



Newsletter

Editor : Arth Nana

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

Message from the President



I would like to summarize important activities of the Society during the last six months as follows:

1. The 18th Congress of the APSR

The dedicated team efforts of Dr Toshihiro Nukiwa, APSR2013 Congress President, Dr Shu Hashimoto, Secretary General, Dr Kazuhisa Takahashi, Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, along with good support from the Japanese Respiratory Society, led to the great success of the 18th Congress of the APSR in Yokohama during the month of November last year. The congress benefitted from a high quality scientific programme and the social events were also very impressive. It was attended by more than 2,200 participants from 41 countries or regions.

2. Preparation of 19th Congress of the APSR in Bali

Dr Faisal Yunus, APSR2014 Congress President, along with Dr Kwun Fong, Chairperson of the Central Congress Committee and their teams, are working very hard putting together a strong scientific programme with enhanced scientific and educational sessions to explore the latest developments, medical advances, cutting edge treatments and breakthroughs in the management of respiratory diseases, plus very interesting social events. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Bali, Indonesia during 13-16 November 2014.

3. Invitation for APSR 2017 bidding

The congresses after APSR2014 in Bali will be:

The 20th Congress of the ARSR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015

The 21st Congress of the APSR in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016

For the 22nd Congress of the APSR in 2017, bidding is now open to any respiratory society in the region. For details please contact the APSR Secretariat at kyu00671@nifty.com

4. FAPSR

The Fellow of the APSR (FAPSR) is a distinction available exclusively to current APSR members who have more than five years' experience in healthcare or research in respiratory medicine or related disciplines. There has been an increase in the number of FAPSRs since its inauguration in 2012, and more members are invited to apply. A link to the application form can be found on the APSR homepage: <http://apsresp.org/>

5. First abstract session of the APSR at the ATS Conference in San Diego

With the support of the ATS, the APSR held an Abstract session on 17 May at the ATS Int'l Conference for the first time. Invitation letters were sent to all 680 abstract presenters from the Asia-Pacific region. In this inaugural year, the number of attendees was somewhat limited. Dr Peter Eastwood, Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology* gave his talk on the progress of the journal and also gave some tips on how to have their scientific works accepted and published in high impact journals. A social gathering followed his presentation. Hopefully next year there will be more attendees and various activities such as scientific presentations. Please feel free to make suggestions.



First abstract session of the APSR at ATS International Conference 2014 in San Diego

6. International relations

ATS (American Thoracic Society)

The APSR has nominated Dr Yasuhiro Yamauchi, Head of the APSR's Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly, to represent the APSR in the ATS Stem Cell Working Group. This group will prepare an official statement on stem cells and cell therapies for lung diseases and related topics.

FIRS (Forum of International Respiratory Societies)

The APSR, being a member of FIRS, is engaged in drafting a joint position statement on 'Electronic cigarettes and electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS)', along with the ATS, ERS, ACCP, PATS, ALAT, and IUATLD. Dr David CL Lam has been nominated to be the APSR representative in this conjoint effort. The final document will be released very soon and members can follow its progress through *Respirology*.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to invite you to join the APSR Congress in Bali, Indonesia on 13–16 November 2014 (APSR2014), details of which can be seen at www.apsr2014.org

Arth Nana

Message from the Secretary General

The following is my summary of the issues, looking back to our activities since APSR2013 in Yokohama, and recent changes.

1. Increasing APSR en bloc membership

Recognising the great advantage of APSR en bloc membership, we are preparing to welcome societies from further countries/regions. Details will be announced soon.

2. Educational activities

There has been a recent change of name for the APSR Short-Term Research/Training Fellowship to Scholarship. Every three months, new applicants are considered for this scholarship.

I am pleased to report that many abstracts were accepted for APSR Travel Awards to attend the ATS Int'l Conference and the ERS Annual Congress.

The Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP) is one of our major educational activities. Highlights this year include ESAPs in Manila in August and Bali in November.

3. Respirology Case Reports

The second issue of *Respirology Case Reports* has been published, and can be seen at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/rcr2.2013.1.issue-2/issuetoc>

All current APSR members will receive a significant discount on the fee charged for publishing articles in *Respirology Case Reports*.

Michiaki Mishima

Message from the Editor-in-Chief of Respirology

I have recently received the publisher's 2013 Annual Report and pleased to see some very encouraging trends for *Respirology*. The number of 2013 full-text downloads has increased again, by 33% from the previous year, to 347,620 downloads (China, Australia and Japan were among the top 5 downloading countries) and the number of people subscribing to the journal's content alerts has more than doubled. The Review

Series articles continue to feature among the most downloaded *Respirology* papers and I encourage all APSR members to read this year's unique and fascinating series, which bring together international experts from different areas in respiratory medicine:

- 'Modern Statistical Methods in Respiratory Medicine' edited by Rory Wolfe and Michael Abramson (first paper published in January 2014)
- 'Update on Interventional Pulmonology' edited by Fabien Maldonado, Eric Edell, Patrick Barron and Rex Yung (first paper published in May 2014)
- 'Respiratory Disease: Using Lung Function Measurements to Greater Advantage' edited by Graham Hall and Charles Irvin (first paper scheduled for publication in August issue)

The publication of the series 'Respiratory Disease: Using Lung Function Measurements to Greater Advantage' will coincide with the launch of an exciting new *Respirology* feature - the 'Video Abstract'. *Respirology*'s first video abstract will be as an introduction to this series, feature the series editors, and highlight the significance of the topic to researchers, clinicians and the wider public.

Respirology continues to position itself as the major respiratory journal in the Asia-Pacific region and the annual *Fukuchi Award for Best Original Research in Respirology* is a clear example of the quality of papers our region produces. The majority of recipients originated from the region, and this year's award again goes to an APSR member, Dr Rebecca Vanders from The University of Newcastle in Australia, for her article entitled 'Alterations in inflammatory, antiviral and regulatory cytokine responses in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from pregnant women with asthma' published in Volume 18, Issue 5, pages 827-833. I would like to congratulate Dr Vanders, who will be presented with the award at the upcoming APSR congress, and I thank the award's selection panel for their expert input.

For an overview of all quality research published by *Respirology* in 2013, I would like to refer you to our 'Year in Review 2013' papers which were published in the April 2014 issue. These popular review papers provide a comprehensive analysis of the contribution that the 2013 *Respirology* papers made to advances in numerous areas of respiratory medicine research and practice. All 2013 papers are freely available online and can be easily shared with your colleagues.

In 2015 we will say goodbye to the print

version of *Respirology* and go completely online. This decision is based on the feedback received by the APSR from the majority of its members, who are overwhelmingly reading the online version of the journal and have found decreased use for the hard copy. The change will go hand in hand with an expansion of *Respirology*'s online features, including the development of a mobile app. It is the start of a new and exciting era in *Respirology*'s publishing history.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editorial Board members, Editorial Office staff, the staff at Wiley-Blackwell, the APSR Secretariat and the APSR Executives for their hard work and continued support.

Peter Eastwood

Message from the Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology Case Reports*

One year has elapsed since we launched *Respirology Case Reports*, the APSR's open-access online-only journal dedicated to the publication of original clinical case reports in respiratory medicine. I am very pleased to report that this first year has been very successful.

Respirology Case Reports has recently been approved for listing in PubMed, and the case reports already published in an issue will shortly be added to the database and deposited in PubMed Central. The application to be listed was initiated a few months ago, and we are very pleased that the application was successful. We believe the listing in PubMed will raise the journal's profile tremendously and will increase our visibility, readership and thus submissions.

The journal has been widely marketed by Wiley. The latest campaign was at the ATS, where Wiley published a special issue of *Respirology* that contained the eTOC for a selection of case reports. We have continued to advertise the journal on the *Respirology* and APSR websites, as well as those of other societies. We are also preparing a joint venture with *Respirology* as part of the upcoming review series on "Respiratory Disease: Using Lung Function Measurements to Greater Advantage" with Graham Hall and Charlie Irvin as Series Editors. The authors of this series have been invited to publish a case report in *Respirology Case Reports* related to their review and which will be clearly linked to the review. In addition, a video abstract about this series and the linked case reports is in preparation and

will be published on our websites at the same time as the series starts. This initiative should help further raise awareness of *Respirology Case Reports* as invited review series in *Respirology* are always well accessed, read and cited.

Since the launch about a year ago, *Respirology Case Reports* has received 108 submissions from 19 different countries, with the majority (44%) originating from Japan. Approximately 62% of the case reports are accepted for publication. On average, the authors are informed of a first decision within 16 days of submission, and of a final decision in about 27 days.

Respirology Case Reports now has four issues online and two more are scheduled for this year (in September and December).

The journal has an international team of Editorial Board members who are in charge of peer-reviewing the reports submitted and assure the quality of the reports accepted after peer-review. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of them for their expert advice and support and for championing the journal. We have also introduced the positions of Deputy Editors with Dr Peter Eastwood, Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology*, Dr Gary YC Lee, Immediate Past Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology* and Dr Philip Bardin, Editor-in-Chief Elect of *Respirology*, in order to have a tiered Board structure as per *Respirology*, to strengthen the journal's position and credibility.

I would also like to thank the team behind *Respirology Case Reports*, including Christel

Norman and the rest of the Editorial Office staff, as well as the team at Wiley-Blackwell and the APSR Secretariat. In addition I would like to thank the APSR Executives for their support of this new publication.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and I trust that with the new listing in PubMed, *Respirology Case Reports* will keep on growing and attract still more interest and become an important resource for clinicians, in the Asia-Pacific region and globally, to share their experience with others and provide unique guidance for patient care of rare and unusual cases. I encourage all APSR members to submit their case reports to the journal and take full advantage of the member discount.

Norbert Berend

Message from the 19th Congress President

The APSR was established in 1986 with the objectives of advancing and promoting knowledge of the respiratory system in health and disease. It aims to achieve this by encouraging researches, improving clinical practice through teaching, increasing awareness of health problems in the area, as well as promoting the exchange of knowledge among respirologists in the Asia-Pacific region though the much sought-after annual congress.

In this respect, we take great pleasure in announcing the upcoming 19th Congress



19th Congress of Asian Pacific Society of Respirology

13 – 16 November 2014 | Bali, Indonesia



of the APSR (APSR2014), which will be held on 13-16 November 2014, at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC) in Bali, Indonesia. We are anticipating 2,000 participants from the region – a distinguished community comprising clinicians and researchers specialising in the areas of pulmonology and thoracic surgery, internists, critical care specialists, physicians, paediatricians, as well as graduate students, respiratory nurses, technicians and scientists in the field of respiratory medicine – to convene at this highly engaging forum. We hope you can be part of the discussions at this congress.

With each year, the organising committee aims to benefit the community by developing an attractive programme with enhanced scientific and educational sessions to explore the latest developments, medical advances, cutting edge treatments, and breakthroughs in the management of respiratory illnesses. At APSR2014, a strong faculty of international, regional and local experts will be leading its ten postgraduate courses and workshops, two plenary sessions, six concurrent tracks of symposia at the main congress, as well as its 16 categories for poster and oral presentations that address highly-discussed issues in asthma, bronchoscopy and interventional techniques, cellular and molecular biology, COPD, clinical allergy and immunology, clinical respiratory medicine, critical care medicine, environmental and occupational health & epidemiology, interstitial lung disease, lung cancer, lung infection (TB), lung infection (Non-TB), lung structure and function, paediatrics, pulmonary circulation, as well as respiratory neurobiology and sleep. The latest programme and updates can be seen on the website: www.apsr2014.org.

Delegates are also encouraged to sign up for the one-day postgraduate courses and workshops:

- Postgraduate Course on Updates on Lung Cancer (ESAP Seminar)
- Postgraduate Course on Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep
- Postgraduate Course on COPD: Pathogenesis and Disease Phenotype
- Postgraduate Course on MDR-TB
- Postgraduate Course on Pneumonia
- Workshop on Lung Mechanical Ventilation
- Workshop on Bronchoscopy 1: Managing Airway Stenosis and Corpus Alienum
- Workshop on Bronchoscopy 2: Peripheral Lung Nodules and Asthma management
- Workshop on Pleural Disease and Thoracoscopy
- Workshop on Basic and Advances of Lung Function

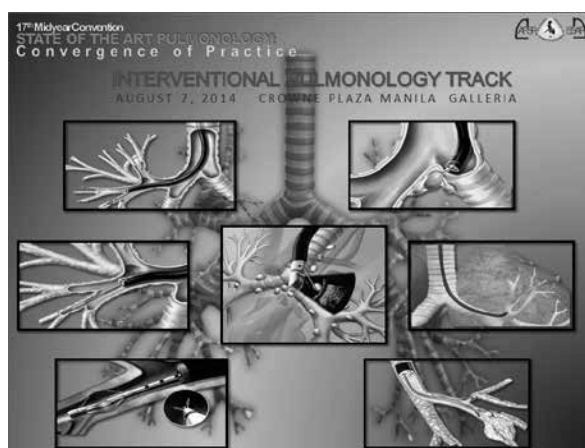
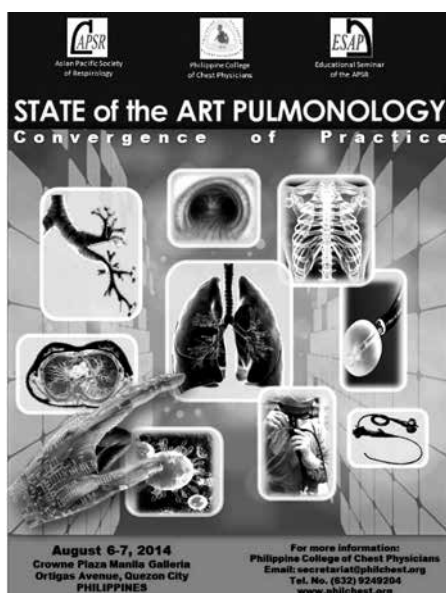
The congress website is www.apsr2014.org

With much prepared in anticipation of this occasion, the APSR2014 Congress President Dr Faisal Yunus and all members of the Organizing Committee, warmly look forward to welcoming you and all your colleagues at the congress. See you soon!

Faisal Yunus

State of the Art Pulmonology: Convergence of Practice

The theme for the 17th Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) and Educational Seminar of the APSR (ESAP) is State of the Art Pulmonology: Convergence of Practice.



In the last decade alone, the medical community has borne witness to the development of advanced technology and science which has benefitted our profession. From inventions of state of the art technology, formulations of new drugs to rejuvenation of old knowledge and to making all of these accessible through appliances and applications, have made the practice of medicine more current and able to cope with the constantly evolving medical conditions and emerging infections, especially in the field of respiratory health. In 2015, the community is gearing towards the ideal of "One Asia". This will further enhance the medical profession, erasing borders by the exchange of expertise and sharing of information. With the advanced technology, all of these innovations and knowledge at your fingertips, ensuring that the level and quality of health care provided to each individual, will be consistent and optimal across all Asian countries.

The convention will be held on 6-7 August 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria in Quezon City, Philippines and will highlight the rapid advances in the field of pulmonology and the need for proper collaboration among different disciplines which deal with various respiratory ailments. The 2-day conference will start with a didactic session where experts from the region will tackle diseases and topics, utilizing various formats to ensure an optimal learning experience. The course also offers hands-on sessions and interactive workshops on Interventional Pulmonology, with opportunities for handling EBUS, bronchial valves, pleuroscopy and other bronchoscopic procedures.

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians
(PCCP)

Report from the APSR award winners to attend the ATS International Conference

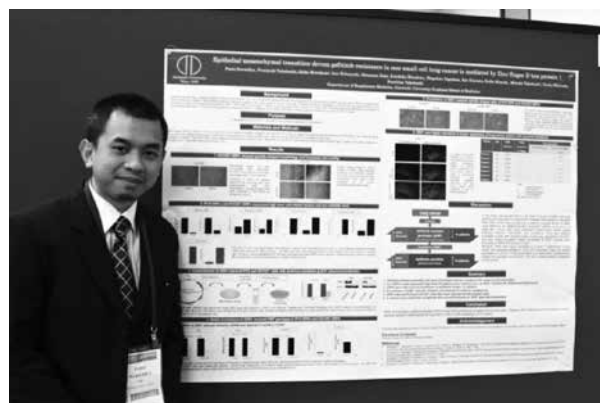
I would like to express my deep gratitude to the APSR for the support given to young investigators from the Asia-Pacific region like me, to present our work at the ATS International Conference. Pledging to support talented young respiratory physicians and scientists in realizing their full potential, this conference strived to produce groundbreaking research in the interests of advancing the triumph over respiratory diseases.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to present our work in the mini-symposium

'Advances in Lung Cancer Biology'. The session was very exciting for me because I was honoured to be with great people in the field of thoracic oncology. I received so much valuable feed-back from the audience and the chairperson, which will fortify our next step of experiments.

I have been working with the molecular mechanism of gefitinib resistance in non-small cell lung cancer for nearly four years. In these studies we are trying to identify what molecules are responsible for the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT)-driven gefitinib resistance. In that session, I presented the molecular findings from our *in vitro* study, *in vivo* study, and related it to the clinical evidence. The questions received were quite difficult and challenging, however it was a very wonderful experience for me. Moreover, the first meeting of the Thoracic Oncology Assembly provided me with the opportunity to meet some of the most influential leaders that have made a significant impact in the way we treat lung cancer patients.

One of the most interesting sessions for me was the 'Meet the Editors' session. In that session, the Editor-in-Chiefs of all ATS journals, namely the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM/Blue Journal), the American Journal of Respiratory and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB/Red Journal), the Annals of Thoracic Society (White Journal), and the European Respiratory Journal, explained the journal workflow and the important points usually considered by reviewers. Pitfalls that usually exist during manuscript submission were also clearly described by the panelists. I believe that this session was really helpful to all attendees who are interested to publish their work in respected journals.



Fariz Nurwidya
Juntendo University

I am very grateful to the APSR for giving me this opportunity to attend the 2014 ATS International Conference in San Diego, California. As a recent graduate in fellowship training in Adult Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, with additional training in Adult Pulmonary Rehabilitation Medicine, the conference was a remarkable opportunity to learn more about the field. It was indeed one of the largest gatherings for pulmonary, critical care, rehabilitation and sleep medicine professionals in the world. Moreover, it provided an excellent opportunity to explore and develop fruitful partnerships.

Before the start of the conference, I attended the first APSR “Get Together Party”. This event allowed me to meet and mingle with my peers from the Asia-Pacific region. In this event, speakers were invited to give a short talk on how to get an article published in respected journals and how to make a good presentation at scientific conferences. I found the talk very informative, helpful and essential to our professional development as researchers.

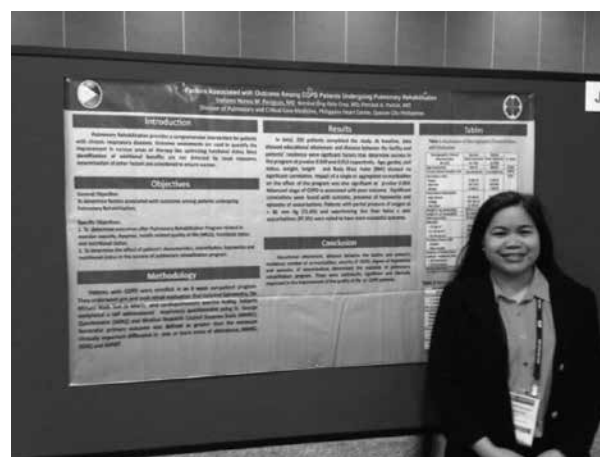
The conference offered a wide array of topics in respiratory medicine for physicians, scientists and healthcare professionals. I looked forward to attending the daily sessions, and I learned immensely from the presentations. Of particular interest were the latest innovations, issues, and controversies on COPD, Rehabilitation Medicine and ARDS. I took special note of the interventions for skeletal muscle dysfunction in COPD. As a practitioner in the field of pulmonary rehabilitation, new learnings and knowledge acquired from the lectures will no doubt help me in my clinical practice, particularly in making rehab programmes more effective.

I presented my poster entitled “Factors Associated with Outcome among COPD Patients Undergoing Pulmonary Rehabilitation”. Such rehabilitation provides a comprehensive intervention for patients with chronic respiratory diseases. Since identification of additional benefits cannot be detected by usual measures, determination of other factors are considered to ensure success. The educational attainment, distance between the facility and patient’s residence, number of co-morbidities, severity of COPD, degree of hypoxemia and episodes of exacerbations,

determined the outcome of the pulmonary rehabilitation programme. These were statistically significant and clinically important in the improvement of the quality of life of COPD patients. Pulmonary rehabilitation is effective when based on long-term follow up, but there are factors that could limit the effectiveness to a certain extent. Identifying and addressing these factors, as seen in this study, will increase the chance of success of the rehabilitation. The poster presentation was certainly an insightful experience for me. The session with the audience and facilitator was both interesting and productive as it gave me an opportunity to obtain feedback from clinical and seasoned experts.

I also enjoyed meeting fellow young investigators and experts in the field of respiratory medicine. Exchanging views and ideas with them at the 6th Annual ATS Foundation Research Program and at the President’s Reception was very stimulating. It was a pleasure benchmarking strategies with peers all over the globe, getting to know some of the things they do in their programmes, and learning about their practice experiences.

Once again, thank you, APSR! I am very grateful for your support, APSR! I am very grateful for young investigators like me to attend the ATS conference. It was truly a memorable and enriching experience! You inspire me to continue learning and deepening my expertise, in order to make a positive difference in the field.



Stefanni Nonna M. Paraguas
Philippine Heart Center

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2014

17th PCCP Midyear Convention
6-7 August, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Email: secretariat@philchest.org
Website: www.philchest.org

ERS 2014 International Congress
6-10 September, Munich, Germany
Website: www.erscongress.org/

IMIG2014 Meeting (International Mesothelioma
Interest Group)
21-24 October, Cape Town, South Africa
Email: imig2014@allevents.co.za
Website: www.imig2014.org

117th Annual Meeting of the KATRD
24-25 October, Seoul, Korea
Website: www.lungkorea.org/

CHEST 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting of the
ACCP
25-30 October, Texas, USA
Website: www.chestnet.org/Education/
CHEST-Meetings/CHEST-2014

19th Congress of the APSR
13-16 November, Bali, Indonesia
Email: secretariat@apsr2014.org
Website: www.apsr2014.org/Home.aspx

Autumn Respiratory Seminar 2014
23 November, Hong Kong
Email: meeting.hk@mims.com

2015

Pulmocon 2015
18-19 February, Dhaka, Bangladesh

TSANZSRS Annual Scientific Meeting 2015
27 March – 1 April, Queensland, Australia
Email: tsanz@tcc.co.nz
Website: www.thoracic.org.au

ATS 2015 International Conference
15-20 May, Denver, USA.

55th Annual Meeting of the JRS
17-19 April, Tokyo, Japan
Email: 55jrs@jrs.or.jp
Website: www.jrs.or.jp/jrs55/en/index.html

ERS 2015 International Congress
26-30 September, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Website: www.erscongress.org/

20th Congress of the APSR
3-6 December, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Website: www.apsresp.org/congress/2015.php

2016

21st Congress of the APSR
12-15 November, Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.apsresp.org/congress/2016.php

Notices from the Secretariat

1. Invitation to bid for the 2017 Congress!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the 22nd Congress of the APSR in 2017. Bids will be considered at the next Executive Committee Meeting. You will be asked to present your thoracic society's plans for the arrangements, financial planning and infrastructure of the event (Local Congress Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (kyu00671@nifty.com)

2. APSR Research Awards

The APSR is pleased to announce two Research Awards; the Harasawa Research Award and the Woolcock Research Award, to two APSR members. The awardees will deliver lectures at the APSR Congress in Bali, November 2014. Nominations can be made by any member of the APSR and nominees can be any member of the APSR, whose work enshrines excellence in respiratory research. Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat and will be considered by the APSR Research Committee.

Deadline for nominations: 31 July 2014

3. The APSR Medal

The APSR Medal will be bestowed during the 19th Congress of the APSR in Bali, November 2014. The award of this medal is made for the advancement of respirology in the Asia-Pacific region in fields other than research but including major achievements in advocacy, teaching, or clinical practice. Any member of the APSR fulfilling the criteria is eligible for this award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat and will be considered by a committee comprising of the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee, Chairperson of the Education Committee, Secretary General, Past President and President of the APSR.

Deadline for nominations: 31 July 2014