



Newsletter

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His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah, APSR Executive/Council Members, Congress Organising Committee Members

Report on the 8th APSR Congress

The 2003 APSR Congress was held from 1 to 4 December 2003 at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The Congress proved to be very successful with 650 delegates from 29 countries. The local delegates from Malaysia accounted for about half the total number of participants while delegates from Indonesia, Hong Kong and Japan numbered more than 40 each.

The contribution of the distinguished faculty of 80 speakers from the Asian Pacific region and from Europe and the United States of America elevated the standard and quality of the Congress. The scientific programme consisted of 4 pre-congress workshops, 3 plenary lectures, 2 memorial lectures, 22 symposia and a special SARS as well as 6 lunch and 2 dinner industry-sponsored satellite symposia. The scientific content of the Congress reflected its theme of 'An evidence-based approach to the management of respiratory diseases in the Asian Pacific region'. The 4 pre-congress workshops provided a more intensive approach to clinical issues in Sleep Apnoea, Diagnostic and Interventional Pulmonology, Mechanical Ventilation and Immunotherapy for allergic diseases. Topics of importance such as asthma, COPD, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, lung cancer, interstitial lung disease, pleural diseases, lung transplantation and many others were covered in the 22 major symposia. In addition to 3 plenary lectures,

memorial lectures honouring two great past presidents of APSR namely the late Professor Michiyoshi Harasawa and the late Professor Ann Woolcock, were delivered for the first time in the Congress. The symposia were well attended and the scientific contents were of a high standard. It was heartening to note that a good number of delegates remained and attended the last day of the Congress which was a half day programme on Thursday morning. I certainly hope the Congress has achieved its mission of advancing knowledge of diseases of the respiratory system and promoting good clinical practice in respirology in the Asian Pacific region which is, as far as possible, evidence-based.

A total of 152 free communications were accepted for the oral presentation and poster discussion sessions that provided an excellent opportunity for researchers to communicate their research findings and for the exchange of ideas among participants. The largest number of free papers was contributed by Malaysian doctors followed by submissions from Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The Opening Ceremony was graced by His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah, the patron of the Malaysian Thoracic Society. APSR council members who were present and the local Organising Committee members had the opportunity to have a group photo taken with His Royal Highness. The Congress Dinner was well attended and the delegates and their accompanying persons were entertained to a multicultural performance. The karaoke session which followed revealed the singing talent of some of the delegates and proved to be highly enjoyable.

The Organising Committee greatly appreciates the participation of our colleagues from the American College of Chest physicians, the European Respiratory Society and the American Thoracic Society which contributed immensely towards the success of the Congress. We would like to express our appreciation to the APSR secretariat in Tokyo for the guidance and help extended to us in the organisation of the Congress. We are most grateful to the local and regional pharmaceutical companies and our corporate partners for their generous support without which the Congress would not have materialised.

Chong-Kin Liam, M.D.
Congress President

Presentations



Dr. Guy B. Marks(left) receiving a plaque from Dr. Lam after giving a lecture for the Ann J Woolcock Memorial Lecture.



Dr. Masayuki Ando(left) receiving a plaque from Dr. Fukuchi after giving a lecture for the Michiyoshi Harasawa Memorial Lecture.

Business Meetings

Business Meetings; Council Meeting, Editorial Meeting, Executive Meeting, APSR/ACCP Organizing Committee Meeting, Hong Kong Congress Planning Committee Meeting were held at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel during the 8th APSR Congress in Malaysia. The Secretariat would like to show sincere appreciation to members who attended the meetings despite their busy schedules.

In addition, a meeting with Dr. A. Davis of Blackwell Science Asia, Respirology publisher was held.

A plaque was presented to Dr. Shiro Kira by Dr. Lam at the Executive Meeting for Dr.

Kira's contribution to the APSR.



Dr. W.K. Lam

Dr. S. Kira

We would like to thank to Dr. Liam and his team for arranging meeting rooms and other facilities so that all meetings were carried out smoothly.

After SARS

The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic has come and gone, at least for the time being as of this date of writing (10 November 2003). The World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its final count of cases and deaths of the last epidemic on 26 September 2003 by a unified set of criteria and definitions. Its revised official statistics show a total number of 8098 cases and 774 deaths in 29 countries and regions. Asia has borne the brunt of the attack, and the worst hit five countries/regions in Asia (China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam) accounted for 94% of all cases and deaths.

It is now time to take stock of what we have learned from this epidemic. In Hong Kong, the Government has commissioned an Expert Committee consisting of international and local experts to review the local scene and make recommendations. This SARS Expert Committee said that the most important lesson from the SARS experience is the need to be prepared, at local as well as at inter-regional and international levels. Public health infrastructures must be strengthened in addition to hospital services relating to infectious diseases. Additional hospital blocks and beds have been made ready for patient isolation purposes. Effective mechanisms should be in place to deal with sudden, large-scale outbreak of infectious

diseases. In this modern age, we tend to forget that epidemics of infectious diseases, new or old, can still strike humans out of the blue. In fact, in this age of globalization and heavy international air traffic, any outbreak of infectious disease can spread around the world at an alarming speed never seen before, to cause severely damaging impact on health and economy. Hence any outbreak should at once be reported to neighbouring countries/regions and the WHO, and appropriate infection control and quarantine measures implemented immediately to abort the spread of the infection.

We are glad that in this SARS epidemic, medical scientists and health care professionals in the Asian Pacific region have stood up to the challenge. We have fought bravely to contain the infection and have contributed significantly to detecting the causative virus and to exploring the different treatment modalities. The special SARS symposium in the 8th APSR Congress in Malaysia and the special SARS supplement of RESPIROLOGY are upcoming, and I am sure members of APSR and other health care professionals and medical scientists will find them useful as they are presented and written by experts right in the centre of the battle against SARS.

I am happy to report here two exciting developments in the relationship between APSR and thoracic societies of the region. Firstly, the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) has made a final decision regarding joining the APSR en bloc at a reduced subscription rate. If realized, this will not only markedly increase APSR membership, but will also have greatly positive effects on circulation of RESPIROLOGY, increase in advertisement revenue and congress participation, to name but a few beneficial effects. This will become a model for other thoracic societies of the region to follow. The APSR greatly appreciates this very positive step taken by the JRS. Secondly, the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) has kindly offered to present a scholarship to a young investigator in the APSR Congress to enable him/her to participate in the subsequent TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting. This is a most generous offer and the APSR welcomes this very inspiring and friendly proposal. These two developments will certainly draw JRS, TSANZ and APSR much closer to achieve our common

objectives to advance respiratory medicine in the Asian Pacific region.

With these new developments and the amendments and updating of our Society's Charters and Bylaws to make them more fit for the objectives of the Society in the December 2003 Council and Executive Committee Meetings, we are turning a new page in APSR's history. Let us work together to elevate APSR, *OUR* Society, to new heights.

Wah Kit Lam, M.D.
President, APSR

Reports from Member Countries

Philippines

The prevention and management of diseases in the background of a developing country, accompanied by the vision of providing the best healthcare system available are perhaps the biggest challenges facing physicians in the Asia Pacific region today. Add to this other stark realities such as the financial crisis, monetary depreciation, political instability, poverty and the seemingly endless myriads of unsettled questions with no sure answers. And we tell ourselves, we are just physicians.

The role of the 21st century Asian physician has, by far, become more complex than it was a several decades ago. From the rural clinicians who make house calls to hospital-based physicians who handle more complicated diseases, the burden of responsibility has dramatically changed through the years. This is most exemplified by the emergence of new and devastating illnesses like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which raised an overwhelming number of health, psychological and social issues. Just like the medical practice in more advanced global communities, physicians in our region are constantly pressured to be updated on the latest medical know-how and technological innovations in diagnosing and combating a wide spectrum of acute and chronic respiratory disorders which, at the present time, may or may not have any form of cure or treatment. Our patients, like their Western counterparts, are now more conscious of their rights and demand from physicians the best services on hand. No more than now, can we appreciate the increasing importance

of medical education and the constant advancement of medical knowledge.

APSR has proven its relevance to the challenges faced by the Asian physician through the years of its existence. Established only in the mid 1980's, it has accomplished, in its own way, improvement in the clinical practice of respiratory medicine in our region through education, research, international meetings and increased awareness of public health concerns affecting both the Asian physician and patient. The society has won recognition and collaboration with major international respiratory organizations under the able leadership of past and current Executive Board Members.

But there are more challenges ahead. Consolidating the membership, further improvement of the infrastructure of educational activities and research, further enhancement of the role of the society to its members on the relevant to issues they confront daily, are just some of them. Of course, as Professor Wah Kit Lam said before, the success of the Society will depend on the enthusiasm, unity, and participation of respirologists in the Asia Pacific region. My best regards to all.

Percival Punzal, M.D.
Philippine Heart Center

Beijing, China

From 9th to 14th October 2003, the Chinese Thoracic Society held a successful conference on pulmonary infection, respiratory failure and SARS. In the conference, some issues on HAP and CAP in China were discussed, and some good proposals were made on how to deepen the cooperation and enhance our understanding about those countries. SARS was another hot topic in this conference; we exchanged ideas and shared good information on epidemics, diagnostics and treatments of SARS from all aspects. It is important for us to explore effective methods to prevent, diagnose and treatment of SARS in clinics and improve research on SARS. Finally, we discussed some subjects on respiratory failure including mechanical ventilation.

Next year, the Chinese Thoracic Society will organize 2nd Chinese Conference on Lung Cancer in May and the 7th Chinese Thoracic

Society Congress in October. We encourage and welcome your participation.

Nan Shan Zhong, M.D. President
You Ning Liu, M.D. Vice-President
The Chinese Thoracic Society

Singapore

Greetings to the APSR from the Singapore Thoracic Society (STS). The STS, currently under the presidency of Dr Alan Ng Wei Keong, has 110 members comprising chest physicians from the public and private sector, advanced trainees in respiratory medicine, and hospital and general practitioners. The Society aims to advance the knowledge and practice of thoracic medicine, to promote research in thoracic medicine, and promote regional and international co-operation in thoracic medicine. Regular clinical meetings are organized which provide a platform for members to meet, share with, and learn from each other, as well as from various visiting experts in the field. The Society has regularly published its newsletter "Inspiration" since 1991, and has also been involved in the education of general practitioners, having held yearly courses in the management of COPD over the last five years. For the World COPD Day this year, the STS actively participated in public education to raise awareness of COPD, which is recognised as a potential increasing burden in the Asia Pacific region. For the future, the Society hopes to increase its participation in the education of general practitioners in the management of asthma and other common respiratory problems. We will also strive towards greater interaction with other thoracic societies in the region and with the APSR for the advancement of our speciality in this region.

Cynthia Chee, M.D.
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Taipei, China

The Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM) was founded in the 1970s, initially as a local division of the ACCP, to integrate the academic activities of local chest specialists. In 1996, the title of society was changed to reflect the growing importance of critical care medicine in

our daily practice. The responsibility of the society is to promote regional academic activities, as well as to facilitate or set up regulations for practice in both respiratory medicine and critical care. Annually, the society will organize several symposia, workshops and review courses regarding important topics in thoracic imaging, general respiratory medicine, respiratory care and critical care medicine with CME credits for fellow residents and members. Every year, we invite globally renowned scholars/physicians to share the updated medical knowledge with our members in the annual meeting of the Society, usually scheduled on the second weekend of December.

TSPCCM owns an official journal, *Thoracic Medicine*. At the beginning, the journal was published as a quarterly journal. Now, with the increasing enthusiasm for publication by the members, the journal is published bimonthly since September 2003. The society also published several local guidelines for in asthma (1994, revised in 2000 and 2002), COPD (1995, revised in 2003) and pneumonia (2002, as a combination task force with the Infectious Disease Society, ROC), trying to provide recommendations in diagnostic and treatment approaches to important respiratory diseases. The society also has several collaborative projects with the Department of Health and the National Health Insurance Bureau for national asthma control, tuberculosis control and care of long-term ventilator dependents.

Now the society has about 900 members. Some, but not many, members of the society are vividly participating the activities of international societies, like the ATS, ERS or APSR, and published well-written articles in prestigious journals, like *AJRCCM*, *ERJ*, *Thorax*, *Chest* and *Respirology*. However, we still anticipate and encourage our members to have more communications with international expertise, to be involved more global academic activities, especially in the Asian-Pacific region.

Pan-Chyr Yang, M.D.
President
The Taiwan Society of Pulmonary
and Critical Care Medicine

The First APSR Education Series held in Tokyo

The Japanese Respiratory Society will join the APSR en-bloc next year, raising the APSR membership to approximately 11,000. With such growth comes opportunities for new ventures, and one such event was the first APSR Education Series held on 10th November, 2003 at the Ariyama Memorial Hall in Tokyo. The aim was to demonstrate to the community that the APSR is keen to distribute its knowledge to anyone who is interested.

The lectures were:

Prof. K. Ohta (Teikyo University School of Medicine) - Bronchial Asthma

Prof. K. Nakata (Toho University School of Medicine) - Respiratory Infection

Prof. Y. Fukuchi (Juntendo University School of Medicine) - COPD

Prof. T. Horie (Nihon University School of Medicine) - Sleep Apnea Syndrome

The interesting topics attracted an audience of more than 160, even though it was on a Monday evening. The event was arranged by doctors and staff of the Nihon University and Juntendo University. A fee was collected at the door and we thank the many pharmaceutical companies who also made contributions.

We hope to hold these kind of lectures regularly in the future and provide doctors of internal medicine as well as respiratory specialists with opportunities to train and upgrade their skills. Furthermore, we wish to make more effort in enhancing the international recognition of the APSR.

Shu Hashimoto, M.D.
Assistant Secretary/APSR
Nihon University School Medicine

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2004

4th World Asthma Meeting
February 16-19, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.WAM2004.com
Email: sarmit@bangkokrai.com
fax: +66 2 960 0140

TSANZ ASM
March 19-24, 2004, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Website: www.thoracic.org.au

44th Annual Meeting of the Japanese
Respiratory Society (JRS)
March 31 – April 2, 2004, Tokyo, Japan
Website: www.jrs.or.jp

American Thoracic Society (ATS)
International Conference
May 21-26, 2004, Orlando, USA
Website: www.thoracic.org

ERS 14th Annual Congress
September 4-8, 2004, Glasgow, Scotland
Website: www.ersnet.org/glasgow

CHEST 2004 - 70th Annual Scientific
Assembly of the American College of Chest
Physicians
October 23 - 28, 2004, Seattle, USA
Website: www.chestnet.org

9th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology (APSR)
December 10-13, 2004, Hong Kong
Website: www.APSR2004.com
E-mail: meeting@medimedia.com.hk

2005

TSANZ ASM
March 18-23, 2005, Perth, WA, Australia
Website: www.thoracic.org.au

American Thoracic Society (ATS)
International Conference
May 20-25, 2005, San Diego, USA
Website: www.thoracic.org

CHEST 2005 - Annual International Scientific
Assembly of the American College of Chest
Physicians
October 29 - November 3, 2005 Montreal,
Canada
Website: www.chestnet.org
Email: registration@chestnet.org

4th World Asthma Meeting
16-19 February, 2004
Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.WAM2004.com



The 9th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirioloogy will be held in Hong Kong from 10 to 13 December 2004 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Theme of the Congress is "Respiratory Counterpoint", as we aim to converge and diverge different opinions at the Congress.

The Congress will feature:

- 5 Plenary Lectures
- 2 Memorial Lectures
- 6 Satellite Symposia
- 9 Major Symposia on the following topics:
 - Asthma
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Critical Care
 - Interstitial Lung Disease
 - Lung Cancer
 - Pleural Disease
 - Respiratory Tract Infection
 - Sleep Related Breathing Disorder
 - Tuberculosis
- 5 Pre-Conference Workshops
- Best Abstracts Presentation
- Poster Sessions

The Congress will also award:

- *Travelling Fellowships*: to facilitate participants from developing countries to attend the Congress. Selection will be based on academic merits of the abstracts submitted from developing countries of the region. The awardees should be members of the APSR.
- *Scholarships*: selection based on the academic merits of the submitted abstracts as judged by an international panel. The recipients of the scholarships will be expected to prepare an oral presentation at the Congress.
- *Best Poster Prizes*: judged on quality of the abstracts as presented on the poster, and the discussions conducted at the poster sessions.

Important Dates:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deadline for Abstract Submission: | 31 July 2004 |
| Deadline for Early Bird Registration: | 31 August 2004 |
| Deadline for Hotel Registration: | 15 October 2004 |

Please check out regular updates at <http://www.apsr2004.com>

Organizers

Hong Kong Thoracic Society



American College of Chest Physicians (Hong Kong & Macau Chapter)



Supported by:

Hong Kong Lung Foundation



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President-elect : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi
Congress President : Wah Kit Lam
Congress President-elect : Nan Shan Zhong
Past President : Shiro Kira
Past Congress President : Chong-Kin Liam
Secretary General : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi
Treasurer : Takashi Horie
Editor-in-Chief :Philip J. Thompson

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| | | | |
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| China: | Wenbin Chen You Ning Liu Chen Wang | Malaysia: | Chong-Kin Liam B.M.Z. Zainudin |
| Hong Kong: | Mary S-M Ip Kenneth W-T Tsang Yun W.T. Mok | New Zealand: | Allen Liang |
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| Japan: | Takayuki Kuriyama Masaharu Nishimura Toshihiro Nukiwa Hidetada Sasaki | Singapore: | Cynthia B-E Chee Oh M. Chay |
| | | Taiwan: | Pan-Chyr Yang Hsu-Tah Kuo |
| | | Thailand: | Apirak Palwatwichai Chaivej Nuchprayoon |

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Presidents: Michiyoshi Harasawa, Wan-Chen Tan, Wei-Ci Luo, Ann J. Woolcock, Shiro Kira

Presidents of the Congresses:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| 1st Congress | Tokyo | 1988 | Michiyoshi Harasawa |
| 2nd Congress | Bali | 1990 | Hood Alsagaff |
| 3rd Congress | Singapore | 1993 | Wan-Cheng Tan |
| 4th Congress | Beijing | 1996 | Wei-Ci Luo |
| 5th Congress | Sydney | 1998 | J. Paul Seale |
| 6th Congress | Florence | 2000 | Ann J. Woolcock |
| 7th Congress | Taiwan | 2002 | Kwen-Tay Luh |
| 8th Congress | Selangor | 2003 | Chong-Kin Liam |

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