



Newsletter

Editor : Michiaki Mishima

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

Message from the President



Dear APSR members;

I am honoured to take this opportunity to deliver this first message to all my colleagues — the APSR members. First of all, I would like to say thank you very much for your continuing great support to the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology.

Attended by over 2,700 delegates from around the world, the 19th Congress of the APSR in Bali, Indonesia, was successfully staged in November 2014, with the great cooperation of the Indonesian Society of Respiriology led by Dr Faisal Yunus.

Another milestone to celebrate is the Impact Factor of our official journal; *Respirology*, which jumped from 2.781 in 2012 to 3.495 in 2013. *Respirology* is now ranked the 15th out of 53 journals in the Respiratory System category, compared with being the 18th the previous year. *Respirology Case Reports* has been steadily building a sound reputation in the short period since its inauguration. I would like to thank particularly Dr Peter Eastwood, Dr Norbert Berend and their colleagues at the Editorial Office for their excellent achievement. In addition, an education component called 'ESAP' (Educational Seminar of the APSR) has been used to implement seminars in the Asia-Pacific region, coordinated by Dr David Lam. Three ESAPs were held in 2014: 'State of the Art Pulmonology' in Quezon City, Philippines, in August; 'Lung cancer' in Bali, Indonesia, in November prior to the APSR2014 Congress; and finally 'Paediatric Asthma' in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in December. I'm sure more ESAPs will take place in 2015 to extend our educational activities and to penetrate our region through APSR member societies. We have also increasing opportunities offered to APSR young investigators through the APSR scholarships and travel awards. In other words, our young researchers will have more opportunities in 2015 than before.

Another focus for 2015 is to expand the number of en bloc member societies, especially in Central Asia and ASEAN countries. I believe that the more members we have, the more educational opportunities, and the more strength in the APSR for our future development in the region.

As you may know, the APSR has very tight business relationships with the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS). This group joins international respiratory societies together, including the APSR, ATS, ACCP, ERS, ALAT, PATS, IUATLD and other international respiratory organizations. The FIRS has specific working groups to which each member society and organization contributes. *The FIRS Joint Position Statement on Electronic Cigarettes* was one example of our depth of commitment, for which Dr David Lam joined as the representative of the APSR. The FIRS Annual Meeting to discuss worldwide issues relevant to respirology will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in early February 2015. Both Dr Kwun Fong, the new Secretary General of the APSR, and myself are invited to exchange productive information among FIRS members.

In early 2015, the preliminary announcement of the scientific programme for the 20th Congress, APSR2015, to be held on 3-6 December, will be launched and will be distributed to APSR Assembly Heads from the Central Congress Committee and Local Congress Committee to boost the quality of the congress in Kuala Lumpur. The congress term will definitely fill the city with delegates from around the world.

Finally, I wish you and your family a happy new year with sound health throughout the year.

Michiaki Mishima

Message from the Secretary General

Dear APSR friends and colleagues

It is my great honour and privilege to write to you as the new Secretary-General of the APSR, which carries much responsibility in the rewarding job of serving our President Dr Michiaki Mishima. Dr Mishima did a wonderful job as Secretary General to Dr Arth Nana and his shoes will be hard to fill, though I will do my very best.

It is opportune also to acknowledge and thank Dr Nana for his invaluable work as the outstanding outgoing APSR President, leading the APSR Executive team to further consolidate and build the APSR ever stronger to realise its mission and vision. We all, as members of the APSR, have the opportunity to work together with dedication to contribute to the APSR's aims; i.e., encourage research, improve clinical practice through teaching, increase awareness of health problems and promote the exchange of knowledge among respirologists in the Asia-Pacific region. To this end I look forward to supporting Dr Mishima and the Secretariat to increase our membership and activities to allow us improve lung health in our hospitals, medical centres, clinics, towns, cities, countries and regions and encourage you to contribute your many talents.

Another aim of the APSR is to hold the pinnacle respiratory meeting in our region, and I am sure that we all share sincere appreciation and thanks to Dr Faisal and his wonderful team for holding such a successful 2014 Congress in Bali. The meeting will be remembered by us all for its quality and fellowship, especially to Dr Mishima and myself at the start of our service to the APSR, and you, the members. We hope to hear from many of you with new ideas, willingness to participate and your valuable contribution to our shared goals. Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat or myself with your proposals.

Kwun Fong

Message from Editor-in-Chief of *Respirology*

This year, *Respirology* celebrates its 20th year of publication. In the first issue of 2015, we publish an Editorial that reviews *Respirology*'s journey so far, with a look into the future.

Since *Respirology* published its first issue in 1996, it has grown rapidly to become a widely-read and widely-cited journal of regional and international importance. The journal currently attracts 350,000 electronic downloads per year. The latest impact factor of 3.495, announced in July 2014, places it in the top 30% of all respiratory system journals listed on Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports, making *Respirology* the highest impact general respiratory journal in the Asia-Pacific region. Compared to other respiratory journals with similar citation rates, *Respirology*

publishes a larger proportion of citable papers from the region, consistent with its important role as the major journal representing Asia-Pacific respiratory research.

The 20th anniversary is marked by the journal's transition from print and online publication to an electronic-only platform. This change follows the trend of other scholarly journals and allows *Respirology* to expand its online initiatives, such as the videos featuring journal content. Authors will be able to publish full-colour illustrations free of charge and readers can enjoy the new Enhanced HTML Article that is easy to read on many devices. Wiley, *Respirology*'s publisher, is also on the verge of launching its journal app for iPad and iPhone which will make it even easier to stay up to date with the latest publications in respiratory medicine.

In 2014, the number of submissions to *Respirology* increased, the turnaround time decreased and the acceptance rate remained the same as in 2013. The majority of submissions (61%) and published papers (58%) continued to originate from the region.

Respirology published eight issues in 2014 containing 107 original articles, 25 editorials, 26 invited reviews (embedded in the review series on 'Modern Statistical Methods in Respiratory Medicine', 'Update in Interventional Pulmonology', and 'Respiratory Disease: Using Lung Function Measurements to Greater Advantage'), 3 year-in-review papers, 19 unsolicited reviews, 2 clinical practice guidelines and several scientific letters and correspondences. *Respirology* also published three supplements including the Abstracts of the 2014 Airway Vista meeting (Seoul, Korea), the Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand and the Australian & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science 2014 Annual Scientific Meetings (Adelaide, Australia) and the 19th Congress of the APSR (Bali, Indonesia).

Since the publication of the June APSR Newsletter, *Respirology* has welcomed Judith Mak (Hong Kong) and Safwan Badr (USA) to the team of Associate Editors, while David Barnes (Australia) joined the Editorial Board and Kevin Murray (Australia) joined the Statistical Review Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Editors, Editorial Board members and reviewers for their time commitment, expert advice and support of the journal throughout 2014.

Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the team behind *Respirology* including the Editorial Office, the staff at Wiley, the APSR Secretariat and the APSR Executives for their hard work and support during 2014. I look forward to another productive and successful year for the journal.

Peter Eastwood

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

We are delighted to announce that *Respirology*

Case Reports is now available on PubMed Central (PMC) and searchable in PubMed. All case reports already published in an issue are now available on PMC, and the newly accepted case reports will be deposited in PMC upon publication in an issue. We believe that being on PMC will give a boost to submissions and will increase the journal's visibility.

The journal continues to be widely marketed by Wiley. The latest campaign was in the *Respiratory Medicine* e-newsletter, where Wiley published an insert with eTOC summaries 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 send a message via Twitter each time a case report is published and have noticed that some case reports have attracted a lot of comments and activity on this social media.

The joint venture with *Respirology* as part of the review series on "Respiratory Disease: Using Lung Function Measurements to Greater Advantage" with Graham Hall and Charlie Irvin as Series Editors was very successful with more than half of the authors contributing a case report in *Respirology Case Reports* linked to their review in *Respirology*. The video abstract about this series and the linked case reports have been released on our websites. We believe that this initiative helps further raise awareness of *Respirology Case Reports* as invited review series in *Respirology* are always well accessed, read and cited. We have offered a similar venture for several of the upcoming review series in *Respirology* and several authors have already showed interest in participating.

So far this year, *Respirology Case Reports* has received 75 submissions from 15 different countries, with the majority (about 50%) originating from Japan. Approximately 58% of the case reports are accepted for publication. On average, the authors are informed of a first decision within 21 days of submission, and of a final decision in about 34 days.

Respirology Case Reports now has six issues online.

There are many people to thank for supporting this new publication and seeing it through its start-up phase to achieving PubMed listing. We are indebted to our Editorial Board members for their work in reviewing all the case reports submitted to the journal and would like to thank each one of them for their expert advice and support and for championing the journal. Earlier this year we made some further changes in appointing three Deputy Editors who have strengthened the journal and we are also now using external referees who have provided expert reviews in a timely fashion. Our thanks go to all of them.

There is a hardworking team behind *Respirology Case Reports* who need to be acknowledged and thanked including Dr Lieve Bultynck, Managing Editor, Dr Christel Norman, Deputy Managing Editor, and the rest of the Editorial Office staff, as

well as the team at Wiley-Blackwell and the APSR Secretariat.

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, attract still more interest. This will strengthen its role as 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 APSR Education Committee

Educational Seminar of APSR (ESAP)

In 2014, we had three ESAPs:

1. State of the Art Pulmonology, Convergence of Practice
6 – 7 August 2014, Quezon City, the Philippines
Hosts: Dr Lenora Fernandez and Dr Ma. Janeth Samsom
Attendees: 670
APSR Representative: Dr Kazuhisa Takahashi, Juntendo University, Japan

The two-day conference created a platform for the exchange of up-to-date information, expertise, and perspectives in the field of pulmonary and critical care medicine, complement didactic sessions with hands-on workshops to enhance the learning experience of participants and to address potential challenges in respirology. The programme covered different topics including lung cancer, respiratory infections and tuberculosis, mechanical ventilation, lung function, sleep study, pulmonary radiology. The conference also included a day programme on Interventional Pulmonology where demonstration and hands on practice were set up in multiple stations for participants.

The educational materials and slide presentations from this ESAP have been uploaded to the APSR website for members' access. The access password was published in the September issue of the APSR Bulletin. (If you cannot remember the password, send an email request with your name, society name and society membership no. to the APSR Secretariat: KYU00671@nifty.com).

2. Lung cancer
13 November 2014 (just before the APSR Congress), Bali, Indonesia
Hosts: Prof Kwun Fong (Australia) and Dr Anwar Jusuf (Indonesia)

This programme elaborated on various topics including the biology of lung cancer, diagnostic approach such as radiological feature, and treatments, from basic to clinical settings. The

event was well attended, including respiratory physicians, healthcare professionals and researchers. International speakers included Dr Eiso Hiyama (Japan), Dr Toshiaki Kikuchi (Japan), Dr Kazuma Kishi (Japan), Dr Chunxue Bai (China), Dr David Lam (Hong Kong), Dr Bruce Robinson (Australia), Dr Chong Kin Liam (Malaysia) and Dr Koichi Hagiwara (Japan).

3. Pediatric Asthma Workshop
6 – 7 December 2014, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
International speakers: Dr Gary Wong (Hong Kong) and Dr Timothy Craig (USA)

This ESAP programme brought updated information on diagnostic investigation and management of asthma in children, together with discussion on the updated GINA, to practicing pediatricians in Vietnam.

**Participation in Practice Guideline Development
FIRS Joint Position Statement on Electronic Cigarettes:**

Dr David CL Lam represented the APSR in the development of this joint position statement on electronic cigarettes, working with representatives from ALAT, ATS, CHEST, ERS, PATS. The Joint Statement was published in *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2014 Sep 15;190(6):611-8. doi: 10.1164/rccm.201407-1198PP.

APSR Respiratory Updates

In 2014 we invited expert reviewers to comment on and discuss the following topics.

2014	Topic	Reviewer(s)
Jan	Venous thromboembolism	Richard Beasley and Irene Braithwaite (New Zealand)
Feb	Lung Cancer	Kwun M Fong, Maree Azzopardi, Ian A Yang and Rayleen V Bowman (Australia)
Mar	Asthma	Kittipong Maneechotesuwan (Thailand)
Apr	Pleural disease	Gary Lee, Ben Kwan, Francesco Piccolo and Kim-Hoong Yap (Australia)
May	ILD	Masahito Ebina (Japan)
Jun	Critical Care Medicine	Hiroshi Kubo (Japan)
Jul	Sleep	Matthew Naughton and Jyoti Prasad (Australia)
Aug	Pneumoconiosis	Chi-Chiu Leung and Chi-Kuen Chan (Hong Kong)
Sep	Paediatric lung disease	Anne Chang (Australia)
Oct	Environmental & Occupational Health	Takashi Nakano, Ryuji Leki and Kozo Kuribayashi (Japan)
Nov	Tuberculosis	Charles Yu, Jubert Benedito, Rodolfo Pagcatipunan and Ferdinand Feliciano (The Philippines)
Dec	COPD	Masaharu Nishimura and Masaru Suzuki (Japan)

Future Plan:

Application for ESAPs in 2015 is open. Suggestions for topics from APSR members and potential hosts are most welcome..

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the APSR Education Committee members, Dr Arata Azuma, Dr Richard Beasley, Dr Shu Hashimoto and Dr Kazuhisa Takahashi, for their continued support. We are looking forward to your continued participation in future APSR education activities.

David CL Lam

**Message from the 19th Congress
President**

The 19th Congress of the APSR was held with encouraging success on 13-16 November 2014, at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC), Indonesia. The Local Congress Committee (LCC) members of the Indonesian Society of Respiriology were very honoured to host an APSR congress for the second time. Under the main theme of “Unity in Diversity: To Unite the Diversity in Asia-Pacific Respiratory Medicine”, the APSR 2014 convened a record-high of 2,751 delegates from 54 countries, as listed at www.apsresp.org.

apsresp.org/congress/2014.php

The comprehensive scientific programme included five postgraduate courses (of which one was an ESAP), 5 workshops, 3 plenary lectures, 13 congress symposia and 23 assembly symposia organized by the APSR Scientific Assemblies, which were delivered by over 121 distinguished speakers from 24 countries. There were special sessions to encourage young researchers and clinicians.

There were 879 abstracts submitted, of which 719 were accepted for presentation (168 oral and 551 poster presentations) – another record high. They were also published in *Respirology*, providing a valuable opportunity for researchers and clinicians in the region to go even further with their pursuits through discussions with the larger respiratory medicine community. A list of awardees is shown below.

We are most grateful for the participation of senior members from our sister respiratory societies: Dr Thomas W Ferkol, President of the ATS, Dr Peter J Barnes, Immediate Past President of the ERS, and Dr Alejandro Casas Herrera, President of the ALAT.

Thanks go for the expertise and broad knowledge of our international faculty of speakers and researchers, the enthusiasm of our delegates and the sponsorship of the pharmaceutical and instrument companies.

Finally I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Kwun Fong and my fellow members of the Local Congress Committee, the Congress secretariat, the APSR secretariat, Mr Yasutomi Yamanaka, Ms Suga Konno, Ms Rina Kishigami, for their excellent teamwork and cooperation in organizing the 19th Congress of the APSR. Given the momentum that has been gathering over the years, it looks positive that the next congress will achieve a higher level of international interest and support.

We wish all the best for the APSR 2015!



APSR 2014 Opening Ceremony

(Left to right): Dr Alejandro Casas Herrera (President, ALAT), Dr Peter Barnes (Immediate Past President, ERS), Dr Arifin Nawas (Chairman, ISR), Dr Bambang Supriyatno (President, Medical Council of Indonesia), Dr Faisal Yunus (Congress President), Dr Sita Andarini (Executive Secretary, APSR 2014 Local Congress Committee), Dr Arth Nana (President, APSR), Dr Kwun Fong (Chairperson, APSR Central Congress Committee), Dr Thomas Ferkol (President, ATS).

Faisal Yunus

APSR Medal: Christine Jenkins

APSR Woolcock Research Award: Greg King

APSR Harasawa Research Award: Kazuhisa Takahashi

Fukuchi Best Paper Award: Rebecca Vanders

APSR Travel Grant: Vincent Yi-Fong Su, Ungky Agus Setyawan, Sumeet Nawani, Mohammad Hosein Rahimirad, Yoshiko Ikeda-Maquiling, Mamunur Rashid, Yasunori Ichimura, Sang Hoon Lee,

Siti Kamariah Othman, Dhamith Nandadeva, Ariani Permatasari, Sawang Saenghirunvattana, Nguyen Thanh Thuy, Shaghayegh Rahimirad

APSR Young Investigators Award: Jun-Pyu Myong, Yang Tian

Best Oral Presentation: Fariz Nurwidya, Rahul Kodgule

Best Poster Presentation: Vincent Yi-Fong Su, Shradha Rane

Message from the 20th Congress President

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the

upcoming 20th Congress of the APSR (APSR 2015) to be held in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia on 3-6 December 2015.

We have put together a scientific programme of symposia, plenary lectures, interactive sessions and workshops covering Clinical and Respiratory Medicine, Cell and Molecular Biology, Clinical Allergy and Immunology, Environmental and Occupational Health and Epidemiology, Respiratory Infections, Tuberculosis, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, Lung Cancer, Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep, Critical Care Medicine, Bronchoscopy and Interventional Techniques, Pediatric Lung Disease, Respiratory Structure and Function, Pulmonary Circulation and Interstitial Lung Disease.

Industry-sponsored satellite symposia will bring the latest developments in new therapies from clinical trials in respiratory illnesses, whilst interactive scientific oral and poster presentations will allow delegates' active participation and exchange of information with our distinguished faculty. Accepted abstracts will be eligible for consideration for the APSR Travel Award and APSR Young Investigator Award. This congress will feature the latest advances in basic sciences, epidemiology, research and clinical practice in the field of respiratory medicine by renowned experts from the region and internationally.

Lastly, we hope that this annual meeting will provide ample opportunity for networking with colleagues, friends and exhibitors. Malaysia offers a variety of visitor attractions in and around Kuala Lumpur, where you will be able to sample our famed local delights and hospitality.

We look forward to warmly welcoming you to the APSR 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

Roslina A Manap

Congress website: www.apsr2015.com



Councillor Reports

Councillor reports from Bangladesh, Japan, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan have been uploaded to www.apsresp.org/about/councils.html for review by members only. The access password is APSR2014.

Report from the award winners to attend the APSR Congress

It was a very great honour to be selected to be the recipient of the Young Investigator Award by the ATS and I was privileged to present our work at this congress. It was truly a wonderful opportunity to interact with and learn from such a dedicated group of pulmonologists from a wide variety of backgrounds. In particular, I enjoyed learning about the varied critical care

experience and research ongoing around the globe. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the conference. I am always excited to talk about my research – focusing on cardiac arrest and resuscitation – and enjoyed hearing from the audience. There were many interesting and challenging questions spurring me to examine the issues from a broader perspective. Bali is a beautiful island and I can't imagine a better place to mix learning and relaxation. I am so thankful to the ATS and APSR for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.



Rebecca E. Sell
UC San Diego Health Systems

It was an honour to be selected by the ERS to be the recipient of the Young Investigator Award and to participate in this congress. It was an incredible opportunity to participate in such a meeting which brings together the various cultures from around the region as well as internationally. This award encourages many young scientists to do more study for the benefit of human health.

It was an immense delight to be able to present my research looking into the epidemiological investigation in allergic disorders and it was a great forum to obtain valuable comments and feedback from the audience. Our research team are not only focused on the etiology and pathogenesis but also interested in health outcomes and therapy on allergic disease. Based on feedback from the audience, we noticed that we should pay more attention to the relationship of environmental and genetics factors, which play different roles in allergic disease and their interaction with each other.

Bali is a beautiful city; everyone is very friendly. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Indonesia. I am thankful to the ERS and APSR for giving me this opportunity to meet and share my work with colleagues from the Asia-Pacific region. It was obvious that we all share a drive to add to the science to improve the lives of those with respiratory disease. This was a unique experience that I will cherish forever. And finally, a heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee and the Bali people for making us feel so welcome during the whole event.



Jiaying Luo
State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease

I was fortunate to attend the 19th Congress of the APSR in Bali, Indonesia as the 2014 recipient of the TSANZ Ann Woolcock Young Investigator award. This was a unique opportunity to attend my first APSR and experience this rapidly growing conference. Once again the APSR

Young Investigator session featured early career researchers from multiple respiratory societies, exhibiting a broad range of research and backgrounds.

I presented an oral paper on my research into the effects free neutrophil elastase has on paediatric airway epithelium, as well matrix metalloproteinase regulation, so that we can better understand the relationship between proteases and structural lung disease in early cystic fibrosis (CF) disease. My research has established that even low nanomolar concentrations of elastase, which are common in paediatric CF airways, are deleterious for epithelial maintenance by preventing effective proliferation and wound repair. Furthermore, altered regulation of matrix metalloproteinases was only seen in airways with free elastase and this was associated with extent of structural lung disease.

Since CF is not a significant respiratory disease in the Asian region and thus not strongly represented in the APSR programme, I enjoyed having the freedom to really explore other research areas such as tuberculosis, as well as medical conditions less familiar in Australia. The opportunity to see a presentation on non-CF bronchiectasis by Professor Kenneth Tsang was particularly informative. Looking outside the box can really help with seeing your own work in a new light and I came away from APSR with ideas and techniques to apply in my future research.

In addition to having my name and picture displayed in a conference lobby for the first time, I also chaired my first conference session. Though this was a paediatric lung disease poster session, as a young researcher who is not a clinician, a lot of the material was new to me! So it was a difficult but rewarding challenge to be ready with questions and judge accordingly.

Overall the conference was very well run by the local organisers. The gala dinner was amazing and of course, the island of Bali was as beautiful as ever. I would like to thank the APSR and TSANZ for their generous support and I look forward to future involvement with both societies.



Luke Garratt
University of Western Australia

Report from the award winner for APSR Short-Term Research/Training Scholarship

It was an honour to be awarded the APSR Short-Term Research/Training Scholarship, which helped to support my scholarship at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Children's Hospital and Queensland's Children Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia

from November 2013 to November 2014. During my year in Brisbane, I had the opportunity to participate in the daily clinical work as a paediatric respiratory fellow and had exposure to a variety of interesting and complex respiratory cases. I also had the opportunity to improve my flexible bronchoscopic skills and diagnosis under the excellent guidance of my host supervisors. Besides the outstanding clinical experience, I also had the privilege to conduct clinical research and obtain unsurmountable research experience and knowledge.

One of my research studies was on the comparison between flexible bronchoscopy and virtual bronchoscopy in the detection of large airway abnormalities. Flexible bronchoscopy remains the gold standard for the diagnosis of large airway abnormalities. However, it is an invasive procedure that requires gaseous anaesthesia in the paediatric age group, therefore our study is crucial to determine if virtual bronchoscopy, which is a less invasive procedure reconstructed from multidetector CT (MDCT) scan, is comparable to flexible bronchoscopy in the detection of large airway abnormalities. This is particularly important in developing countries where bronchoscopic services are scarce and limited. The recruitment of patients for our study was carried out from January to September 2014. Patients already booked for both a flexible bronchoscopy and CT thorax with no known large airway problem were consented for the study. Two respiratory physicians later independently reviewed and scored the recorded flexible bronchoscopy procedures, blinded to the others' results on separate days. The virtual bronchoscopy, which was reconstructed from the MDCT scans, was independently reviewed by two pairs, consisting of a respiratory physician and a paediatric radiologist each, blinded to one another's results. We then compared the sensitivity and specificity of virtual bronchoscopy as a diagnostic tool for major airway abnormalities in children as compared to flexible bronchoscopy.

My other research study was to determine the normal reference value of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid differential cytology in healthy immunocompetent children. Bronchoalveolar lavage is an important investigative tool in the assessment of the lower respiratory tract in both adults and children. While the adults have long established a normal reference value for the differential cytology of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, in children this important reference value is scarce as it is unethical to subject normal healthy children to invasive flexible bronchoscopy just to obtain a set of normal values. There are only a handful of published data on the normal values of the cellular components of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid in children, all with small sample sizes. It is therefore important to have a set of normal reference values in children to enable a more accurate interpretation of the cellular

constituents of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid in children with lung disease. Thus, our study was undertaken to provide a reference value in children from a larger sample size.

Lastly, Brisbane is a beautiful city with wonderful people and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Australia. I would like to thank the APSR for supporting me during my scholarship in Brisbane by offering me this short term research/training scholarship, which has given me an invaluable experience and broadened my knowledge and skills in flexible bronchoscopy, respiratory medicine and research. I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Dr Anne Chang, Dr Ian Brent Masters, Dr Alan Isles (my host supervisors), Dr Rus Anida Awang and Dr Norzila Mohamed Zainuddin (my home supervisors), all the respiratory physicians and fellows, anaesthetists, radiologists, research assistants, nurses, scientists and the warm and wonderful staff at the Department of Respiratory



Medicine at Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane for being so welcoming and helpful during my scholarship. This was truly an amazing experience Down Under!

Dr Su Siew Choo (left) and Dr Anne Chang (right)

Su Siew Choo
Paediatric Institute, Hospital Kuala Lumpur

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2015

20th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
3-6 December, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Website: www.apsr2015.com/

2016

21st Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
12-15 November, Bangkok, Thailand

2017

22nd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
24-26 November, Sydney, Australia

Other forthcoming meetings have been uploaded to www.apsresp.org/calendar.html

Organization of the APSR

Officers of the APSR

President: Michiaki Mishima
Immediate-Past President: Arth Nana
Secretary General: Kwun Fong
Treasurer: Teresita de Guia
Editor-in-Chief: Peter Eastwood

Councillors

Australia:	Christine Jenkins Tara Mackenzie Guy Marks Paul Reynolds	Korea:	Young Whan Kim
		Malaysia:	Chong-Kin Liam
		Philippines:	Teresita de Guia Abundio Balgos Rodolfo Roman Bigornia
Bangladesh:	Asif Mujtaba Mahmud	Singapore:	Kanagasuntheram Narendran
China:	Nan-Shan Zhong	Taiwan:	Reury-Perng Perng
Hong Kong:	Mary Sau-Man Ip		Ying-Huang Tsai
Indonesia:	Faisal Yunus		Pan-Chyr Yang
Japan:	Shu Hashimoto Hiroshi Kimura Mitsuru Munakata Yoichi Nakanishi		

Executive Members representing the Councillors

Mary Sau-Man Ip Paul Reynolds Faisal Yunus

Chairpersons of the Permanent Committees

Steering Committee: Michiaki Mishima

Strategic Planning Committee: Norbert Berend

Research Committee: Chunxue Bai

Education Committee: David CL Lam

Nomination Committee: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi

Finance Committee: Teresita de Guia

Membership Committee: Paul Reynolds

Central Congress Committee: Kwun Fong

Presidents of the Congresses:

1988 Tokyo	Michiyoshi Harasawa	2007 Gold Coast	Christine Jenkins
1990 Bali	Hood Alsagaff	2008 Bangkok	Arth Nana
1993 Singapore	Wan-Cheng Tan	2009 Seoul	YoungSoo Shim
1996 Beijing	Wei-Ci Luo	2010 Manila	Teresita de Guia
1998 Sydney	J Paul Seale	2011 Shanghai	Chunxue Bai
2000 Florence	Ann J Woolcock	2012 Hong Kong	David Hui
2002 Taiwan	Kwen-Tay Luh	2013 Yokohama	Toshihiro Nukiwa
2003 Selangor	Chong-Kin Liam	2014 Bali	Faisal Yunus
2004 Hong Kong	Wah Kit Lam	2015 Kuala Lumpur	Roslina Abdul Manap
2005 Guangzhou	Nan Shan Zhong	2016 Bangkok	Sumalee Kiatboonsri
2006 Kyoto	Yoshinosuke Fukuchi		

The Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology

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