Message from the President

It is my great pleasure and privilege to hold the position of APSR President for the years 2013 and 2014. I would like to congratulate all the previous office bearers, especially Dr Mary Sau-Man Ip for her dedicated effort to bring the APSR alongside other respiratory societies in different regions of the world. Her outstanding achievement is a hard act to follow. I would also take this opportunity to welcome new office bearers to the forefront, especially the new Secretary General, Dr Michiaki Mishima from Kyoto University, Japan; the new Treasurer, Dr Teresita de Guia from the Philippines; and the new Chairperson of the Research Committee, Dr Chunxue Bai from Shanghai, China. The new office bearers, as well as the existing Executive Committee members, need support from all APSR members and APSR Councils to continue with the strategies and initiatives of the previous President and Executive Committee.

We will try to strengthen many new and established policies, such as Fellow of the APSR (FAPSR), increase the number of APSR members by reducing the membership fee for developing countries/regions, promote more educational opportunities to members through the activities of ESAP, recognize the talent of young investigators and nurture them to produce world-class research findings by providing APSR Short-Term Research/Training Fellowships at established centers in the region. *Respirology*, the official journal of the APSR, continues to grow in terms of impact factor. The editorial team, under the leadership of Dr Peter Eastwood, is currently working toward a new case report journal, which will be probably launched by the middle of 2013.

There are some areas where we have to put more effort to make them more successful; for example, improving the Assembly infrastructure and their role/function. Participation from members of each Assembly is vital for the success of the Assemblies. I would like to encourage all members of the APSR to get involved in such activities. The population in the Asia-Pacific region is approximately three billion and the major burden of respiratory diseases in the world is here in our region. Many areas in the region are not well represented in the APSR; for example, Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and the majority of China. We will try to make the APSR the respiratory society for the Asia-Pacific region.

In the international arena, the APSR has been an active participant at the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), which represents all regional respiratory societies in the world. Currently, the FIRS is in the process of developing the World Report on Respiratory Diseases, which will be used as a platform for advocacy purposes toward the United Nations World Summit on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in 2014.

Many challenges still lie ahead. The APSR Executive Committee needs input and support from all members in order to work toward the main objective of promoting good respiratory health to the population of the Asia-Pacific region.

Arth Nana
Message from the Secretary General

It is a great pleasure and honour to serve as the Secretary General under the leadership of Dr Arth Nana.

I have experienced the history of the APSR since its inception. In the 1st Congress of the APSR in Tokyo 1988 (President: Dr Michiyoshi Harasawa), it is still in my memory that I presented a paper about lung functional imaging. I served as the Congress Secretary General for the 11th Congress of the APSR in Kyoto 2006 (President: Dr Yoshinosuke Fukuchi). It was well attended by more than 2,400 academic participants from 43 countries/regions. For the past six years I have served as a member of the Executive Committee and Chairperson of the Research Committee. During this term, the APSR Short-Term Research/Training Fellowship was founded to support the international exchange in the Asia-Pacific region of young scientists and clinicians involved in respiratory medicine.

I am very happy to notice how the APSR has developed over 25 years. Now, the APSR is recognized internationally as a prestigious society and has an intimate relationship with sister societies, such as the ATS, the ERS, the ACCP and the ALAT. I am sure that the APSR will continue further evolution, and I will feel very blissful if I can contribute to the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region through the activities of the APSR.

Michiaki Mishima

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to report that the APSR’s official journal, Respirology, continues to increase its international standing and profile. One example of this is the 30% increase in the impact factor from 1.865 in 2010 to 2.416 in 2011. This is the second biggest increase in the journal’s history and puts Respirology in the top 50% of Respiratory Systems journals.

Several other metrics reflect an increasing interest in the journal’s articles, as well as the success of several editorial policies implemented in 2009/2010. These include a 23% increase in the number of citations to papers published in the previous two years, a decrease in the zero citation rate (i.e., papers that did not get cited) from 35% to 22%, and a 62% increase in full-text downloads in 2011 compared to 2010.

Respirology received manuscript submissions from 47 countries/regions and 27 of these are represented in the papers accepted for publication. Australia, China and Japan remain the largest contributors of both submissions and published papers, with China increasing its contribution to published papers from 8% in 2011 to 15% in 2012.

In 2012, Respirology published eight issues totalling 1,260 pages, plus two supplements (Abstracts from 2012 TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings, Canberra, in April; Abstracts of the 2012 APSR Congress in Hong Kong in December). In addition to 108 Original Articles, the journal published 14 Editorials, highlighting selected papers from the same issue; 3 review series, totalling 32 papers by key opinion leaders (Air Pollution and Lung Health, Obesity and Respiratory Disorders, Translating Research into Practice); 3 Year in Review papers, summarizing the contributions of papers published in Respirology to advances in different areas of respiratory medicine; as well as several other invited and unsolicited high-quality reviews.

Respirology remains committed to playing an important educational role in the Asia-Pacific region. As part of that commitment, in 2011 the journal published a paper focussing on how to write research papers and grants, based on a postgraduate session held at the 2011 APSR Congress in Shanghai (Volume 17, Issue 5, pages 792-801); training guidelines from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand on advanced interventional pulmonology procedures (Volume 17, Issue 8, pages 1176-1189); APSR Respiratory Updates, a monthly electronic publication distributed to all APSR members, highlighting noteworthy publications, coordinated by Dr David Lam (Chairperson of APSR Education Committee) and collated by the Editorial Office of Respirology.

Since the publication of the last APSR Newsletter, Respirology has welcomed three new Editorial Board members: Philip Hansbro (Australia); Albert Martin Li (Hong Kong) and Giorgio Piacentini (Italy). Graham Hall (Australia) and Yuanlin Song (China) were promoted to Associate Editor positions. In addition, we welcomed three new Associate Editors: Bob Hancock (New Zealand), Ioannis Kalomenidis (Greece), and Mary Morrell (UK), as well as one new Senior Editor, Lutz Beckert (New Zealand).

This year’s Fukuchi Award for the Best Original Paper in Respirology, presented at the 17th Congress of the APSR in December in Hong Kong, was awarded to Dr Makoto Hoshino (Japan) for his paper on “Effects of budesonide/formoterol combination therapy versus budesonide alone on airway dimensions in asthma” published in Respirology 2012; 17: 639-646. We were delighted to receive the assistance of the same esteemed panel of international experts as in 2011 to help adjudicate the award.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the team behind Respirology, including all
the Editors, Editorial Office and Wiley-Blackwell staff. In addition I would like to thank the APSR Executives and APSR Secretariat for their support of the journal.

Peter Eastwood

Councillor Reports

You can read the latest reports from the APSR Councillors at www.apsresp.org/about/councils.html (or click the icon currently on the APSR homepage: www.apsresp.org) and enter the APSR Reports access password, which is currently APSR2012

Message from the 17th Congress President

I am pleased to report that the 17th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology was held very smoothly at the Hong Kong Convention Center on 14–16 December 2012. Following the success in organizing the 9th Congress of the APSR in 2004, the Local Congress Committee, consisting of key members of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and the Hong Kong Lung Foundation, was very honoured to have had the opportunity of hosting the APSR for the second time in Hong Kong.

The 17th Congress of the APSR was well attended by 2,311 delegates from more than 37 countries/regions and the majority of delegates had come from overseas. We were most delighted to have had over 100 renowned experts from within and outside the Asia-Pacific region sharing with us their updated knowledge and recent advances on many respiratory diseases of common interest. The Local Congress Committee had devised a comprehensive scientific programme, consisting of 3 pre-congress postgraduate courses, 22 major symposia, 9 satellite symposia, 6 free-paper oral sessions and 5 poster presentation sessions, in addition to the Memorial Lectures and the Presidential Lectures.

The APSR 2012 Medal Award was presented to Dr Teresita de Guia of the Philippines at the Congress. The Ann Woolcock Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Christine Jenkins and the Michiyoshi Harasawa Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Yoichi Nakanishi. We were most grateful to the senior members of our sister thoracic societies – Dr Francesco Blasi (President of the ERS), Dr Thomas Ferkol (Vice President of the ATS), Dr Darcy Marciniuk (President of the ACCP) and Dr Maria Montes de Oca (President of the ALAT), for their participation in the Presidential Lectures. I would like to thank all the distinguished speakers for their enormous contribution to the conference programme, which was very well received by the delegates. It is because of the expertise and broad knowledge of our international faculty of speakers and researchers, and the enthusiastic interest of our delegates, that the APSR congress has been rapidly growing.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous input from the APSR Assembly Heads and members of the Central Congress Committee to the Local Congress Committee in planning the scientific programme. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow members of the Local Congress Committee, the Congress Secretariat, and Dr Mary Sau-Man Ip for the excellent teamwork and pleasure in organizing the 17th Congress of the APSR together.

David Hui

Awardees at the 17th Congress of the APSR, Hong Kong

- APSR Medal
  - Teresita de Guia

- APSR Woolcock Research Award
  - Christine Jenkins

- APSR Harasawa Research Award
  - Yoichi Nakanishi

- Fukuchi Best Paper Award
  - Makoto Hoshino

- APSR Travel Award
  - Jodie Simpson
  - Nı Made Restıawatı
  - Yasser Al Kassar
  - Collin Brooks
  - S R A Muhammad Redzwan
  - Woo-jin Kim
  - Elham Pirabbasi
  - Koichi Tomoda
  - Kazi Saifuddin Bennoor
  - Sauny Joseph
  - Mary Antoniette Lozada
  - Rahimi-Rad Mohammad Hossein
  - Ashraful Alam Khan
  - Hiroyuki Inoue
  - Ali Hossain
  - Amber Ashraf
  - Maria Cheraghi
  - Emily Bailey
  - D Krishnakumar
  - Tayyaba Ijaz
  - Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail
  - Erving Noel Merıln
  - Zulkifli Amin
It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 18th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology to be held on 11−14 November 2013 at the Pacifico Yokohama (the Yokohama International Conference Center). Following the success of organizing the 1st Congress in Tokyo and the 11th Congress in Kyoto, the Local Congress Committee, consisting of key members of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS), is very honoured to host the APSR congress for the third time in Japan. Furthermore, this year is the 25th anniversary of the APSR and the congresses in recent years have been successful due to the efforts of the membership societies for a quarter century.

The four-day congress will feature a comprehensive scientific programme including postgraduate courses, plenary lectures and major symposia with distinguished speakers from the APSR as well as allied societies of the ATS and the ERS. The Congress aim is “Creating harmony in Asia-Pacific respiratory medicine” by improving the standard of respiratory care, supporting young researchers and clinicians in the Asia-Pacific region, and contributing to the global health and science of pulmonology. Oral and poster presentations will provide wonderful opportunities for researchers to discuss with expert scientists and clinicians, and exchange information. The Local Congress Committee will organize a variety of social events and tours for the participants to experience both traditional and modern culture in Yokohama.

The congress will invite many distinguished international speakers to participate and provide an insightful update of recent advances on hot topics in respiratory medicine. One featured programme will be “Rare lung diseases in the Asia-Pacific region”. The representatives of some of the patient groups in Japan will for the first time join this congress and will have their own meetings.

I am sure you will find the scientific and clinical programmes stimulating and enjoyable. Through this annual meeting, I hope clinicians, researchers and health professionals can establish good friendship, networking and fruitful collaboration.
It was an honour for me to attend the 17th Congress of the APSR in December in Hong Kong. As a pulmonologist and scientist it was an amazing opportunity to attend a meeting with the different societies from around the region. From the clinical perspectives to the basic science research I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the meeting and the interactions with new colleagues.

I was especially delighted to present my research in the free paper oral session on Cell and Molecular Biology. My laboratory studies the role of IL-17 and chronic lung transplant rejection using a mouse model of orthotopic lung transplantation. It was great to get feedback and questions from the attendees on our work.

Presenting your research is always fun but it’s not every day you get an opportunity to present it to an audience half way around the globe from Indiana. Dr Judith Mak and I facilitated the session and I had a great time encouraging the other junior presenters in their research endeavors. I also enjoyed interacting with the other young investigators presenting at the meeting during the lunch the APSR committee held for us. In addition, the poster session I facilitated was informative and all of the presenters did a great job of giving a succinct overview of their research. The studies presented provided a fresh outlook for me on the challenges of diagnosing and treating COPD in other countries. Many of the challenges are the same but there are also unique differences to each country given the different health-care systems and people’s attitudes towards smoking. All in all the meeting was a great chance to connect with scientists and clinicians from the Asia-Pacific region. We all share a drive to understand the pathophysiology of pulmonary diseases and to provide better care to our patients. I would like to thank the organizers of the APSR congress for sponsoring my trip, as well as the American Thoracic Society for their support.

Toshihiro Nukiwa

Report from the award winners to attend the APSR Congress

The award winners from the ATS

I was honoured to be selected by the ATS for an International Young Investigator Award to participate in the 17th Congress of the APSR in Hong Kong. The opportunity to travel to Hong Kong and present my research to colleagues from the Asia-Pacific region was unique and invaluable. I gave two presentations during the meeting: one during the Cell and Molecular Biology postgraduate course on Therapeutic Targeting of the Th2 Pathway in Asthma, and another Free Paper presentation on my own research involving Interleukin-13-directed airway fibroblast invasion in asthma. The post-graduate course included many excellent speakers and was well-attended with good questions and discussion from the audience. Similarly, I was impressed by the other speakers in the section on asthma, and our discussion on airway remodeling in asthma was very instructional and idea-generating. In addition, I was so pleased to have time as a facilitator of the Asthma, Allergy, Cell and Molecular Biology poster session to talk with poster presenters and discuss their projects. The scientists provided concise, helpful presentations of their posters, and I enjoyed meeting them and learning more about research being conducted in this region. Finally, I was very grateful for the sincere hospitality that was shown to us by the congress organizers and attendees.

The meeting facilities were comfortable, the food and entertainment at the President’s Dinner and the Congress Dinner were outstanding, and I really felt like a special guest of this conference. Hong Kong is a beautiful city. During our time in Hong Kong, we were encouraged to visit the Peak, and our trip there allowed us a breathtaking view of the harbour and the area.

Again, I am very grateful to the ATS and the APSR for giving me this wonderful opportunity to meet with colleagues from the Asia-Pacific region and to participate in this exciting conference.

Jennifer Leigh Ingram
Duke University Medical Center

The award winners from the ERS

“Nothing happens unless first we dream”- This is one of my favourite lines from the movie The Best Marigold Hotel. I have been a dreamer but getting the APSR- ERS Young Investigator’s Award was a dream come true.

Rebecca A. Shilling
Center for Immunobiology, Walther Hall, Indiana University School of Medicine
As a fellow-in-training of pediatric pulmonology in a developing country, conducting research and at the same time taking care of critically ill and post-cardiothoracic surgery pediatric patients, is considered an extra challenge. We have to do the best that we can, in the best way that we know.

We know that the world is going into the molecular and cellular level of research, finding genes that cause diseases and finding biomarkers which help in predicting the occurrence of diseases. I was even surprised to see some colleagues inducing asthma in rats. How can they do that? How can one be so passionate in their quest for knowledge? How can we compete with the researches done in developed countries when we have limited resources?

Armed with an earnest desire to do good research despite all odds, I make do with what we have and not looking for things which we don’t have. Sometimes, in the simplest of things, we find enlightenment and beauty and thus the birth of my research on finding predictors of postoperative pulmonary complications in children 0–6 years old who underwent cardiothoracic surgery. We boast 500-plus pediatric cardiac surgeries per year in our centre but we also have a high level of postoperative pulmonary complications. I felt this research would make a difference.

The APSR Secretariat and Registration Committee were fully aware of how much I wanted to attend the APSR Congress in Hong Kong. I constantly bombarded Ms Melissa Leung, Ms Chloe Wong and Ms Catherine Lam with emails, asking them to extend the deadline of registration, asking for a registration discount, even asking them to consider me as a medical student because I am a full time fellow in training with no extra income. I even suggested a scheme to give discounts to those under 35 years old. But there was none and I almost lost hope because in all honesty, I couldn’t afford the registration.

Then one morning, I opened an email from the APSR that said I was one of the ERS-APSR Young Investigator awardees to attend the APSR Congress. The world stood still! I was so happy and very much grateful. It was a moment to last a lifetime.

The 17th APSR Congress was such a big event and was very well attended. Adult and pediatric pulmonologists alike were so eager to attend each and every lecture. The welcome was warm and we didn’t even notice the turn of events, nor the switch from sunrise to sunset. I was also able to meet my old mentors and friends and the convention was not only an outlet of exchange of ideas and knowledge but a way of catching up with stories and experiences with friends. I was also able to make friends with pulmonologists from Indonesia and the other awardees such as Dr Damith Nandadeva from Sri Lanka, an ERS-APSR co-awardee. I was able to chat with ERS representatives, allowing me to personally thank them for sponsoring me to attend in this congress.

It also made me really happy and proud that I was given an award in this congress at the time when my mentor and idol Dr Teresita de Guia was also given an award. The whole Philippine community at the congress were also happy.

The lunch party with the awardees and the leaders of international societies was also successful. The society leaders asked about our plans, our aspirations and our desire to continue their legacy. I was standing in the midst of giants from all over the world and it brought a wide smile to my face and probably to the faces of the other awardees. Their plan for an academy of awardees is also very admirable. When you painstakingly work on something, and your work is being recognized, it inspires you to continue doing great things - even if you have to start with your own humble beginnings.

I wish to thank the APSR and the ERS for giving me this opportunity to become an APSR-ERS Young Investigator Awardee and for giving me a travel grant to attend this prestigious and exciting event.

More power to the APSR! More power to the ERS!
During the conference several seminars delivered new findings concerning proteins/signalling pathways that were abnormally regulated by various stimuli such as cigarette smoke exposure and influenza surface protein haemagglutinin, leading to increased disease pathogenesis and infection. These have enlightened me to integrate some of these new ideas into my future research plans. My own presentation reported for the first time the underlying mechanisms of high susceptibility to influenza infection in those with COPD. The primary bronchial epithelial cells (pBECs) from people with COPD were more susceptible to influenza infection due to more efficient viral endocytosis and impaired antiviral responses. We also identified potential therapeutics for those with COPD. This talk was very rewarding as these novel findings generated interest and suggestions for future work, particularly from the chair, Dr Yuanlin Song.

It was also exciting to be invited to the “Worldwide young investigators lunch party” where the award recipients from different societies could meet and have lunch with internationally renowned researchers including Dr Peter Barnes, Dr Norbert Berend and Dr Mary Sau-Man Ip. Overall the conference was nicely organized at the Pearl of the Orient, facilitated by discussions of novel findings, networking/collaboration with old and new colleagues from various backgrounds, in the true spirit of a great scientific meeting.

Attending the APSR congress has broadened my eyes to new research fields that could be incorporated into my own projects as a researcher. Again, I wish to thank the APSR Congress Committees and the TSANZ for fully supporting my trip to Hong Kong (registration, flight, and accommodation). It has been a wonderful experience.

Alan Hsu
University of Newcastle

Young Investigator Awardee lunch party with the leadership of the APSR, the ATS and the ERS

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2013
2013 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
23–27 March, Darwin, Australia
Email: tsanz@fcconventions.com.au
Website: www.thoracic.org.au/meetings/annual-scientific-meetings/

115th Annual Meeting of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases
6 April, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: www.lungkorea.org/

53rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society
19–21 April, Tokyo, Japan
Email: 53jrs@js.or.jp
Website: www.js.or.jp/jrs53

ATS International Conference
17–22 May, Philadelphia, USA

PCCP 16th Midyear Convention
27–28 July, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
Email: pccp@skybroadband.com.ph
Website: www.philchest.org

CHEST 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACCP
26–31 October, Chicago, USA
Website: conference.thoracic.org/2013/

18th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
11–14 November, Yokohama, Japan
Email: info@apsr2013.jp
Website: www.apsr2013.jp/

116th Annual Meeting of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases
21–22 November, Seoul, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: www.lungkorea.org/

2014
2014 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
4–9 April, Adelaide, Australia
Email: tsanzsr@tcc.co.nz
Website: www.tsanzsr2014.com (live in February 2013)

54th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society
25–27 April, Osaka, Japan
Website: www.js.or.jp/home/modules/english/index.php?content_id=21

19th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
10–13 November, Bali, Indonesia
Officers of the APSR
President: Arth Nana
Immediate-Past President: Mary Sau-Man Ip
Secretary General: Michiaki Mishima
Treasurer: Teresita de Guia
Editor-in-Chief: Peter Eastwood

Council Members

Australia: Christine Jenkins
Tara Mackenzie
Guy Marks
Paul Reynolds
Bangladesh: Asif Mujtaba Mahmud

Korea: Young Whan Kim
Malaysia: Chong-Kin Liam
Philippines: Teresita de Guia
Abundio Balgos

China: Nan-Shan Zhong
Hong Kong: Mary Sau-Man Ip
Indonesia: Faisal Yunus
Japan: Michiaki Mishima

Treasurer: Teresita de Guia

Executive Members representing the Council Members
Mary Sau-Man Ip  Masaharu Nishimura  Paul Reynolds  Faisal Yunus

Steering Committee:
Arth Nana (Chairperson),

Research Committee:
Chunxue Bai (Chairperson)

Strategic Planning Committee:
Norbert Berend (Chairperson)

Finance Committee:
Teresita de Guia (Chairperson)

Presidents of the Congresses:
1st Congress  Tokyo  1988  Michiyoshi Harasawa
2nd Congress  Bali  1990  Hood Alsagaff
3rd Congress  Singapore  1993  Wan-Cheng Tan
4th Congress  Beijing  1996  Wei-Ci Luo
5th Congress  Sydney  1998  J. Paul Seale
6th Congress  Florence  2000  Ann J. Woolcock
7th Congress  Taiwan  2002  Kwen-Tay Luh
8th Congress  Selangor  2003  Chong-Kin Liam
9th Congress  Hong Kong  2004  Wah Kit Lam
10th Congress  Guangzhou  2005  Nan Shan Zhong
11th Congress  Kyoto  2006  Yoshinosuke Fukuchi
12th Congress  Gold Coast  2007  Christine Jenkins
13th Congress  Bangkok  2008  Arth Nana
14th Congress  Seoul  2009  YoungSo Shim
15th Congress  Manila  2010  Teresita de Guia
16th Congress  Shanghai  2011  Chunxue Bai
17th Congress  Hong Kong  2012  David Hui
18th Congress  Yokohama  2013  Toshihiro Nukiwa
19th Congress  Bali  2014  Faisal Yunus
20th Congress  Kuala Lumpur  2015  Roslina Abdul Manap

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