



Newsletter

Editor : Kwun M Fong

Associate Editors : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, J Patrick Barron, Yasutomi Yamanaka

Message from the President



Dear APSR members, friends and colleagues!

As always, it is a great privilege for me to write to you halfway through 2018. Despite all the advances in medicine, technology and computers, work seems to be more and more busy. I hope that you are well and keeping fit and healthy as we strive to achieve our goals in life.

In this first part of the year, the APSR team has been working hard with Dr Chong-Jen Yu and colleagues from the Taiwan Local Congress Committee to plan for our 23rd Congress of the APSR in Taipei on 29 November-2 December in Taipei, Taiwan. Please mark this in your diary and we hope to see you then to share in learning, research and fellowship. The planning is progressing well thanks to the Local Congress Committee working closely and productively with the Central Congress Committee, chaired by Dr Philip Eng.

Our Congresses are always special events for myself and I fondly recall the last year's superb Congress in Sydney, led by Drs Matthew Peters and Jane Bourke from the TSANZ, which followed the year before in Bangkok, presided by Dr Sumalee Kiatboonsri and her team. While all our Congresses are characterised by leading science, research and education, the cultural elements and unique country locations always contribute to their success and enjoyment. In this regard, I had the chance recently to learn from and meet colleagues in Manila at the superb 2018 PCCP conference.

Our many volunteer committees are working tirelessly to deliver opportunities for APSR members to help contribute to lung health and respiratory medicine in our region, through the vehicle of the APSR activities. For example, the Education Committee is surging ahead under the chairperson ship of Dr David Lam and Chair-Elect Dr Arata Azuma, to help assess submitted position papers authored by our assemblies on important topics with particular relevance to our region. ESAPs and *Respiratory Updates* continue to be managed by this productive Committee.

The Assemblies, each led by a Troika leadership, are working diligently to develop position papers, educational materials and other activities to help promote their particular topic; thank you these 16 Assembly x 3 individuals. The APSR has committed funds to each Assembly to help support activities, awards and participation, please remember "FOMO" (fear of missing out) to incentivise yourself. We look forward to many more position papers, thanks to the hard work from our Assemblies; please suggest ideas and topics to your Assembly's Troika leadership and if you are not yet a member, please join your interest area via the APSR website.

The Assemblies are also contributing to the virtual Teaching Library, and we hope that all members will support this by contributing typical cases in respiratory medicine to help advance knowledge and teaching in our region. Please see the website for further information as we need more cases to reach our goal of thousands of educational cases.

The APSR has also had the chance to work with our Sister Societies and now we have formal APSR Assembly liaisons representing us at the ATS and ERS assemblies. We continue to contribute to FIRS (Forum of International Respiratory Societies) toiling hard to raise the profile of lung health with WHO. Planning is in progress to celebrate the global World Lung Day on 25 September, and FIRS was also a co-host of a side-event at the World Health Assembly in May in Geneva.

APSR's Task Forces have also been hard at work. The APSR Foundation Task Force, led by Dr Philip Eng, is exploring the possibility of establishing an APSR Foundation, to fundraise for research, training and better respiratory care in our region. The Industry Task Force, co-chaired by Dr Norbert Berend and Dr Lai Ngho Hooi, continue to provide clear transparent processes for responsible interactions with an industry, to bring education to colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region. Please refer to the website for details and apply to use any opportunities to benefit your communities.

We also welcome our new en bloc members, our colleagues and friends from the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and the Singapore Thoracic Society, to the APSR family. By celebrating our diversity and working together, I am confident that with all our en bloc members, we will achieve the Mission and Vision of the APSR which cover a large part of the global population.

May I thank Dr Yoichi Nakanishi, for assuming the role of Secretary General; his legendary skills and expertise will contribute immensely to the APSR. At the same time, we thank Dr Roslina Manap, immediate past Secretary General, for her wonderful contribution including her presidency of the very successful Malaysian APSR Congress, and congratulations for her new prestigious and very busy role.

Please do not hesitate to let us know any new ideas or innovations that you may have, to help advance lung health and respiratory care in our region. All of us Office-Bearers and the Secretariat are keen to work with you to meet the challenges of the current era of rapid and dynamic change in the world, to promote respiratory health.

Kwun M Fong

Message from the Secretary General

Dear APSR friends and colleagues!

It is my great honour and privilege to serve as the Secretary General of the APSR. Personally, my first attendance and presentation at the APSR congress was at the 5th Congress of the APSR in 1998 held in Sydney, Australia. I remember the congress was somehow in a family atmosphere, and I enjoyed scientific discussion and social events so much. Last year, nearly 20 years after the congress, the 22nd Congress of the APSR 2017 was successfully held again in Sydney under the tremendous leadership of Dr Jane Bourke and Dr Matthew Peters, Co-Congress Presidents. The progress and improvement of its scale, arrangement, and especially scientific quality were so amazing and impressive.

For these decades, development of the APSR is so dramatic and delightful. However, I think that the APSR is still a society under development, and believe the APSR has more potential to lead in the world, since more than 60% of the world's population are living in the Asia-Pacific region, and economical and scientific development of Asian countries are so noteworthy. As the Secretary General, I will support Dr Kwun Fong, the President of the APSR, and hopefully contribute to the development of the APSR in such categories as 1) increase of en bloc member societies, 2) reinforcement of financial foundation, 3) enhancement of education programme, especially for young members, 4) revitalization of assembly activities, and most importantly 5) production of highly scientific and attractive congresses in collaboration with Local

Congress Committees to host APSR congresses.

Steady and stable steps to improve the activities and to strengthen the function of the APSR are ongoing. I will do my best to contribute to the APSR.

Yoichi Nakanishi

Message from Editors-in-Chief of *Respirology*

We've just received the 2017 *Publisher's Report* and it's pleasing to see that the journal's audience continues to expand and reader engagement is increasing. Institutions offering access to *Respirology* have continued to increase. During 2017, more than 490,000 full-text articles were downloaded representing a 24% increase from 2016. More than a third of downloaded articles originated from the Asia-Pacific region, while Europe and North America represent a quarter each of our readership. The publisher also reports a 30% increase in 2017 citations to papers published in the previous two publication years, reflecting the journal's growing quality and relevance.

Invited Reviews feature heavily among the most downloaded and most cited articles and we continue to welcome these submissions to the journal. Since the last APSR Newsletter, we have published three new collections of Invited Review Series (*Respiratory Sleep Disorders*; *Seeking Innovative Solutions in Severe Asthma*; *Respiratory Infections in the Asia-Pacific Region*) available from the *Respirology's Topics in Focus* webpage. *Respirology* is currently publishing a review series highlighting the latest developments in *Tuberculosis* research, and several interesting review series have been lined up for publication in the second half of 2018, including a series on *paediatric and adult bronchiectasis*. The download data also highlight the popularity of recently published *Clinical Practice Guidelines* and *Position Statements*, and earlier this year we invited the APSR Assembly Heads to contribute *Position Papers* that have received official endorsement from the APSR Executive Committee.

Starting this year, *Respirology* publishes one issue every month (previously 8 issues per year) and we hope that APSR members are enjoying the more frequent delivery of *Respirology* content. A new feature in each issue is the *Letter from the Asia-Pacific Region and beyond*, highlighting interesting developments in respiratory medicine from a specific country. So far, we've published Letters from Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, Bangladesh, China, Australia, Korea and the Philippines. We hope you will enjoy these letters as much as we do, and we welcome your correspondence and opinions as well as ideas for new contributions in this category. We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind APSR members of the extensive library of *Respirology* papers with significant

educational value. The library is available from the APSR website and is updated monthly with new *Respirology* papers of interest accompanied by a commentary from Mark Lavercombe, Editorial Board member of *Respirology*.

It was a pleasure meeting several of the journal's associate, deputy and senior editors at this year's ATS and TSANZSRS conferences. The meetings are an ideal opportunity to get to know each other, and exchange experiences and ideas for the journal. We're very honoured to have such a committed group of experts assisting *Respirology* with selecting quality papers for publication and your regular feedback helps to improve many aspects of the journal. Since the last APSR Newsletter, we've welcomed Hisako Matsumoto (Japan) to the team as Editorial Board member, and Pyng Lee (Singapore) has kindly accepted a position as Associate Editor. Neil Eves (Canada) has relinquished his Associate Editor position but we feel fortunate that he will continue to share his expertise with the journal as an Editorial Board member.

Finally, we'd like to remind everyone that *Respirology* now has an app for both Apple and Android devices, to help you stay in touch with the latest publications even when you're away from your desk. We also encourage all authors to promote their published articles as widely as possible and the Editorial Office can help to advise on how to do this effectively.

As always, we're grateful to the APSR and their excellent team for their continued support of the journal. Thanks also goes to the Editorial Office and Wiley staff who continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that a quality publication is delivered on time every month.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

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

I have just had the opportunity to meet some of our Editors at the latest ATS meeting where we had a productive discussion on the journal. I am keen to start launching some new initiatives to increase the journal's role and its impact in our region.

Our publisher, Wiley, has also just sent the 2017

annual publisher's report, and I am pleased to see that *Respirology Case Reports* continues to grow. The number of downloads have continued to increase from last year to over 100,000 for 2017 and the journal's readership is truly international which is very gratifying.

Respirology Case Reports is now publishing 9 issues a year (compared to 6 last year) to respond to an increase in submissions and to ensure fast publication. We receive a steadily increasing stream of submissions from different countries. Our turn-around time (on average less than 30 days) remains stable and our acceptance rate is high. We would like to encourage more submissions to the journal. Our aim is to publish well written manuscripts with good educational value.

I would like to thank the members of the APSR and its en-bloc member societies for their support of the journal since over 50% of the articles that we published last year were submitted by authors belonging to these societies. To reciprocate this support, we have negotiated with Wiley to keep the open access publication charge the same as it was last year for the APSR members who benefit from a 50% discount. We also hope that this will encourage our authors to join the APSR and benefit from the many advantages a membership to the APSR has to offer.

Christopher Lai

Message from the APSR Education Committee

Congratulations to Dr Azuma Arata, Chairperson-elect

It is my great pleasure to have Dr Arata Azuma from the Nippon Medical School in Tokyo, Japan, being elected the Chairperson-elect for the APSR Education Committee. Dr Arata Azuma is world-renowned expert in Interstitial Lung Disease. He has been serving on the APSR Education Committee for the past years and is very keen to steer academic and educational activities in the Asia-Pacific region. He will take the succession to become the Chairperson of the APSR Education Committee from the next APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei.

APSR Respiratory Updates

With the support of experts in the region, we continue to release monthly the APSR *Respiratory Updates*. The list of topics reviewed in 2018 is listed in the following table.

APSR Respiratory Updates

2018	Topics	Reviewers
Jan	Lung transplantation	Michael KY Hsin (Hong Kong)
Feb	Inflammation type 2 biomarkers, COPD and ACOS	Ngo-Quy Chau, Lan Le-Thi-Tuyet Lan, Vu-Van Giap and Dinh-Xuan Anh-Tuan (Vietnam)
Mar	COPD	Chin-Kook Rhee (Korea)
Apr	Recent advances in cell and molecular biology in respiratory diseases	Hirota Matsuzaki, Naoya Miyashita, Kosuke Makita, Yasuhiro Yamauchi and Takahide Nagase (Japan)
May	Air pollution	Tara Kuhn, Zoran Ristovski, Ian Yang, Annalicia Vaughan and Hannah O'Farrell (Australia)
Jun	Non-invasive ventilation	Amanda Piper (Australia)

These new and archival issues are all available on the APSR official website: <http://www.apsresp.org/publications/resp-updates.html>. We continue to invite authors to share their views on update literature in their expert areas.

Future Plan:

Applications for hosting ESAP and APSREE in 2018 is open. Suggestions for topics from APSR members and potential hosts are most welcome. We would like to plan these activities ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the APSR Education Committee members for their continued support. We are looking forward to your continued participation in future APSR education activities.

David CL Lam

Message from the APSR Industry Task Force Co-Chairs

The APSR Industry Task Force (ITF) continues to work with an industry with an emphasis on clear, transparent and ethical relationships to ensure the highest professional standards and compliance with regulations and requirements for collaboration.

The ITF continues to work on increasing sponsorship and donations to provide educational opportunities to lung health care workers in the Asia-Pacific region, including:

Awards:

<http://www.apsresp.org/awards/index.html>

Education seminars (ESAPs):

<http://www.apsresp.org/education/esap.html>

APSR Short-Term Research/Training Scholarship:

<http://www.apsresp.org/scholarships.html>

Norbert Berend
Lai Ngoh Hooi

Message from an Assembly Head

Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep

The Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep Assembly is pleased to announce that the Assembly will help young assembly members to attend the APSR 2018 Congress in Taipei. Assembly members under 40 years old, whose abstracts are accepted for the APSR Congress, are eligible to apply for the Sullivan Award. The Assembly will award USD 600 for three young members (USD 200 each). Dr Collin E Sullivan is an Australian doctor who first applied CPAP therapy to OSA patients. We have the approval from Dr Sullivan to use his name for the prize. The deadline for application is 31 July 2018. Please contact me via <http://www.apsresp.org/login/login.php?from=assemblies/10-resp-nbio-sleep.php> for details.

Yoshitaka Oku

Message from the 23rd APSR Congress President

Excitement is building as the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei is drawing nearer; submission of abstracts has been up and running for months and a high number of over 1,000 abstracts have been received from all over the world, which the Assemblies will review.



The APSR 2018 Congress is the perfect mix of expert faculty, cutting-edge science, innovative technology and best practice in prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of health care in the field of respiratory and related medicine. The Congress registration will soon be launched. Register early to enjoy your discounted early-bird rate before 28 September!



In line with previous practices, the Congress scientific committee are also preparing a comprehensive scientific programme with plenary lectures,

symposia, oral and poster sessions on parallel tracks as well as hands-on workshops scheduled on the first day allowing attendees to concentrate on each scientific niche and to connect with experts in the field.

On the last day, a half-day city tour will be arranged and there will be opportunities to discover Taipei by MRT, bus, YouBike or visitors can hop on/hop off from the double decker bus to tour the city in a hassle-free way while the routes cover major landmarks including but not limited to Taipei 101, National Palace Museum and Shilin Night Market.



Remember to mark your calendar to attend this remarkable event this November in Taipei!



Chong-Jen Yu (President of APSR 2018 Congress)
Meng-Chih Lin (President of TSPCCM)

Message from the APSR en bloc societies

Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS)

The Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) organised a number of educational activities including Southern Respiratory Update in Melaka, Spirometry for Primary Care Workshop in Penang and Basic Lung Function Test Certification Course 2018 Phase I in Kuala Lumpur and supported events to commemorate World TB Day (in Ipoh, Perak) and World Asthma Day (in University of Malaya). The Society also supported the development of the updated Clinical Practice Guidelines on Management of Asthma in Adults which was launched on 3 May 2018.

The MTS Annual Congress 2018 will be held in Zenith Hotel, Kuantan, Pahang, from 12 to 15 July 2018. The Organising Chair is Dr How Soon Hin. Dr Aishah Ibrahim heads the Adult scientific committee, whereas Dato' Dr Ahmad Fadzil Abdullah chairs the Paediatric scientific programme.

Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS)

Annual Scientific Meeting on 25 March 2018

The great annual event for the respiratory community, the Annual Scientific Meeting, took place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, on 25 March 2018. It received 396 registrations and 97% attendance. Important updates were delivered in the symposiums, covering a range of topics including COPD, asthma, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, management of non-tuberculous Mycobacterial pulmonary disease, bronchiectasis and treatment in ALK +ve non-small cell lung cancer. A symposium for allied health professionals, concurrent with the session on Professor Wah-kit Lam Young Investigator Award, was held after the morning tea break. Information on home sleep testing, CPAP education and nurse-led clinics was shared during the symposium.

Airway Diseases and Recent Advance in Respiratory Medicine Health Carnival



Organized by HKTS, CHEST Delegation HK & Macau and the Hong Kong Lung Foundation (HKLF), the captioned publicity event

was held at Citywalk2 in Tsuen Wan on 4 March 2018. Legislative Council Member Dr Hon Pierre Chan and Dr Joseph Kwok-long Lee, actor Mr. Steven Chun-wai Ma and material artist Mr. Colin Cheng were invited as our guests of honour. Dr Angus Lo, Dr Yiu-cheong Yeung and Dr Wai-kei Lam held a press conference, introducing the role of biologics therapies, bronchial

thermoplasty and bronchoscopic lung volume reduction in refractory asthma and severe emphysema. Prize presentation for the mascot design competition was conducted. The opening ceremony was adjourned with a group singing by Council members and our guest junior choir to emphasize the importance of regular inhaled corticosteroid use in asthma. Offstage our Council members and guests were interviewed on topics in general respiratory health by a group of student journalists from three local primary schools. Exhibition panels on airway diseases, health check booths providing spirometry, step test, hand-grip strength test, shortness of breath questionnaire assessment, and five amusing respiratory health game booths were set up in the mall. The event had attracted a good public attendance.



Symposium on Asthma and COPD: Now and Future, 1-2 Sept 2018 (HONG KONG)

Thanks to Dr Christopher Lai, through his extensive connections, a two-day symposium on asthma and COPD will be held in Hong Kong on 1-2 September 2018. There will be a half-day workshop for doctors and nurses/allied health professionals on airways-related interventional procedures, spirometry, skin prick test, inhaler devices, high flow oxygen and non-invasive ventilation. We are thrilled to be have world class speakers and discussants in the programme that allow intense and immense updates and exchanges, both in paediatric and adult medicine. Highlights include management of severe asthma, personalized treatment of COPD and asthma, microbiome and the airways, drug and non-drug management of asthma and COPD, inhaler devices, therapeutic updates, as well as a most exciting pros and cons debate on treatment approaches by respiratory titans. Don't miss out this great opportunity to join!

Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM)

The Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM) was initially founded in 1960 as a local division of the Republic of China Chapter of International Academy of Chest Physicians and Surgeons (ACCP). TSPCCM with 'critical care medicines' in the name of its title was adopted in 1996 to reflect the growing importance of critical care medicine. In the past decades, the TSPCCM has become an important platform for academic development, professional maintenance and international exchange for all pulmonary physicians in Taiwan. Currently, the TSPCCM has four administrative working groups, five executive committees and eleven

disease-based specialty councils to integrate regional physicians' academic activities, organize complete education training courses, and set up certification system. To date, up to mid-2018, we have more than 1,400 members.

The TSPCCM regularly publishes in the official journal *Thoracic Medicine* every two months to promote enthusiasm of research especially in young members. The scope of this journal includes a whole range of topics related to respiratory diseases. In June 2015, the TSPCCM published its first newsletter to strengthen communication between members, case sharing and new knowledge acquisition. The society also publishes local clinical guidelines of major respiratory diseases, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), interstitial pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) pneumonia, pulmonary tuberculosis, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH) and lung cancer. The society has been recently collaborating with Cochrane Taiwan to comprehensively update Taiwanese guidelines, including asthma and COPD to provide high standard of evidence-based medicine.

The society collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Taiwan to improve population health. After successful control of tuberculosis and shifting ventilator-dependent patients from ICUs into subacute or chronic care facilities, the society helped the government to set up "pay for performance" programmes for asthma and COPD. A new national lung cancer-screening project has been carried out to focus on screening non-smoker population with a family lung cancer history for early lung cancer detection.

The TSPCCM is not only devoted to the Taiwanese population but is also extremely dedicated to collaborations with international societies towards advancing pulmonary medicine and related fields. In 2002, the TSPCCM hosted the 7th Congress of the APSR in Taipei. After 16 years, the TSPCCM will proudly host the 2018 Congress in Taipei again this year. As Chairman of the TSPCCM, I am very much looking forward to welcoming you all to Taipei in this November.

Report from the Best Abstract Award winner at the APSR-ISRSD Joint Session at the 2018 ATS Int'l Conference



At the 2018 ATS conference, I was very grateful to receive the Best Abstract Award in the APSR-ISRSD joint session on 19 May. It was really an honour to attend this session. Dr Kwun Fong and Dr Chunxue Bai were great session hosts. We looked at all the best posters

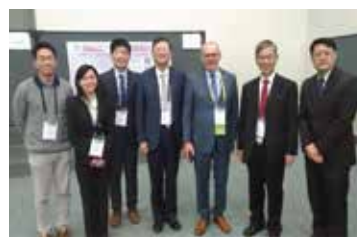
and discussed with each author before the

mini-oral presentations began. Many excellent researches were presented. I was pleased to present my abstract entitled "The roles of programmed death-1, regulatory T cells and myeloid derived suppressor cells in patients with *Mycobacterium avium* complex and *Mycobacterium abscessus* lung disease" after a talk by Dr Marc Moss, the ATS President. Dr Moss presented the award to all the awardees and give us a lot of encouragement.

In my abstract presentation, I reported my preliminary results regrading immune exhaustion in nontuberculous mycobacteria lung disease (NTN-LD), which has become a clinical concern due to its increasing prevalence. However, the etiology remains unclear at present and we investigated the role of immune exhaustion in the disease. In brief, we enrolled 96 participants, including 46 with *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC)-LD, 23 with *M. abscessus* (MAB)-LD, and 27 controls. We measured expressions of programmed death-1 (PD-1), regulatory T (Treg) cells on CD4⁺ lymphocytes and myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) and analyzed their association with clinical features and progression. For the results, the percentage of PD-1 on CD4⁺ (PD-1⁺ CD4⁺) lymphocytes was higher in the MAC-LD group, and the MAC-LD and MAB-LD groups had higher levels of MDSCs than the controls. Positive sputum acid fast stains and fibrocavitary radiographic lesions were correlated with elevated expressions of PD-1⁺ CD4⁺ lymphocytes and Treg cells. The percentage of PD-1⁺ on CD4⁺ lymphocytes significantly predicted radiographic progression.

In addition, there were three 10-minute topics reported by Dr Chunxue Bai (China), Dr Chong-Jen Yu (Taiwan) and Dr Yoichi Nakanishi (Japan). The three topics focused on lung cancer early detection, discussion and optimal care. The talks were very comprehensive and the audiences had many comments and discussions.

Overall, in this session we did not only learn and discuss the frontier of the pulmonary medicine, but also met the experts in respiratory fields. We appreciated the efforts from every colleague and hope we can contribute more by our research.



Dr Chin-Chung Shu (the rightmost one) together with Dr Chong-Jen Yu (the middle one), Dr James Beck (the rightmost third) and Dr Chunxue Bai (the rightmost second)

Chin-Chung Shu
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Reports from the award winners who attended the 2018 ATS Int'l Conference

APSR Travel Award

I am very honoured to have been chosen to receive an APSR Travel Award to attend the 2018 ATS International Conference in San Diego (18-23 May). This was a wonderful conference with a large range of medical and scientific sessions, with many new and exciting ideas being presented.



My research was selected for presentation in an oral session titled 'LUNG TRANSPLANT: CLINICAL RESEARCH'. The title of my presentation was 'Transient Populations of the Human Pulmonary Virome Are Not Associated with Acute Rejection After Lung Transplantation'. This work, which I completed

during my PhD, was novel in the field of lung transplantation as one of the first longitudinal, prospective studies in the area sampling all patients at set time points post-transplant and reporting all viruses detected, not just in symptomatic patients. The literature in this area regarding the influence of respiratory viral presence within transplanted lungs, on early transplant outcomes including acute cellular rejection (ACR), remains unclear. A range of early studies have indicated a relationship between viral infection and ACR; however more recent studies have questioned this association. The work I presented was the first prospective study in the area and agreed with the literature that suggests no association between respiratory viral presence and ACR. This is also the first study to describe the role of community acquired respiratory viruses as transient members of the human respiratory virome post-transplantation; and to show that influenza A virus is a frequently detected asymptomatic virus in this cohort of patients. Furthermore, time-dependent analysis using cox proportional hazards models demonstrated no significant relationship between viral detection at any time and either concurrent or subsequent development of ACR ($p = 0.979$). My research was very well received by the scientists and transplant physicians that attended this session, with many questions being asked and extra attendees approaching me after the session has concluded to ask further questions and to discuss future opportunities. Presenting in this session gave me the chance to speak with some very experienced people in the field to gain advice regarding the next steps of my research.

At this conference, I also had the opportunity to attend many very interesting sessions including the Clinical Year in Review sessions and many thematic and discussion poster sessions. There was a range of very interesting research being

presented, and I learnt more about Lung Transplantation which is an area of interest of mine.



In addition to the conference sessions, this year's ATS meeting allowed many opportunities for me to attend

social events in the evening with many leaders in Respiratory medicine and to meet other researchers and students. Everybody I met was very interested in hearing more about my research and was very supportive and encouraging about going forward in this field. I feel very lucky to be a part of such a friendly and inspiring society and community.

I would like to sincerely thank the APSR committee for honouring me with this APSR travel award, and for giving me the opportunity to attend the ATS 2018 International Conference. It was an amazing experience!



Alicia Mitchell
Woolcock Institute of Medical Research,
Australia

APSR Travel Award



I'm greatly honored to receive the APSR Travel Award to attend the ATS International Conference 2018 in San Diego. I'd like to express my deep gratitude for the support from the APSR.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to present our work entitled "Endotracheal Intubation Versus Supraglottic Airway Insertion After Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest: A Nationwide Population-Based Cohort Study" in the mini symposium "Critical Care: Translating practice to outcomes for our patients with acute critical illness". In our presentation, we showed that the results of our nationwide population-based observational study of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest from 2005 to 2014 indicated that prehospital endotracheal

intubation by EMS personnel had no significant association with one-month neurologically favorable survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest compared with SGA insertion. Thanks to heated discussion and constructive comments, the session was very exciting and beneficial for me.

In several sessions, I got the latest updates on state-of-the-art Critical Care Medicine, and valuable take-home knowledge from cutting-edge presentations of original scientific research from all over the world.

I also attended a variety of events and exchanged scientific ideas with top clinicians and scientists from around the world. It also provided face-to-face networking opportunities with the most renowned leaders and influential critical care specialists from across the world.

Thank you again for the support from the APSR to attend the ATS International Conference.



Dr Yoichi Nakanishi (left), Dr Tatsuma Fukuda (middle) and Dr Kwun M Fong (right)

Tatsuma Fukuda
University of the Ryukyus, Japan

Report from the APSR Short-term Research/Training Scholarship winner

Research/Training	Fellowship training in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine May 2017 – April 2018
Host Institutes	Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCH) and Centre for Children's Health Research (CCHR), Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Host Supervisors	Dr Anne Chang, Dr Ian Brent Masters

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the APSR for offering me the Short-term Research/Training Scholarship in Brisbane.

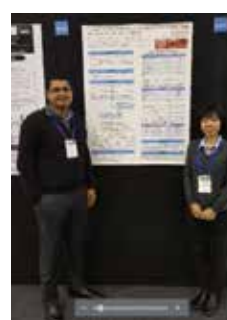
Lady Cilento Children's Hospital is a tertiary centre that receives paediatric referrals from throughout the state of Queensland, Australia. It also sees the largest number of paediatric cystic fibrosis (CF) patients in the country. Thus, I had the privilege to see a large variety of complicated paediatric respiratory cases including CF patients with a wide spectrum of disease stages. Besides taking part in clinical patient care, I also attended the department's weekly handover meeting and educational activities such as Continuous Medical Education (CME), lung

function test discussion, radiology conference, airway meeting and teaching sessions for the fellows and registrars. These have substantially heightened my knowledge in paediatric respiratory medicine and enhanced my clinical skills in managing various complex respiratory cases. Additionally, I also had the opportunity to improve my skills in flexible bronchoscopy under the outstanding guidance of my host supervisors.

During my year of training, I took up two research projects related to flexible bronchoscopy, an increasingly important tool in the clinical practice of paediatric pulmonologists. Flexible bronchoscopy allows direct visualisation of macroscopic airway inflammation (bronchitis), a common finding in children with chronic wet cough. However, to date, there is no objectively assessed or quantified score to define bronchitis in children bronchoscopically. Such a tool would likely be useful both in the clinical context and research. The aim of the research projects was to develop and validate a bronchoscopically-defined bronchitis scoring system by relating quantified scores based on visualised airway mucosa (oedema, erythema, mucosal ridging and pallor), and secretions (amount and colour) to airway neutrophilia (increased neutrophil percentage in the bronchoalveolar lavage). Together with another respiratory fellow, Dr Rahul Thomas, we conducted a retrospective study entitled "Towards developing a valid scoring tool for bronchitis during flexible bronchoscopy". We reviewed and scored the digital bronchoscopy recordings of 100 children independently and found that airway secretion amount and colour, mucosal oedema and erythema positively correlated to airway neutrophilia. This scoring system was validated in my other research project, "Development and validation of a bronchoscopically defined bronchitis tool in children", in which we analysed 142 children prospectively and found similar findings. I presented the preliminary report of my study result in the recent Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Congress held in Adelaide.



At the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting with Dr Anne Chang (centre) and Dr Rahul Thomas (right)



At the TSANZ Scientific Meeting after poster presentation with Dr Rahul Thomas (left)

Other than the TSANZ Congress, I also attended the APSR Annual Congress held in Sydney in November 2017. This gave me a great opportunity to learn from the experts and gained knowledge on new and novel research, besides networking with the renowned researchers from the region that will facilitate my future endeavours in respiratory and sleep medicine.



At the APSR Annual Congress in Sydney with the APSR Deputy Executive Manager, Ms Suga Konno (right)

In the past year, with the guidance of my distinguished host supervisor, Dr Anne Chang, I have obtained a publication in an open access journal entitled “Editorial: Chronic suppurative lung disease and bronchiectasis in children and adolescents”, and peer-reviewed two articles.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my host supervisors, Dr Anne Chang and Dr Ian Brent Masters, for their excellent guidance in research as well as clinical work. I would also like to thank the CAARG (Cough, Asthma and Airway Research Group) members of CCHR, the respiratory consultants, fellows, scientists, nurses and administrative staff of LCCH for their warmth and kind assistance throughout my stay in Brisbane. Not to forget my home supervisors, Dr Jessie de Bruyne, Dr Anna Nathan and Dr Surendren Thavanagnam, with much appreciation for their invaluable support. It was an amazing and fruitful year to me and I really enjoyed my stay in Brisbane, a beautiful river city.



Dr Ian Brent Masters (left) and Dr Eg Kah Peng (right)



Photo with the CAARG members after a monthly research meeting

Eg Kah Peng
University of Malaya Medical Centre, Malaysia.

Message from FIRS Executive Director

This year is a big one for world respiratory health, and the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) is fully engaged in it.

The United Nations will hold a High Level (heads-of-state) meeting (UNHLM) devoted to tuberculosis on 26 September and a second High Level meeting devoted to noncommunicable diseases on 27 September. The professional respiratory societies, through the Forum of International Respiratory Societies, have worked with other organizations to support, influence, and promote these meetings. Tuberculosis is the world's most fatal infectious disease, infecting 10.4 million people and killing 1.3 million of them last year. We hope the UNHLM will accelerate an end to TB, a disease that should not be. The goal is to promote investment in research and the tools for ending TB, to diagnose and treat all its forms, and to have patient-centered care and medicines available for all.

About two-thirds of the world will die from chronic disease, and about 40% of these are preventable. The UNHLM on chronic disease will raise awareness and stimulate countries to develop programmes to reduce these diseases. As respirologists, we must make sure that the burdens of respiratory disease are recognized for their great importance. Reducing air pollution and tobacco products will quickly add years to life and life to years.

The need for the heads-of-state meetings is because health ministers know the importance of health issues, but competing branches of government may prioritize resources away from health. Getting heads-of-state together will emphasize what can be accomplished by investing resources in these areas. Please encourage your head-of-state to attend.

On World No Tobacco Day (31 May) FIRS launched its position paper on Electronic Cigarettes in Youth. It was presented at the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg a few days later and should prove to be a valuable guide for countries trying to decide on tobacco product policies.

FIRS will soon have a new Communication Officer, whose priorities will be to improve the FIRS website, promote World Lung Day, and develop releases for important environmental news. She will be developing a toolkit to help you celebrate World Lung Day and everyone's right to breathe clean air. Be sure that your organization has signed up to partner with FIRS for World Lung Day, 25 September. You can do this by contacting Lisa Roscoe, FIRS Communication Officer, lisa.roscoe@firsnet.org or me, dean.schraufnagel@firsnet.org. Together

we can make a difference.

About FIRS: The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) is an organization comprised of the world's leading international professional respiratory societies presenting a unifying voice to improve lung health globally. Its members are: the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR), American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), American Thoracic Society (ATS), Asociación Latino Americana De Tórax (ALAT), European Respiratory Society (ERS), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union), the Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS), the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD), and the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). FIRS has more than 70,000 professional members. The physicians, and patients they serve, magnify FIRS' efforts allowing it to speak for lung health on a global scale.

Dean Schraufnagel

Forthcoming Meetings

2018

Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2018
12-15 July
Kuantan, Malaysia
Email: m.thoracicsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://2018.mts.org.my/>

Annual Scientific Congress of Ho Chi Minh City Society of Asthma, Allergy & Clinical Immunology
22 July
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com
Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) 21st Midyear Convention
6-8 September
Bacolod City, Philippines
Email: secretariat@philchest.org
Website: www.philchest.org

5th Annual Congress of the Vietnam Respiratory Society (VNRS)
27-28 September
Hanoi, Vietnam
Email: hoihohapvietnam@gmail.com
Website: <http://hoihohapvietnam.org/>

National Respiratory Meeting 2018 (Pertemuan Ilmiah Khusus/PIK 2018)
Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR)
23-27 October
Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia
Email: pikpdpi2018@gmail.com
Website: www.pikpdpi2018.com

126th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
8-9 November
Seoul, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: www.lungkorea.org

World COPD Day: Asthma & COPD Outpatient Care Unit (ACOCU) Network Day
18 November
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com
Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

23rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology
29 November-2 December
Taipei, Taiwan
Website: www.apsr2018.com/



2019

59th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society
12-14 April
Tokyo, Japan
Email: 59jrs@jrs.or.jp
Website: www.jrs.or.jp/jrs59/ (website under construction)

127th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
13 April
Gangwon-Do, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: <http://eng.lungkorea.org/>

7th Conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Asia-Pacific Region 2019
The Union APRC Manila
23-26 April
Manila, Philippines
Email: secretariat@unionaprc2019.org
Website: www.unionaprc2019.org

World Asthma Day: Asthma & COPD Outpatient Care Unit (ACOCU) Network Day
12 May
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com
Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

Annual Scientific Congress of Ho Chi Minh City Society of Asthma, Allergy & Clinical Immunology
21 July
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com
Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

24th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology
14-17 November
Hanoi, Vietnam



128th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
14-15 November

Seoul, Korea

Email: katrd@lungkorea.org

Website: <http://eng.lungkorea.org/>

World COPD Day: Asthma & COPD Outpatient Care Unit (ACOCU) Network Day
17 November

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com

Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

2020

129th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
11 April

Daejeon Metropolitan City, Korea

Email: katrd@lungkorea.org

Website: <http://eng.lungkorea.org/>

60th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)
24-26 April

Nagoya, Japan

World Asthma Day: Asthma & COPD Outpatient

Care Unit (ACOCU) Network Day

17 May

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com

Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

Annual Scientific Congress of Ho Chi Minh City Society of Asthma, Allergy & Clinical Immunology

26 July

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com

Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

25th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
15-18 October
Kyoto, Japan

130th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
12-13 November

Seoul, Korea

Email: katrd@lungkorea.org

Website: <http://eng.lungkorea.org/>

World COPD Day: Asthma & COPD Outpatient Care Unit (ACOCU) Network Day
15 November

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Email: acocu.vn@gmail.com

Website: www.hoihendumdlstphcm.org.vn

Notice from the Secretariat

Invitation to bid for the 2021 Congress!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the 26th Congress of the APSR in 2021. 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. The deadline for the bidding application is 31 August 2018. Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (apsrinfo@theapsr.org)

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