



Newsletter

Editor : Norbert Berend

Associate Editors : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Takashi Horie, J. Patrick Barron, H. Sato Cochrane

Message from the President



It is now only a few months to the 12th Congress of the APSR, 2nd Joint Congress of the APSR/ACCP to be held on the Gold Coast in Australia. Paul Reynolds, Christine Jenkins and the Assembly Heads have been working hard with Mark Rosen and his colleagues from the ACCP to put together the scientific programme for this second joint meeting with the ACCP. The programme has content for both the scientist and clinician and the nominated speakers from Asia Pacific, the US, Europe and elsewhere are outstanding. In addition to featuring asthma, COPD, respiratory infection, pulmonary vascular and interstitial lung disease, the programme has a focus on the diagnosis and management of lung cancer as well as on critical care medicine. We recognise that the latter discipline is not practised by respiratory physicians in every country but those not directly involved will be interested to hear the latest developments. The Congress also features postgraduate courses on day 1 covering physiology, endobronchial

ultrasound with hands-on demonstrations, epidemiology, critical care medicine, lung cancer and radiology. There will be strong emphasis on avian influenza with a session devoted to this during the Congress and an ESAP preceding the Congress, featuring an outstanding international faculty with practical experience in managing this problem. I strongly commend this Congress to you and I urge you to attend an excellent meeting in a beautiful part of Australia.

Although it may be an overstatement to say that the Society's finances are critical at this time, it is certainly true that we must give serious and rapid consideration to amending our policy regarding membership fees. The looming financial issue relates to the success of the Society's journal *Respirology*. Philip Thompson, the Editor-in-Chief, and his team have worked very hard to produce a journal which is not only increasing its impact factor (see the message from the Editor-in-Chief on next page) but also attracting exponentially increasing submissions. Consequently, the workload has been mounting requiring additional editorial office staff, an increase in the number of issues published and hence an increase in costs. The journal has been one of the success stories of the APSR, one of the principal benefits to members and needs to be supported by adequate funds. The Executive has been wrestling with finding a membership fee formula which is fair and equitable and which reflects the capacity to pay, both for individual members and Member Societies. The Executive is close to agreement on a multi-tier system based on World Bank GDP for individual countries, similar to the system adopted by the ATS and ERS. In addition, the system is sensitive to en bloc members provided by Member Societies. It gives me great pleasure to report that the ATS has agreed to a reduction of 15% in their fees for members of both the ATS and APSR, similar to their arrangement with the ERS. This will also be incorporated in the new fee structure. As can be appreciated, this has been a complex issue with much discussion between members of the Executive and individual Societies. Hopefully, the new fees will be ratified at the Gold Coast Congress.

It has been a pleasure to see the Assembly Heads contributing to the planning of the Congress scientific programme, as per the new Congress protocol. It is good to see respiratory scientists and clinicians in the region getting to know each other and working together. After all, professional collegiality is one of the desired outcomes of professional societies. I would urge you to join one or more of the Assemblies and contribute to the advancement of respirology in the region.

I look forward to seeing you later in the year on the beautiful Gold Coast for the 12th Congress of the APSR.

Norbert Berend
President/APSR

Message from the Congress President

Over the last 6 months the APSR 2007 Organising Committee, chaired by Dr. Paul Reynolds, has been working extremely hard to put the finishing touches to a fantastic programme and line up of speakers for the Gold Coast meeting to be held 30th November - 4th December 07. The breadth of topics addresses many major areas of clinical practice and will appeal to clinicians with a large range of interests and levels of experience. Also there are postgraduate seminars and meeting symposia which will address cutting edge science and clinical practice on avian influenza, acute respiratory infection, practical epidemiology, intensive care pulmonary medicine, respiratory physiology and child health. Several of the main plenaries address important debates in clinical respiratory care and environmental health. The half day allocated for time out should give everyone an opportunity to avail themselves of the wonderful array of local activities and natural beauty in beach and bush, in time for a final day and dinner that will top off a great meeting. The abstracts submitted already promise to augment a first class scientific programme. I encourage everyone to put the time aside now to come to Australia for an outstanding experience at APSR 07.

Christine Jenkins
Congress President/APSR

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Respirology New ISI Impact Factor

We have just been notified of our new impact factor for 2005 of **1.518**. This represents an increase by 24% compared to the previous year and we remain committed to a similar or greater

improvement each year. In 2006, Respirology also saw a 125% renewal rate for institution subscriptions reflecting the ongoing interest in our journal and the recognition of its increasing quality. There also was a 9.4% increase of its circulation. Online subscription rose, representing 32% of the total and there was an important increase in article downloads of 31% compared to 2005.

New organisation of the Editorship

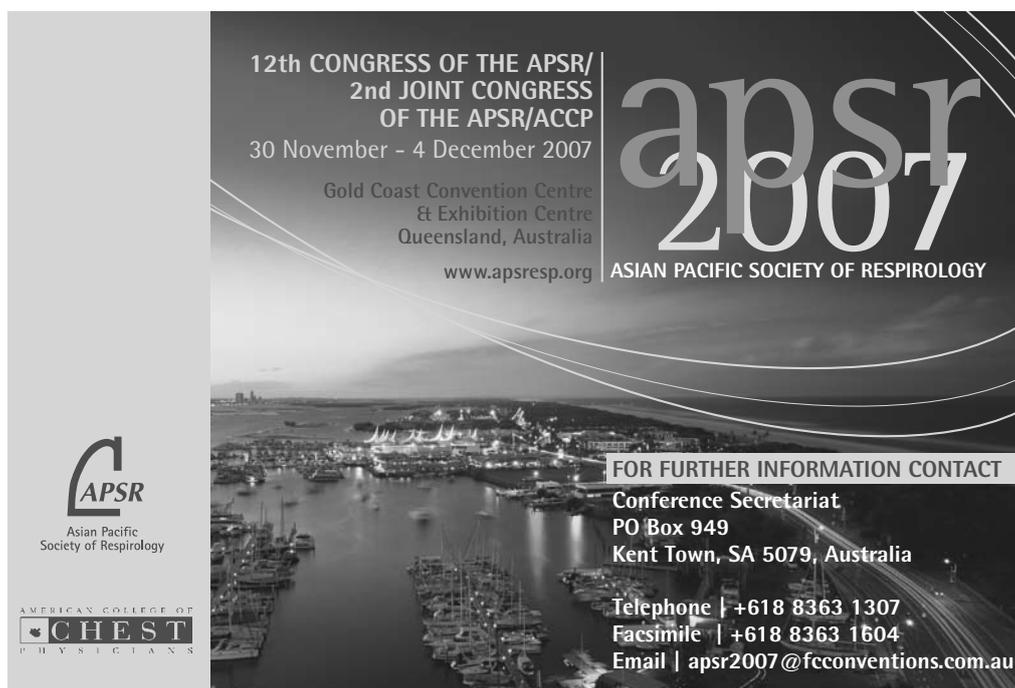
I am very pleased to announce that I now have an Editor-in-Chief Elect, Prof Gary Lee and an Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Philip Bardin to assist me in the task of editing Respirology. With the recent growth of the journal, the tasks and duties associated with my role became increasingly demanding and it became necessary to seek some assistance. Profs Lee and Bardin have been Associate Editors for the journal for some time and have contributed greatly to its development and growth. They commenced their new roles in early April and will be a great asset for the journal once they have settled in. I am delighted to be working with them at this new level.

Special Series

We are proud to announce the continuing publication of the Presidents' Series and this year we are starting a new review Series on Infectious Diseases. The Review Series Editors for this are Prof Ken Tsang from Hong Kong and Prof Grant Waterer from Australia.

Supplements:

The TSANZ supplement: "**Respiratory function tests and their application.**" (Respirology, November 2005 - Vol. 10 Issue s2 Page S1-S19) is available on-line for all APSR members. Please visit: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/res/10/s2>



12th CONGRESS OF THE APSR/
2nd JOINT CONGRESS
OF THE APSR/ACCP
30 November - 4 December 2007
Gold Coast Convention Centre
& Exhibition Centre
Queensland, Australia
www.apsresp.org

apsr
2007
ASIAN PACIFIC SOCIETY OF RESPIROLOGY

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Asian Pacific
Society of Respirology


AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
CHEST
PHYSICIANS

This really successful supplement has been the most popular downloaded article.

Latest Statistics on the Journal

Manuscript Central has vastly improved turn-around time and capacity for management of submissions which continue to increase dramatically. The latest statistics are published in each issue of *Respirology*. From the 1st of November 2006 to the 1st of May 2007, the average time from submission to first decision was 31 days, and from submission of a revision to decision, 15 days.

Our publisher has also introduced the publication of accepted manuscript on-line prior to their publication in the journal.

Back issue of the journal available on-line

Our publisher has recently agreed to digitize all back issues that are not currently available on Blackwell Synergy and is currently in the process of making these issues available on-line.

Philip J. Thompson
Editor-in-Chief/APSR

Councillors' Reports

Bangladesh

There are more than 300 diploma holders and about 30 doctoral level specialists in chest/respiratory medicine in Bangladesh where respiratory diseases occupy a major place in the disease spectrum. Bangladesh ranks 6th globally in terms of TB burden and there are 7 million asthmatics in the country. Although general respiratory infections like pneumonia, bronchiectasis and lung abscess show a declining trend, diseases like COPD and lung cancer are rising. Since we are a developing country, respiratory specialists must optimize utilization of resources. It is indeed a great challenge to operate in resource limited settings.

The Bangladesh Lung Foundation was launched in February 2007 to provide a major forum for the promotion of lung health, advancement of scientific interaction, dissemination of state-of-the-art medical knowledge, encouragement of ethical practice and advocacy for professional advancement. Our main focus is organizing continuing professional development workshops, orientation courses, and annual congresses at national as well as regional and international levels. So far, we have organized three workshops at major cities like Khulna and Chittagong. A workshop for general practitioners is scheduled for 28 June.

We intend to organise our 1st International Conference on 20-22 February 2008. We are fortunate that the President of the APSR, Prof. Norbert Berend and Prof. Toshihiro Nukiwa, Council member of the APSR and Past-president of the Japanese Respiratory Society, have accepted

our invitation to attend this Conference.

We are happy to offer APSR members complimentary registration for the Conference. We shall gladly welcome five young APSR investigators with complete local hospitality. These grants will be offered on first-come first-served basis. Please contact our International Affairs Secretary Dr. Kazi Saifudin Bennoor at bennoor@gmail.com for further information.

We believe the APSR is making meaningful contribution to the advancement of respiratory science. We hope that the APSR will make further contributions, like distributing journals at low-cost, form guidelines for important respiratory diseases, sponsorship of renowned speakers to attend national congresses, as well as facilitating participation of participants from developing countries to meetings in the developed world. Short term exchange programmes between centres of excellence in member countries may also be on the agenda. Introduction of APSR research awards will be beneficial.

The Asia Pacific region harbours a third of the world's population. We trust the APSR has meaningful collaboration with WHO on different matters. The APSR may also in the future contribute to the provision of low cost medicines and diagnostic equipment for countries with limited resources.

Md. Ali Hossain, Asif Mujtaba Mahmud

China

Led by Professor Zhong Nan Shan, the Chinese Thoracic Society (CTS) has been dedicated to promoting the clinical and basic research work for respiratory medicine in the past year, including organizing national congresses, setting up research grants and promoting academic activities for young physicians. After the 10th APSR and 1st joint APSR/ACCP meeting in Guangzhou in 2005, more and more academic activities were staged in China. We have made great progress in COPD, asthma, pulmonary thromboemboli and respiratory failure.

The CTS has this year organized three important national conferences covering COPD, critical care and lung cancer. Also, the 4th Middle-aged and Young Physicians Forum was held in Xi-Ning, Qin Hai province, which included a session in English to encourage young Chinese researchers to give a presentation in English. We also supported public education activities on World COPD Day, Asthma Day and Sleep Day. The CTS has been actively involved in the prevention and management of emerging disease such as Avian Flu.

This year two further important conferences will be held. One is the 8th National Respiratory Congress, which will be held 6-9 September 2007 in Hang Zhou, China and the programme will cover the latest developments in respiratory

medicine in China. The other is the Third National Congress on Pulmonary Vascular Diseases & First International Symposium on Pulmonary Circulation Disorders, which will be held in October 2007 in Xi An, China. It will cover a broad range of topics through the expertise of leaders in the field. We would like to share our experiences regarding the treatment of pulmonary emboli we found in Chinese patients. The effects of r-tPA 50 mg were equal to 100mg r-tPA. The new guidelines of diagnosis, treatment and prevention for pulmonary thromboembolic diseases will be published this year.

Wang Chen

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Thoracic Society, in collaboration with the American College of Chest Physicians (Hong Kong & Macau Chapter), has remained active in organizing local education activities. The Autumn Respiratory Seminar will be held on 25 November 2007, featuring sessions on Interstitial Lung Diseases, COPD and interventional pulmonology.

As GINA has updated its guidelines and the recent advances in the understanding of COPD, the HKTS recognizes the importance of disseminating the information to the local respiratory community. We have invited renowned speakers, including Prof Peter Calverley and Prof Peter Barnes, to give talks and interact with local experts about these important diseases. To promulgate the knowledge of COPD to the front line family physicians, the HKTS and ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter), in collaboration with the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, organizes a Certificate Course in COPD for the first time in Hong Kong. The course comprises a series of lectures on various basic and clinical aspects of COPD, with emphasis on the importance of spirometry in the diagnosis of this condition.

Hong Kong is a major research centre for tuberculosis in the region. The HKTS is preparing to work with the APSR's Education Committee to develop another Educational Seminar (ESAP) in Hong Kong in early 2008. The tentative theme is Tuberculosis Towards the 21st Century. The Seminar is planned to be a one day programme that features local, regional and international speakers. We are in the process of finalizing the speakers and programme. We are looking forward to this event and details will be announced as soon as ready.

Wai-Ming Chan

President/Hong Kong Thoracic Society

Indonesia

We have recently participated in several national meetings of other professional organizations to endorse International Standard for Tuberculosis Care (ISTC). In addition, we have organized scientific meetings for ISTC socialization countrywide. An ESAP meeting

was held in December 2006 in Jakarta entitled 'Bronchoscopy and Stenting', and the National Congress was held in Bali in middle of July 2007.

We cooperated with Indonesian Asthma Foundation in organizing an asthma exercise contest, scientific meeting for asthma, mass free medication for Asthma Indonesian Community. We also cooperated with the Ministry of Health to conduct several events on World TB Day.

Faisal Yunus

Chairman/Indonesian Society of Respiriology

Malaysia

The Malaysian Thoracic Society celebrated its 20th anniversary on 12 November 2006. A half-day Respiratory Medicine Seminar was held to reflect on the Society's achievements since its formation. This was followed by a fund raising charity dinner co-hosted by the newly registered Lung Foundation of Malaysia.

In conjunction with the World Asthma Day 2007, a jogathon, jointly organized by the Malaysian Thoracic Society, Asthma Council of Malaysia and Lung Foundation of Malaysia, was held in Kuala Lumpur on 13 May 2007. Due to the overwhelming response by the public, registration for participation was capped at 1,400 participants.

The Malaysian Thoracic Society, together with the Malaysian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, are co-organising the first International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease-Asia Pacific Region (IUATLD-APR) Conference with the theme 'Overcoming an old scourge with a new face (HIV/TB co-infection)', 2-5 August 2007 in Kuala Lumpur. The scientific programme comprises pre-conference workshops, plenary lectures and symposia, designed to cover a wide spectrum of topics on tuberculosis and lung diseases. Further details at <http://www.tibi2007.com>

Chong-Kin Liam

Taiwan

The Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM), with now more than 800 active members, joined the APSR en bloc in January 2006. Our colleagues submitted more than 40 abstracts for the 11th Congress of APSR, and more than 80 TSPCCM members attended this Congress in Kyoto in November, 2006. The participants enjoyed the scientific programmes and appreciated the hospitality from the APSR Secretariat and members. This year we hope to continue contributing to the current knowledge of medical science in the Asia Pacific region.

The TSPCCM endeavours to realize its objectives by organizing and coordinating congresses and meetings, publishing the official journal "Thoracic Medicine", promoting and coordinating activities and fostering research activities, actively participating in international activities,

and organizing and directing fellow training programmes for pulmonary and critical care medicine in Taiwan. The TSPCCM Annual Meeting will be held 8-9 December 2007 in Kaohsiung, a beautiful harbour city in the south of Taiwan. The scientific programme includes evidence-based state-of-art lectures on lung cancer, mechanical ventilation and tuberculosis, by renowned overseas scholars. All APSR members are welcome to participate.

The TSPCCM is a rapidly growing society and is committed to enhancing people's health. I believe that by actively participating the activities of the APSR our members will have a great contribution to the health of people in the Asia Pacific region.

Pan-Chyr Yang
President/TSPCCM

Thailand

The Thoracic Society of Thailand (TST) is a non-profit organization for physicians and allied health professionals with an interest in thoracic diseases. The Society was established in 1957 by a group of pulmonary physicians, thoracic surgeons and paediatric pulmonologists. The Society currently has 550 members and is committed to:

- * Promoting better lung health in Thailand
- * Disseminating the latest research findings to members and the public
- * Promoting unity among members
- * Building international connections
- * Establishing and maintaining standards of excellence in pulmonary medicine training and practice for physicians in Thailand

The TST holds a scientific meeting twice a year with an average attendance of 300-400. The main meeting with the annual business meeting of members is usually held in January for three days and usually 30 to 50 abstracts are presented. To encourage young researchers, each year the Society grants a Young Investigator Award to two researchers with a scholarship to present their study results at international meetings. The mid-year meeting is usually held in August and the next will be 17 August 2007 with the theme 'Optimum care for lung cancer'. A workshop on 'Transbronchial Needle Aspiration/Biopsy' will also be held for especially interested physicians. During the year the TST organizes special lectures on various topics in conjunction with either associated medical organizations such as Anti-tuberculosis Association of Thailand, or pharmaceutical companies. With its mission to promote better lung health in Thais, the TST has developed its own local guidelines on asthma, COPD, occupational lung diseases, spirometry and community-acquired pneumonia, in association with the Infectious Disease Society of Thailand.

To improve the standard and quality of pulmonary function testing, the TST organizes a

spirometry training course for technicians with an accredited certificate for attendance from the Society. The course is very popular, resulting in a long waiting list.

The pulmonary physician training programme is another mission of the TST. In association with the Medical Council of Thailand, a two-year fellowship course has existed since 1990. Each year around 20 pulmonary physicians graduate from the programme.

Internationally, the TST is actively involved with colleagues from other countries especially from the Asia Pacific region. The TST was involved in organizing the 4th World Congress of Asthma in 2004, the 29th World Conference of IUATLD in 1998, the 5th Congress of Asia-Pacific Association for Respiratory Care (APARC) in 1996, the 11th Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest in 1989. In 2008, the TST will host the 13th APSR Congress in Bangkok from 19-22 November 2008.

The TST has been actively involved with the APSR since the 1st APSR Congress in Tokyo. As a member of the APSR, the TST is doing its best to bring Thai pulmonary physicians closer to our colleagues in this region. There should be no boundary of knowledge dissemination and we hope that the APSR will act as a platform on which we can interact, exchange ideas, exchange training programmes and also unite in research activities to the advancement of the knowledge in pulmonary medicine which ultimately will benefit "our" patients.

Arth Nana
President/Thoracic Society of Thailand

Education Committee Report

The major initiatives of the APSR Education Committee have been convening the educational symposiums (ESAP) and the monthly Respiratory Research Review series.

A highly successful ESAP was held in Tokyo on 12 May 2007 as part of the JRS Annual Congress entitled 'New horizons in asthma/COPD' and covered a wide range of topics from basic pharmacology to consensus guidelines. Further details are below and the leadership roles of Yoshinosuke Fukuchi and Shu Hashimoto are particularly acknowledged.

There will be an ESAP on Friday 30 November 2007 prior to the APSR/ACCP Congress on the Gold Coast, Australia entitled 'Avian influenza from basic biology to pandemic planning'. This ESAP promises to be a major international symposium. Coordinated by Richard Loh, it brings together experts from the WHO, CDC, ACCP and APSR. It will review the evolution of avian influenza H5N1 viruses from the perspective of pandemic risk, address various

aspects of human H5N1 disease in relation to its epidemiology, clinical presentation, pathogenesis, diagnosis and medical management, and will also provide guidance in terms of pandemic planning and preventive public health measures. A supplement of this ESAP will be published in *Respirology* and distributed to all members of APSR. This ESAP is highly recommended to all members of the APSR—mark it on your calendar now!

Two further ESAPs are in the planning stage for 2008. The ‘Optimal care for lung cancer’ ESAP will be convened by the Thoracic Society of Thailand and will be held in Bangkok. The ‘Tuberculosis in the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century’ ESAP will be convened by the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and ACCP, and will be held in Hong Kong. The Education Committee welcomes approaches from other societies regarding proposed ESAP meetings.

The APSR Respiratory Research Review series has proven popular. Each month the Review series selects 10 publications in the field of respiratory medicine from a wide range of international medical journals. It provides both a summary and comment regarding the relevance of the publications to the region and an electronic link to the abstract.

Richard Beasley
Chairperson/Education Committee

Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP) in Tokyo

An ESAP was held on 12 May 2007 at the Tokyo International Forum, entitled ‘New Horizons in Asthma/COPD’. A highly distinguished faculty of internationally recognised speakers presented the latest information of the pathogenesis and management of asthma and COPD. Dr. Koichiro Asano presented an update on the genetics of asthma and COPD. Dr. Ian Adhock presented

the molecular action of glucocorticoid action and the molecular mechanism in difficult asthma. Dr Kenji Minoguchi presented anti-inflammatory therapy on asthma and COPD shedding light on new anti-inflammatory action of long-acting anti-cholinergic drug, tiotropium on animal model of asthma. Dr. William MacNee and Dr. Ruby Pawankar provided attendees with information regarding COPD management and asthma management by focusing on the concept of one way, one disease of allergic rhinitis and asthma. This seminar updated about 50 attendees on asthma and COPD management and the anti-inflammatory and molecular action on the pathogenesis and therapy.

Shu Hashimoto
Chairperson/Local Organizing Committee

Reports from the award winners to attend the ATS International Conference

Last month I was fortunate to attend the ATS International Conference in San Francisco, having been awarded an APSR Travel Grant. I really appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference, as it provided many valuable experiences for me. I had the opportunity to present my work both orally and as a poster. As an APSR featured speaker, I was also invited to chair a mini-symposia and facilitate a poster session. I found that the ATS meeting provided the ideal opportunity for me to maximise the impact of my research and develop research contacts. The meeting also provided an important learning opportunity, as it attracted leading respiratory researchers from around the world who share my interest in nutrition.

To date my research career has focused on exploring the role of nutrition in respiratory disease. Throughout my postdoctoral fellowship, I have examined dietary factors influencing asthma, with a focus on antioxidants. The

ESAP Tokyo 2007 Programme

Welcome	Kazuhisa Takahashi (Juntendo University)
Session 1	Chairing: Arata Azuma (Nippon Medical School) John Reilly (Harvard Medical School)
Overview and introduction	Shu Hashimoto (Nihon University)
New aspects on glucocorticoid action	Ian Adcock (National Heart & Lung Institute Imperial College)
Are allergic rhinitis and asthma manifestations of one syndrome? Revisiting the link	Ruby Pawankar (Nippon Medical School)
Current topics on genetics of asthma/COPD	Koichiro Asano (Keio University)
Session 2	Chairing: Jun Tamaoki (Tokyo Women’s Medical University) Peter Frith (Repatriation General Hospital)
COPD management and related topics	William MacNee (University of Edinburgh)
Anti-inflammatory therapy in asthma/COPD	Kenji Minoguchi (Showa University)
Closing	Yoshinosuke Fukuchi (Juntendo University)

community has a strong interest in dietary approaches to managing asthma. However to date, good quality scientific advice has been lacking. Thus, my research efforts are focused on providing high quality scientific information to fill this need. My recent work has demonstrated the ability of short term manipulation of dietary antioxidants to modify asthma outcomes. In particular, I have been examining the role of lycopene supplementation in asthma and I presented this data at the ATS conference as an oral presentation titled 'Dietary lycopene reduces neutrophilic airway inflammation in asthma'. It was encouraging to have the opportunity to present this data to an expert audience in a mini symposium titled 'Your lungs are what you eat'. There were also many other interesting presentations in this session. The effect of various dietary components on lung disease was explored, including omega-3 fatty acids and dairy products, as well as antioxidants. The impact of obesity on respiratory outcomes was also discussed at length.

I also had the opportunity to participate as both a presenter and facilitator in a poster session titled 'Non-invasive assessment of airways'. I really appreciated the chance to talk with other researchers about their work, particularly in relation to measurement of biomarkers in exhaled breath and collection of exhaled breath condensate. These topics were also discussed in a mini-symposium that I was invited to chair titled 'Non-invasive biomarkers of lung disease'. This session also enabled a good discussion regarding the utility of exhaled nitric oxide in diagnosing and monitoring asthma.

Of course, I also very much enjoyed the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of San Francisco. I found the city to be very accessible and easy to navigate. For me, highlights included the cable car ride down to Fisherman's Wharf for dinner and a bus ride over the Golden Gate Bridge. The food was great, and in my short stay, I enjoyed a wide variety of cuisines, from Mexican, Chinese, Thai and Indian to clam chowder by the Bay!

Overall, my experience at ATS was both enjoyable and motivating. As a result of attending this very important international meeting, I have been able to broaden my network of research contacts, keep up to date with research that is happening in my field and get expert feedback on my own data. I would sincerely like to thank the APSR for sponsoring me to attend the ATS meeting.

Lisa Wood
John Hunter Hospital, NSW, Australia

Working in a private medical school in Tokyo, Japan, mostly involves the practical parts of medicine such as looking after patients, preparing lectures for medical students and

dealing with reams of documents and so on. On the other hand, the ATS conference, which I joined at the Moscone Centre in San Francisco, 19-23 May 2007, provided an academic occasion, where I could learn pure science in the hope that one day such practices will become commonplace in medicine.

At the welcome reception at Yerba Buena Gardens, I had a good time together with the former colleagues and friends from London over the delicious food and drink. The days when we enjoyed researching and discussion sharing of the common goal of medicine, came freshly back to my mind. The following day, the ATS sessions started and it not only renewed my knowledge of diseases in general, as well as of their evidence, but also gave me an impressive idea for a case and for on-going studies. I also found academic ideas in the sessions applicable to our departmental future projects such as a paper on lung cancer and another on inflammation which gave me an incentive to launch new projects. I also had a chance to share some time together with Professor Mannino and Dr Yusen who were co-facilitators/chairpersons of the sessions on COPD epidemiology. Logically speaking, research starts from an idea based on an observation either of a sole patient or of the patient group as a whole, the latter which is the practice of epidemiology. As a result, I am now thinking of launching epidemiology projects. Although I had little discussion on my own presentation, as I was co-chairing the session myself, entitled "Association of plasma mono-unsaturated fatty acid to the FEV1 in healthy subjects", Prof Berend, APSR president kindly talked to me and provided constructive comments and suggestions, which I am now beginning to realize.

Outside of the Moscone Centre is the fabulous city of San Francisco with the combination of a busy city centre with hills, wharf and bridges, which reminded me especially of Kobe, a city where my high school was located. On the top of the hill is the St Grace Cathedral and one morning when I visited there, I took a seat under the dome in complete silence. Then the morning prayer echoed under the sun beam through the stained glass over head. Interestingly, whilst there, I noticed that there is a maze drawn on a carpet on the Nave Aisle. Although I do not know what this maze meant, I still seem to have many pieces of maze in my mind; a maze of science, a maze of medicine and a maze of society, some of which must be sorted out in our lifetime. Later that the week, on returning to Japan, I found myself working in the private medical school, holding new academic ambitions in my mind.

I would really like to express my sincere thanks to the APSR for their kind offer of the travel award, and a great opportunity for me to join the American Thoracic Society 2007 in San

Francisco.

Hiroo Wada
Kyorin University School of Medicine,
Tokyo, Japan

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2007

ERS 2007 Annual Congress
15-19 September 2007, Stockholm, Sweden
Website: www.ersnet.org

Annual International Scientific Assembly of the ACCP
20-25 October 2007, Chicago, USA
Website: www.chestnet.org/CHEST/

Hong Kong Thoracic Society & HK and Macau Chapter of ACCP
Autumn Respiratory Seminar
25 November 2007, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Email: meeting.hk@asia.cmpmedica.com

12th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, 2nd Joint Congress of the APSR/ACCP
30 November-4 December 2007, Gold Coast, Australia
Email: apsr2007@fconventions.com.au
Website: www.apsr2007.org

Annual Meeting of Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
8-9 December 2007, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Email: spccm@mars.seed.net.tw
Website: www.tsppcm.org.tw

2008

1st International Conference - Bangladesh Lung Foundation
20-21 February 2008, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Email: bennoor@gmail.com

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting
30 March- 2 April 2008, Melbourne, Australia
Website: www.thoracic.org.au

Annual meeting of the American Lung

Association & ATS
16-21 May 2008, Toronto, Canada
Website: www.thoracic.org

48th Annual Meeting of the JRS
15-17 June 2008, Kobe, Japan
Website: www.jrs.or.jp

ERS Annual Congress
4-8 October 2008, Berlin, Germany
Website: www.ersnet.org

Annual International Scientific Assembly of the ACCP
25-30 October 2008, Miami, USA
Website: www.chestnet.org/CHEST/

13th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology
19-22 November 2008, Bangkok, Thailand
Email: thaitst@truemail.co.th

Annual Meeting of Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
6-7 December 2008, Taipei, Taiwan
Website: www.tsppcm.org.tw

2009

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting
3-8 April 2009, Darwin, Australia
Website: www.thoracic.org.au

Annual meeting of the American Lung Association & ATS
15-20 May 2009, San Diego, USA
Website: www.thoracic.org

49th Annual Meeting of the JRS
12-14 June 2009, Tokyo, Japan
Website: www.jrs.or.jp

ERS Annual Congress
12-16 September 2009, Vienna, Austria
Website: www.ersnet.org

Annual International Scientific Assembly of the ACCP
31 October-5 November 2009, San Diego, USA
Website: www.chestnet.org/CHEST/

Congresses in 2009 and 2010!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the APSR Congress in 2009 and 2010. 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 Organizing Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information.
Email: kyu00671@nifty.com

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