	18
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	42
SAUDI ARABIA	5
SINGAPORE	12
SLOVENIA	1
SOUTH AFRICA	1
SPAIN	1
SRILANKA	3
SWEDEN	5
SWITZERLAND	1
TAIPEI, CHINA	56
THAILAND	23
TURKEY	4
U.S.A.	11
UNITED KINGDOM	3
VIETNAM	5
Total	909

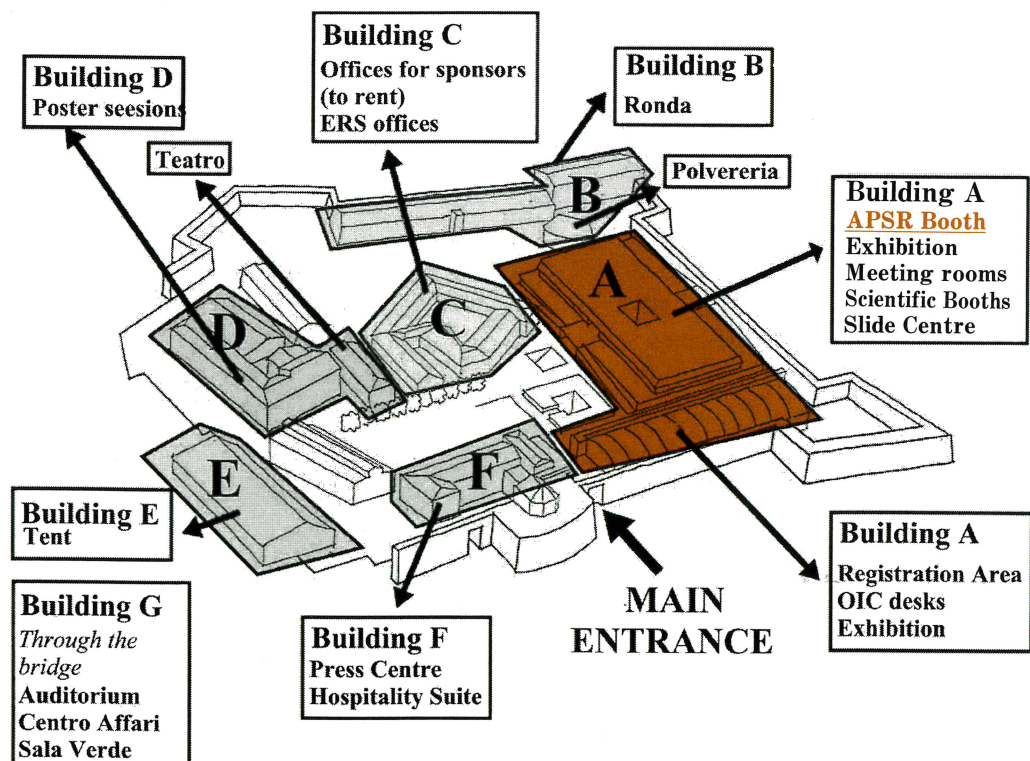
WORD CONGRESS on LUNG HEALTH

Congress Centre, Florence
30 August-3 September, 2000

MAP OF THE CONGRESS CENTRE



FORTEZZA DA BASSO



Officers of the APSR:

President: Ann J Woolcock
President-elect: Shiro Kira
Congress President-elect: KwenTay Luh
Past President: Wei-Ci Luo
Past Congress President: J. Paul Seale
Secretary General: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi
Treasurer: Takashi Horie

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Kwen-Tay Luh
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Nan-Shan Zhong (Chairman)

Publications Committee:

Philip Thompson (Chairman)

President of the 1st APSR Congress in Tokyo, 1988	Michiyoshi Harasawa
President of the 2nd APSR Congress in Bali, 1990	Hood Alsagaff
President of the 3rd APSR Congress in Singapore, 1993	Wan-Cheng Tan
President of the 4th APSR Congress in Beijing, 1996	Wei-Ci Luo
President of the 5th APSR Congress in Sydney, 1998	J. Paul Seale

The Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology

Yoshikawa Bldg. No.2, 2nd Floor
2-9-8 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033 Japan
Phone: +81-3-5684-3370, Fax: +81-3-5684-3382
e-mail: KYU00671@nifty.ne.jp,
apsrjp@aol.com
Office Hours: 9:30~16:30 (Monday-Friday)