



Newsletter

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Message from the President



After the outstanding success of the APSR 2015 Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the APSR leadership has been focused on reviewing the goals and directions of the Society. I am very proud to witness the progress of the different programmes and activities extended by the APSR members and collaborations with our sister societies and regional member organizations.

One of the successful collaborations between the APSR and its sister societies is a joint session of abstract presentations entitled “The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology – International Symposium on Respiratory Disease (APSR-ISRD)” held at the 2016 ATS International Conference in May 2016, San Francisco, USA, attracting around 100 attendees from the Asia-Pacific region and China, showcasing the solid camaraderie and teamwork between the APSR-ISRD and the ATS. The meeting was organized to encourage young researchers from the Asia-

Pacific region and China to convene and exchange ideas during the ATS International Conference. This activity will undoubtedly contribute to the global development of respiratory medicine and benefit the welfare of our patients in the near future. I would like to acknowledge the support of the ATS through its president Dr Atul Malhotra, the ISRD headed by Dr Chunxue Bai, and the APSR Executive Committee members and Assembly heads. The scientific session was an unqualified success. We will continue this event as one of our long-term activities.

The APSR likewise participated in the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) Annual Meeting on 8-10 April 2016 in Kyoto, Japan. Four outstanding APSR senior scientists were invited as speakers, Dr Kwun Fong (Australia), Dr David Lam (Hong Kong), Dr Sita Andarina (Indonesia) and Dr Diahn-Warng Perng (Taiwan), in addition to the APSR Young Investigators from Australia and Central Asia. Dr Batyr Osmonov (Kyrgyzstan) was the recipient of the 2016 International Session Award for his outstanding research paper on Pulmonary Circulation.

To promote greater involvement with our regional en-bloc members, I am delighted to announce that the APSR will collaborate with the Vietnamese Respiratory Society Annual Congress on 23-24 September 2016 in Hanoi City, Vietnam. Four senior scientists will represent the APSR in the congress as invited speakers.

The Society has been keen to strengthen the functions of the Education Committee led by Dr David CL Lam. As we anticipate increasing the Committee’s activities, this February we invited nominations from the present Education Committee, the APSR Executive Committee and APSR en bloc member societies, for new members of the Education Committee. We now have 12 new members from the Asia-Pacific region in addition to the current 4 members.

One of our major scientific activities, the Educational Seminar of APSR (ESAP), will be organized by the Philippine College of Chest Physicians with the theme "L.A.V.A. Lung: Learning Advances, Views & Analyses in Lung Diseases" on 29 September – 1 October 2016 at the Oriental Hotel, Legazpi City, Philippines.

Please remember that any APSR member may apply for support in running an ESAP. Details at www.aprsp.org/education/esap.html

As part of our global involvements, the APSR hosted the annual meeting of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) in February 2016 in Kyoto, Japan. The meeting was attended by leaders of ERS, ATS, CHEST, ALAT, PATS, UNION and the APSR. As you may know, the FIRS is expanding its activities globally. It continues to campaign effectively for lung health advocacy by disseminating position statements worldwide and by identifying new areas for global initiatives. The APSR similarly gives importance to these programmes by organizing activities through our members and member societies. For the various World Days, it is the APSR’s responsibility to not only encourage activities but

also disseminate information. I would like to acknowledge the support extended by Dr Kwun Fong, APSR Secretary General / President-Elect, and the members of the APSR Secretariat, which led to the success of the meeting in Kyoto.

Here I would like to refer to new appointment of Dr Christopher Lai as Editor-in-Chief for *Respirology Case Reports*, effective from 6 June 2016, following the unanimous agreement of the APSR Executive Committee. We appreciate his acceptance to work with the Editorial Office in Perth, Australia from his base in Hong Kong. *Respirology Case Reports* has benefitted from the immense contribution of Dr Norbert Berend who performed an amazing job to inaugurate the journal, and then Dr Paul Reynolds with his excellent work as the interim Editor-in-Chief. I am sure that Dr Lai's excellent knowledge and global expertise as an outstanding respiratory scientist will enable our important journal to expand further, and enable the APSR to contribute respiratory innovations to better help our patients.

We are delighted to have had nominations for leaders for the 16 APSR Assemblies, with the following designated positions, referred to as the "Troika Assembly Leadership": Assembly Head, Head-Elect and Deputy-Head. The leadership therefore comprises 48 members from the Asia-Pacific region. All the appointed members have been very busy to address several tasks at hand including their significant contribution to the scientific programme of the APSR congress. To encourage more active participation and conduct regular communication with the assembly leaders, the APSR has been holding regular meetings with them since late 2015.

Finally, the 21st Congress of the APSR on 12-15 November 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand is fast approaching. The dedication and enormous cooperation from assembly leaders, the 2016 Local Congress Committee led by the congress president Dr Sumalee Kiatboonsri, and the Central Congress Committee ensure you will have a high-quality and relevant scientific programme.

On behalf of the Society, I look forward to meeting all of you in Bangkok.

Michiaki Mishima

Message from the President-Elect / the Secretary General

We hope this finds you all well. It has been another busy few months for all of us preparing for our exciting Congress in the beautiful country of Thailand and modern bustling city of Bangkok. We have been working with our Thai colleagues who have toiled incredibly hard and

impressed us immensely with their always positive and helpful nature - nothing is too much trouble, and this bodes well for a fantastic congress. So please submit your abstracts and check your passports. It is also a special festival time in Thailand and we hope that you will have the chance to enjoy the lovely country and its people. Rest assured that the science and educational components will be of equal significance and we will hear from global respiratory clinicians, academics, scientists and researchers.

In Bangkok, we hope that you will also be able to attend your nominated Assembly Meetings which will be scheduled soon so they can be placed in your diaries. There you will be able to meet your Assembly's new troika leadership consisting of the Head, Head-Elect and Deputy Head. We have a large number of very skilled and expert Assembly leaders now established, and together they will be able to guide our Assemblies to becoming more active and contribute to respiratory medicine on a global scale and yet network closely with all the countries in our own Asia-Pacific region. This year, we will also be building bridges to our Sister Societies in terms of Assembly interactions, so please watch this space as the Assemblies ramp up their contributions to our patients' respiratory health and well-being, with many innovative projects and activities.

The new phase of Assembly activities will also allow us to develop the next phase of our virtual library collection of teaching cases. We shall soon be calling for case submissions to your Assemblies that we can share with each other to learn together better ways to prevent and treat respiratory diseases.

During this phase of development for the APSR, the wonderful team at the Secretariat Office together with Mr John Cochrane are doing a superb job at modernising our website, so that we can use it enable members to update themselves on APSR news, Assembly activities, teaching and learning opportunities as well as the chance to network with APSR members from other countries. Please visit the site often as changes are dynamic and feedback is much appreciated.

There are many changes in the world these days including new challenges for lung health and how to care for people with lung disease. It is a real privilege and honour to be part of the APSR with its diversity of talent and geography. Nonetheless it is by sharing knowledge and collegiality that we can advance respiratory health and help the APSR achieve its mission and vision. So during this phase of growth, please do not hesitate to contact any of the office bearers or the Secretariat office if you have wonderful ideas for the APSR or would like to be more active.

The APSR is only as strong as its members, and we remain grateful for your contribution, as each and every one of us can contribute in our own special way. Thank you to the many people who continue to work so hard for the APSR and our shared goals.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Bangkok

Kwun Fong

Message from the Editor-in-Chief of Respirology

My second and final term as Editor-in-Chief of Respirology comes to an end in November this year; as such this will be my final message for the APSR Newsletter. I am delighted to announce that I will be replaced by joint-Editors-in-Chief, namely Dr Philip Bardin from Melbourne, Australia and Prof Paul Reynolds from Adelaide, Australia. Phil and Paul will take over the editorship of Respirology in November at the Bangkok Congress. I have greatly enjoyed my time with the journal, have watched it grow within our region and internationally, and have greatly enjoyed working with an extremely dedicated and competent editorial team. I look forward to sharing the highlights of my time as Editor-in-Chief of Respirology in an Editorial to be published in the final issue of 2016.

I have recently received the 2015 publisher's report which confirms the journal's continuing success. The number of institutions with access to Respirology has increased, as has the number of subscribers to the journal's content. Article downloads increased over this 12-month period by 16% with every article being downloaded on average 94 times. China, Australia and Japan feature in the top 5 downloading countries, showing that the journal's content remains highly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. The journal received 1,006 submissions, a record number, with over 60% originating from the Asia-Pacific region.

The journal continues to publish the interesting Invited Review Series. The quality and relevance makes it very popular with the journal's readership as evidenced by download and citation frequency. I am sure that the latest invited review series on 'Unravelling the many faces of COPD to optimize its care and outcomes' by internationally recognized experts will be equally well-received. The first review of the series was published in the January 2016 issue and the series will continue throughout the rest of the year. Respirology also published the last of its reviews in the series on 'Modern statistical methods in respiratory medicine' and 'Lung cancer practice, implementing evidence from around the world.' A comprehensive overview of these reviews can be found in the epilogues to both series, published in the May and July issues,

respectively.

One of the big changes during my time as Editor-in-Chief has been the increasing exchange of published research via social media. An increasing number of academic researchers search, find and discuss papers with their peers via social networking sites. Respirology has now become very active in the world of social media. In particular, to assist authors with the discoverability of their paper on these platforms Respirology actively promotes content via its Twitter and YouTube accounts. I invite all APSR members to follow our tweets and watch the author's videos to stay up to date with the latest content. The attention a paper receives online contributes to its Altmetric score – a metric that tracks and measures the broader digital impact and reach of papers. Since 2015, Respirology's website displays the Altmetric score for every published paper and the papers with the highest scores are now highlighted on a separate webpage called 'Most Shared Articles' ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1440-1843/homepage/most_shared_articles.htm](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1440-1843/homepage/most_shared_articles.htm)).

During my time as Editor, I have come to greatly appreciate the expertise and commitment of Respirology's Editorial Board. The Editorial Board members take on an ever increasing load of manuscripts on a voluntary basis and willingly share their knowledge to ensure the publication of the highest quality papers. Over the past few years the journal has seen a significant increase in submissions of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. We have been fortunate to have had Chi Chiu Leung from Hong Kong take on the role of Deputy Editor responsible for the pre-screening of systematic reviews and meta-analyses papers. Cynthia Chee from Singapore has been promoted to Associate Editor to replace O Jung Kwon from South Korea, who resigned from his role to take up a more senior position at his hospital – I would like to thank Dr Kwon for 10 years of outstanding service to the journal. David Barnes from Australia has also taken on an Associate Editor role to assist with papers on sleep disorders. I would also like to take the opportunity to warmly welcome Jeffrey Horowitz from the USA, an expert in cell and molecular biology of IPF, to the team of Associate Editors along with new Editorial Board members Sanjay Haresh Chotirmall from Singapore and Ae Young Kang from South Korea. I would also like to thank the many, many reviewers who have donated their time to reviewing Respirology papers during my time as Editor-in-Chief – there are too many to mention individually, but the list of reviewers can be found on the journal's website.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the dedicated team that has supported me in my role over the past six years, in particular the Editorial Office team in Perth lead by Lieve Bultynck, the Publishing team at Wiley, the APSR Secretariat and the APSR Executive Committee. The

journal could not continue to grow without their knowledge, assistance and advice. I am confident that the journal will continue to thrive under the Editorship of Philip Bardin and Paul Reynolds.

Peter Eastwood

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

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as Editor-in-Chief of Respiratory Case Reports. This journal has not only significantly enhanced my own clinical practice on a personal level but also demonstrated broader appeal, with almost 50,000 downloads in 2015. This represents a 76% increase from 2014, considerably greater than the average increase across all Wiley Journals in Respiratory Medicine of 13%. What a remarkable achievement for a journal which just celebrated its third birthday in May!

This burgeoning success is a testament to the quality of our journal, which is the combined effort by my two predecessors, Dr Norbert Berend (inaugural Editor-in-Chief) and Dr Paul Reynolds (who kindly stood in when Dr Berend resigned in January 2016), the editorial board members, the editorial office staff led by Dr Christel Norman, the team at Wiley-Blackwell, the APSR Secretariat, as well as the unwavering support of the APSR Executives.

Thanks to your contributions and those of others outside our region, we are seeing a growing number of submissions, which has allowed us to increase our number of issues from 4 to 6 this year (March, April, May, July, September and November). So far this year, we have already published 30 articles, with another 8 accepted articles awaiting publication. Most of these articles have come from Japan. These contributions have been indispensable to the continued success of our journal, and I hope others from our region and beyond will be as supportive as our Japanese colleagues.

If you come across any patients with rare diseases or diseases with unusual clinical presentations or unusual pathology, physiology or response to therapy, please consider sharing this interesting and valuable information with us. Submission instructions are available at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/respirologcasereports>.



You will also find many interesting published articles on this website. Please enjoy these articles and help spread the word to your colleagues. Thanks!

Christopher Lai

Message from the APSR Education Committee

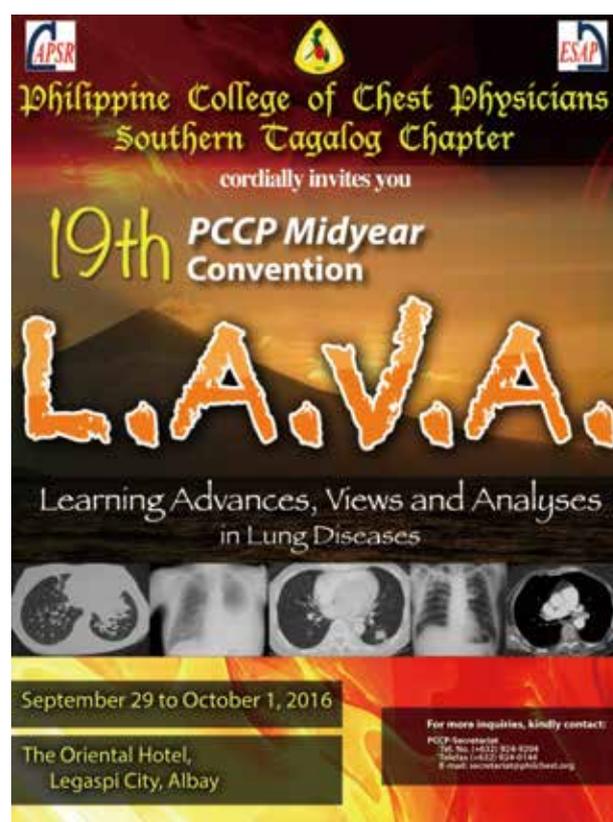
Educational Seminar of APSR (ESAP)

PCCP to host ESAP: “L.A.V.A: Learning Advances, Views and Analyses in Lung Disease”

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians, through the PCCP Southern Tagalog Chapter, would like to invite you to the 19th PCCP Midyear Convention to be held on 29 September to 1 October, 2016 at the Hotel Oriental in Legazpi City, Albay, the Philippines. With the theme: “L.A.V.A: Learning Advances, Views and Analyses in Lung Disease”, the organizing committee has crafted a very interesting scientific programme that is hoped to update your knowledge on common pulmonary conditions encountered in the Asia-Pacific region.

This midyear convention, which is also approved as an Educational Seminar of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (ESAP), presents a good opportunity for clinicians to be updated on current guidelines in asthma, COPD and tuberculosis, enhance their diagnostic skills in interpreting chest x-rays, ABGs and PFTs, and gain practical experience in chest ultrasonography, intrapleural catheter insertion and medical pleuroscopy.

These, together with the majestic and world-renowned Mayon Volcano as backdrop, complemented by the spicy cuisine of the Bicolanos and the great hospitality of the



Southern Tagalog chapter, will ensure that our delegates will find their participation in this midyear convention both enjoyable and professionally fulfilling.

For inquiries, please contact the PCCP Secretariat: (632)924-9204/924-0144, Email secretariat@philchest.org

Message from an Assembly Head

It has been my pleasure to serve as Head of the Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly and as one of the two Group Heads of the 16 Assemblies of the APSR. I have seen the APSR grow from strength to strength over the past 20 years into an organisation that I am extremely proud of.

I have often asked myself in the past, "why get involved with the APSR?". Asia is the largest and most populous continent in the world with over 4 billion people calling it home. One unique feature amongst physicians in Asia is that we see a lot of patients. During my training years in the USA in the 1990s, I was struck by how few patients were seen there per physician. During my travels in Asia, I am always reminded by the huge number of patients seen by my colleagues in Asia. This clinical experience is precious and could be translated into better patient outcomes. Indeed, even as I plough through journals, I am impressed by the number of respiratory diseases which have a very distinct Asian flavour; e.g., diffuse pan bronchiolitis, pleuropulmonary fibroelastosis, pulmonary tuberculosis... to name just a few. This is also a tribute to those astute physicians who were able to spot a new disease despite their heavy clinical duties.

The second important benefit is that I have made friends with many of my colleagues in Asia through the APSR. I correspond regularly with my colleagues all over Asia via email, text messaging and Whatsapp. We are living in an increasingly borderless world and many of our patients move frequently between countries for work. It has been my pleasure to refer patients who relocate and to receive referred patients who relocate from elsewhere in Asia. I often discuss my cases via email with my Asian colleague friends who often provide me with "words of wisdom". In early 2003, I managed a patient who had a severe atypical pneumonia syndrome after coming back from a holiday in Hong Kong. I communicated this with my Hong Kong colleague via email at that time and he described a similar patient in his hospital. Today, we know that disease was SARS, a disease whose clinical features were described even before the diagnostic test was discovered or the disease was given a name.

The third benefit of being involved in the APSR is the ability to share and learn from my

colleagues in Asia. Our region faces similar problems, mostly related to insufficient resource allocation to tackle clinical issues. How others deal with the problem is enlightening and may be adapted to our local situation. Many of the research projects which I have been part of have been pan-Asian and I have been part of many Asian publications in Asthma and Community Acquired Pneumonia. The experience has given me deep insight as to the similarities and differences between countries in Asia.

In summary, I urge my younger colleagues to get involved with the APSR and enjoy the many benefits and fellowship of the likeminded in the region.

Philip Eng

Message from the 21st Congress President

The 21st Congress of the APSR in Bangkok is just 17 weeks away. At this moment, titles and details of the scientific sessions have reached the final step of speaker confirmation. As seen on the congress website www.apsr2016.com, topics of the scientific programme have been carefully chosen and balanced to cover all the essential diversities of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and Interventional Pulmonology. The 10 pre-congress workshops are also valuable and attractive, providing in-practice clinicians with the chance to learn and practise from real clinical situations. It is our intention to arrange the 21st Congress of the APSR to be one of the most attractive and knowledgeable conferences. On this occasion, I would like to welcome all of you to register to the congress early and submit more abstracts. We are looking forward to seeing you in Bangkok soon.



Sumalee Kiatboonsri

Reports from APSR en bloc societies

Indonesian Society of Respiriography (ISR)

The Indonesian Society of Respiriography (ISR) holds a conference and scientific meeting annually and this year the meeting was held in Aceh 4-6 May 2016 with the theme "the role of pulmonary specialist education in facing global health challenges". Prior to the conference there were workshops on 4 May 2016. The ISR leadership also met with participants from 24 branches of the ISR on 4 May 2016. The scientific meeting was opened by both the Governor of Aceh province and the President of the ISR, Dr M. Arifin Nawas, FISR on 5 June, followed by seminars on recent and updated issues in respiratory diseases include asthma, COPD, lung cancer, lung mycosis, tuberculosis, pneumonia, pulmonary intervention, occupational lung disease, etc. Speakers were all experts from each area and were complemented by the invited speaker Dr Norbert Berend, BS, FAPSR, FRCAP from Australia. There were also poster and oral presentations of recent studies from each respiratory area in Indonesia. Approximately 500 specialist doctors participated in this meeting.

Pre-conference workshops were held in order to improve and update skills, as follows:

1. Evaluation In Medical Education
2. Oncology
3. Updates on Pneumonia
4. Basic Chest Ultrasound
5. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Bronchoscopy
6. Inhalation Therapy



Opening Ceremony of the ISR Conference 2016 at Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Parallel with this event, the ISR also held a World Asthma Day 2016 celebration by launching the Indonesia Asthma Foundation (IAF) Aceh branch and chose the best Indonesian asthmatic gymnastic performance, with participants from branches of the ISR and Indonesian Asthma Foundation.

World Asthma Day 2016 celebrations were also

held at the ISR Medan Branch, Malang Branch and Surakarta Branch on a different day.



World Asthma Day 2016 Celebration by the ISR and IAF Aceh Branch, Indonesia



World Asthma Day 2016 Celebration by the ISR and IAF Medan Branch, Indonesia

Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) Philippine COPD Profile and Survival Study (CPASS)

It is projected that COPD will remain to be one of the most important respiratory diseases afflicting Filipino patients. This is consistent with the WHO estimate that COPD will be the third leading cause of mortality by year 2020. As such, the PCCP is taking a proactive stand to better explore and understand the dynamics of COPD and its potential peculiarities among Filipino patients through a 5-year multi-centre, prospective, observational study. The study entitled 'Philippine COPD Profile and Survival Study (CPASS)' spearheaded by the PCCP COPD Study Group with its main proponent Dr Tim S. Trinidad, FPCCP, aims to determine the 5-year COPD survival rate in the country and likewise include demographic profile and distribution of the different COPD phenotypes.

This ambitious scientific endeavour will include the 13 accredited Pulmonary Training institutions in the Philippines, 9 PCCP Chapters nationwide and will include more than 2,000 patients. The protocol has been recently reviewed and technically approved by the Philippine Council on Health Research and Development (PCHRD). Dr Trinidad's brainchild is expected to benefit not only COPD patients and their

families but also the Filipino healthcare community. It is projected that the local COPD survival data may be used by government agencies such as the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration in allocating medicines at the local level and further disease surveillance in terms of mortality and morbidity. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation in aligning health benefits, setting health policies and standards necessary to ensure quality of care or appropriate utilization of healthcare services, may use data on COPD phenotype. The private sector will also be an important stakeholder in this research since pharmaceutical companies may also benefit from extensive local data that may give direction or future prospects for more respiratory drug research and development.

Ultimately, the data and outcome of this project will be in the best interest of COPD patients and their families as it is geared towards early detection, appropriate treatment, and consistent monitoring and follow-up. CPASS is expected to be implemented by third quarter of 2016.

Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists

National guidelines on tuberculosis

Many advances in the field of tuberculosis since the last update of the national manual in 2005, warranted a review of the practice guidelines. The SLCP worked hand-in-hand with the National Programme for TB Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD), a WHO representative and other stakeholders in this endeavour.

World TB Day academic programme

In parallel with the “World TB Day”, the SLCP conducted its main academic event on 31 March at NHSL with the participation of medical officers, general practitioners, postgraduate trainees and consultants. Lectures were conducted on Mycobacteria characteristics, TB classification, diagnostics, treatment complications, prevention and other relevant areas.

KSM-SLCP Lectures

The SLCP, jointly with the Kandy Society of Medicine, conducted lectures on tuberculosis, parallel to World TB Day academic events. Dr Anoma Siribaddana, consultant respiratory physician and president of the KSM, organized the event which was attended by consultants, postgraduates, medical officers and undergraduates.

PGSM–SLCP postgraduate workshop

A one-day postgraduate workshop on tuberculosis was conducted on 8 March by the Postgraduate School of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the SLCP. The event was coordinated by Dr Dushantha Madegedara, consultant respiratory physician, and many medical graduates and DTCD trainees participated.

Proposals for National Health Strategic Master Plan 2016 - 2025

Following a request by the Ministry of Health, the SLCP submitted proposals to be incorporated into the National Health Strategic Master Plan 2016-25. Draft proposals are available on the ministry’s website. The College submitted suggestions on asthma & respiratory allergies, interstitial lung disease & lung transplant, COPD, lung cancer, pneumoconiosis (www.health.gov.lk/en/HMP2016-2025/CuraPveServices%20Volume-II.pdf), and pulmonary rehabilitation (www.health.gov.lk/en/HMP2016-2025/RehabilitaPonCare.pdf).

New batch of DTCD trainees

A new batch of postgraduate diploma trainees were enrolled into the Diploma in Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases programme under the direct supervision of Consultant Respiratory Physicians at Teaching, Provincial General and District General hospitals. The trainees commenced their one-year training on 18 April.

CPD points for College academic activities

The SLCP is happy to announce its registration as a body eligible to award CPD points for its academic programmes. We invite participants and resource people of all academic events to make use of this valuable service.

Video conference facilities for College

The use of hi-tech utilities has helped the Council and the membership to organize conferences at short notice, while avoiding hundreds of miles of travelling.

Official website of SLCP

The long-felt need for an official website was fulfilled this year following many months of hard work of our members, Dr Chathura Wirasinghe and Dr Rishikesan Sundaralingam. We entertain the noble vision of promoting lung health and respiratory medical education in Sri Lanka through our new website and invite the medical community to follow the College activities at www.slcp.lk



Awareness programme for health staff at Badulla



Public health educational drama at Anuradhapura



Educa Ponal workshop with media coverage at Kandy

**Vietnam Respiratory Society (VNRS)
Welcome Message from the 3RD Annual Congress
of the Vietnam Respiratory Society 2016**

Dear APSR friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to invite and welcome you to the 3rd Congress of the Vietnam Respiratory Society, which will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 23 -24 September 2016.

The Vietnam Respiratory Society (VNRS) is an organization with more than 800 members who are academic professors, medical doctors, pulmonary physicians, general practitioners, technicians and healthcare professionals working at hospitals, research institutes and universities all over the country. Aiming to improve the quality in diagnosis, treatment, and research in respiratory diseases in our country, the VNRS has always done its best to launch research, run seminars, professional training for healthcare workers, as well as offering medical teaching specializing in respiratory diseases.

The 3rd Annual Scientific Congress of the VNRS will feature prestigious speakers from within

Vietnam as well as international scientists who are leading experts in respiratory diseases. They will present the most recent updates on current topics in the diagnosis and treatment in these areas. Further details are given in the Announcement extracts below.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the VNRS, I would like to welcome all of you to Hanoi, Vietnam, for this 3rd Congress of the VNRS. We hope that you will gain new, useful and practical information during this Congress, and use it to improve the care of your patients.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you in Hanoi, Vietnam for the VNRS 2016.

Ngo Quy Chau
Congress President of VNRS 2016
President of Vietnam Respiratory Society

**Announcement of the 3rd Annual Congress of the
Vietnam Respiratory Society - extracts**

On 23-24 September, the 3rd Annual Congress of the Vietnam Respiratory Society will be hosted by Dr Chau Ngo Quy, President of the VNRS, and held at the Melia hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam, aiming to provide the most recent updates in the diagnosis and treatment in these areas, not only to our members but also to all respiratory physicians and workers at respiratory centres in our country.

The VNRS congress 2016 programme will contain the following seminars: Community-acquired pneumonia, Healthcare - associated pneumonia, Nosocomial pneumonia and Ventilator – associated pneumonia; COPD, Asthma, ACOS, Asthma and Allergic rhinitis; Sinusitis-bronchial syndrome, MDR and XDR tuberculosis; Lung cancer; Paediatric respiratory diseases;... and smoking cessation.

**Report from the award winners who
attended the ATS Congress**

Being so blessed to be chosen as one of the awardees, I am very grateful to the APSR for giving me this Travel Award to attend the American Thoracic Society (ATS) 2016 International Conference in San Francisco.

Since my first attendance of the ATS International Conference in San Francisco in 2012, I have attended an ATS International Conference and presented abstracts every year. I have learned a lot from the facilitators and viewers from many countries, and adjusted my studies based on their comments. The conferences are so inspiring that I have encouraged all pulmonary colleagues in our hospital to present their works at international conferences. Those who did so found that the

conferences truly broadened their horizons. This year, back in San Francisco, I presented some results from our recent study in an abstract entitled “The Role of Acyl-CoA Thioesterase Gene Family in Lung Adenocarcinoma”.



My poster presentation at the ATS 2016 International Conference

As in many cancers, dysregulated lipid metabolism has been observed in lung cancer, and may contribute to cancer progression and drug resistance. We found that the acyl-CoA thioesterase (ACOT) gene family, which encoded lipolysis enzymes to break acyl-thioester compounds into free fatty acid and coenzyme A, especially ACOT11 and ACOT13, may play a role in the proliferation of lung adenocarcinoma. Through discussion with other scientists at my poster, I got some precious suggestions for doing my further study.

The APSR has really done a great job in encouraging young investigators to participate in international conferences. During the APSR-IRSD session moderated by Dr Michiaki Mishima and Dr Chunxue Bai, I met many young doctors and scientists from the Asia-Pacific region and enjoyed their presentations. The tips for oral presentations given by Prof. Peter Eastwood were also very helpful. During the ATS Presidents’ Reception, I



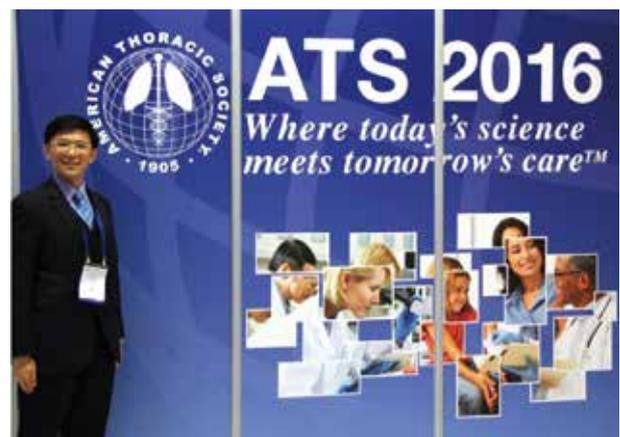
Dr Michiaki Mishima, APSR President, and myself.

got an opportunity to talk with Dr Michiaki Mishima, Dr Kwun Fong, and Mr. Yasutomi Yamana, understanding some ongoing initiatives by the APSR. I also took the advantage to welcome them to the APSR 2018 Congress, which will be held in Taiwan.



Dr Chunxue Bai, Chairman of APSR Research Committee, and myself

As Dr Neil Barnes told me in a poster discussion session, the ATS Conference this year was really exciting. Lots of new scientific data and information were presented during the conference. For example, results from the FLAME trial were presented, showing that indacaterol-glycopyrronium combination (the treatment combining a long-acting beta-agonist [LABA] and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist [LAMA]) significantly decreased the exacerbation rate by 11% as compared with salmeterol-fluticasone combination (the treatment combining a LABA and an inhaled corticosteroid [ICS]) in COPD patients with a history of exacerbations. Some following sessions, especially those covering hot topics with a pro/con debate, were really interesting. The keynote speech in the opening ceremony was also impressive. Dr J. Craig Venter demonstrated many pioneering scientific research projects being run by his team, including analysis of the human genome with its potential implication of precision medicine. This conference was truly “Where Today’s Science Meets Tomorrow’s Care.”.



In the opening ceremony the ATS president, Dr Atul Malhotra, also highlighted what the ATS had done during the recent years. The most impressive thing to me was the Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research (MECOR) programme, which addressed respiratory diseases and health disparities in developing countries. By introducing research methods to hundreds of local healthcare professionals in developing

countries worldwide over two decades, the MECOR programme had markedly improved respiratory healthcare in the respective countries. What great work! This is truly the implementation of their slogan, "We help the world breathe."

The ATS International Conference is a great opportunity for networking with scientists and clinicians worldwide. I met many outstanding physician scientists as well as many young investigators from around the world. Exchanging views and ideas with them and learning about their practical experience and healthcare systems were very stimulating. I also got lots of constructive suggestions for my current studies and my career planning. During the ATS Presidents' Reception, I even got a chance to talk with Prof. Atul Malhotra and his study group. Interestingly, I came across a visiting scholar in Dr Malhotra's lab and found that we practiced bronchoscopy in the same group in a postgraduate course in the ATS 2012 International Conference. This year, I was very fortunate to meet up with some of my mentors, who had been assigned via a mentoring programme in the previous years. One of my mentors, Dr Crotty Alexander (<http://news.thoracic.org/whos-who-laura-e-crotty-alexander/>), is truly a role model for me. She is enthusiastic, optimistic, energetic, and always eager to share her experience with her juniors, especially the ways to embrace every opportunity. I am filled with energy after every meet-up with her.

In summary, I believe it is very important for respiratory scientists and clinicians in the Asia-Pacific region to attend international conferences like this to network with the experts worldwide and to speak up for the Asia-Pacific region. The APSR Travel Award was really a great support and encouragement for my trip to San Francisco and my future scientific career. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the APSR for offering this great opportunity to broaden my horizon and enrich my knowledge.

Ming-Ju Tsai

Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Taiwan

I am very honoured and grateful to the APSR for providing me with this wonderful opportunity to attend the 2016 ATS International Conference in San Francisco. As a young fellow in Pulmonary Medicine, this conference was a remarkable opportunity for me to learn the latest and the most advanced developments in the field.

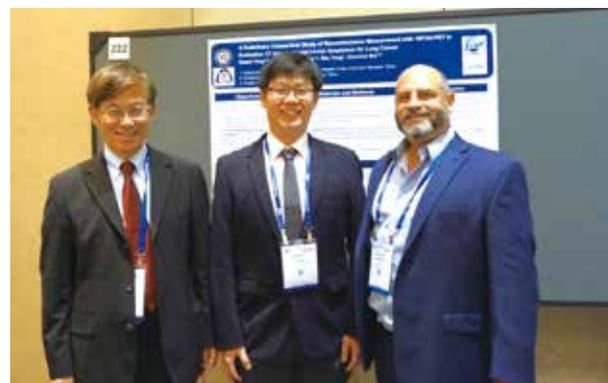
The conference offered a wide range of topics on respiratory medicine both for basic scientists and healthcare professionals. Especially, in correspondence with this year's theme 'Where today's science meets tomorrow's care', many topics were related to new technology on gene tests and the Precision Medicine Era, in which the advances in lung cancer screening and pulmonary nodule assessment were my favourites.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity

to present our work in a poster discussion session. My poster was entitled 'A Preliminary Comparison Study of Bioconductance Measurement with 18FDG-PET in Evaluation CT Detected Lung Lesion Suspicious for Lung Cancer'. The session was exciting for me because I received so much precious feedback from both the chairperson and the audience, which will reinforce our future study. At the same time, I also learned from the other diligent colleagues around the world who have done excellent studies in lung screening programmes.

I am very grateful for the support given for young investigators like me to attend the ATS International Conference. It was truly an extraordinary and inspirational experience! Also, I appreciate my tutor, my colleagues and the patients who have given me great support!

Thank you all!



(left to right) Dr Chunxue Bai, Dr Dawei Yang and Dr Michael Gould

Dawei Yang
Zhongshan Hospital Fudan University
Shanghai Respiratory Research Institute
Chinese Alliance Against Lung Cancer

Forthcoming Meetings

2016

ERS 2016 International Congress
3-7 September
London, U.K.
Website: erscongress.org/

L.A.V.A. LUNG: Learning Advocacies, Views & Analyses in Lung Diseases
30 September - 1 October
Albay, Philippines
Email: secretariat@philchest.org
Website: www.philchest.org

21st Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
12-15 November
Bangkok, Thailand
Email: apsr2016@kenes.com
Website: www.apsr2016.com

2017

Joint PCCP 36th Annual Chest Convention and
4th ASEAN Sleep Congress
7 – 10 March
Manila, Philippines
Email: pulmonologist@philchest.org
Website: www.philchest.org

TSANZSRS Annual Scientific Meeting
24-28 March
Canberra, Australia
Email: tsanzsrs@tcc.co.nz
Website: www.tsanzsrs2017.com/

57th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory
Society
21-23 April
Tokyo, Japan
Website: www.jrs.or.jp/jrs57/

ATS 2017 International Conference
19-24 May
Washington, D.C., USA
Website: conference.thoracic.org/

ERS 2017 International Congress
9-13 September
Milan, Italy

22nd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
24-26 November
Sydney, Australia
Email: apsr@tcc.co.nz
Website: www.apsr2017.com/

2018

58th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory
Society
27 - 29 April
Osaka, Japan

23rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
29 November – 2 December
Taipei, Taiwan

Notices from the Secretariat

Invitation to bid for the 2019 Congress!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the 24th Congress of the APSR in 2019. 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. (apsrinfo@theapsr.org)

Relocation of APSR Secretariat Office

On Tuesday 19 April 2016 the APSR Secretariat Office moved to;

Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
2nd Floor, UK's Building,
2-29-3 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033 Japan
Tel: +81-3-5684-3370
Fax: +81-3-5684-3382
Email: APSRinfo@theapsr.org
Website: www.apsresp.org/

The telephone number, facsimile number and email address are unchanged.

Access map

Next time you are in Tokyo, please visit us and say hello!

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