Message from the President

Dear APSR members, friends and colleagues!

We hope that your 2019 has started well as we bid farewell to another busy year for all of us as we try to balance professional life to seek better lung health for our communities against our personal and family responsibilities.

The end of the year also had us coming together for our annual Congress which was a huge success, brilliantly led by Congress President Chong-Jen Yu and his team, to whom we are very grateful. New milestones were reached. The cutting-edge science and education presented and shared at the Congress was of the highest standard and very promising for the contributions that the Asia-Pacific region can make for lung health.

We thank all our committee members, office-bearers and other volunteers, who have generously given their time, energy and skills in 2018 to make sure that the APSR continues to grow and achieve its objectives of advancement and promotion of knowledge of the respiratory system in health and disease. In particular, we appreciate the work of the APSR office-bearers who have completed their terms, and are kindly acknowledged in the sections below. Their hard work has also enabled the APSR to provide helpful and useful benefits to our members.

We also acknowledge the superb contribution from our dedicated Secretariat in Tokyo, which enables the membership to enjoy a smoothly run and effective APSR. Their work load continues to increase year on year, as the APSR continues to grow in membership and activities.

Last but not least, is our heartfelt thanks to our members who in their own way are contributing to improving respiratory health in our region and more broadly. Our Society is only as strong as its members and thus we are confident that our members’ support is a positive sign for the APSR’s future.

There is still much to do to improve lung health for our communities which can best be achieved by working together, as we have done for many years now as proud members of the APSR.

We wish you and your families a wonderful and fulfilling 2019.

Kwun M Fong

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Message from the Secretary General & the President-Elect

Happy New Year. I hope all members of the APSR have had a splendid New Year.

This year the APSR will celebrate its 33rd birthday since our establishment in 1986. In human years, the APSR has just reached the prime of its life from its adolescent period.

Looking back on last year, I believe that the APSR has made great progress as a maturing or matured society, e.g., increase of en bloc members (a total of 13 en bloc member societies, and more than 15,500 membership), great success of the APSR 2018 Taipei Congress, increased impact factor of our official journal “Respirology” (4.407!), renovation of management systems with new SOPs, reinforced financial base, and strengthened partnership with sister societies. I would express sincere appreciation to all members of the APSR for your great contributions.

May the new year bring you more happiness than last year.

Yoichi Nakanishi
Message from the Co-Editors in Chief of Respirology

Respirology is a key component of the mission of the APSR. The journal has an important role in disseminating knowledge of lung and sleep disorders, and respiratory health priorities in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve this goal, the journal has to be regarded as being of international quality and relevance, and publish research reflecting a high standard of medicine practiced in the Asia-Pacific region. This goal is progressively being achieved, as evidenced by this year’s outcomes, which we presented to the members of the Editorial Board and Executive Committee at the recent APSR Congress in Taipei, Taiwan.

The journal is expecting in excess of 1,000 submissions this year, with more than 60% of submissions originating from the Asia-Pacific region. The Editors in Chief are now assisting the Deputy Editors with selecting only the best articles for external peer review. Authors of declined manuscripts are notified promptly within 9 days. The acceptance rate of original articles sent for peer review is 43% with a first decision reaching the authors within 50 days. Articles are published online within 6 weeks after acceptance which is a significant improvement from 10 weeks last year. Respirology has increased its publication frequency from 8 to 12 issues per year so members receive new content more often. New in this year’s issues were the thought-provoking Commentaries and the Letters from the Asia-Pacific Region reporting the latest respiratory news from countries in the APSR region.

The journal’s readership has increased and its ranking, relative to other international journals, has risen significantly. The number of full-text article downloads has exceeded 500,000 per year, with Australia, China and Japan being among the top 5 downloading countries. The journal’s citations have continued to increase and the impact factor is now 4.407 which positions Respirology in the top 10 Respiratory Systems journals (Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate Analytics). The high-quality expert reviews are popular and among the most downloaded and cited articles. In 2018, Respirology published several interesting review series including on Tuberculosis, Molecular Techniques for Respiratory Diseases and Paediatric and Adult Bronchiectasis. The full collection of papers from these series will also become available as Topics in Focus on Respirology’s website. The website recently had a make-over, and we encourage members to explore its collections of articles, educational papers, author videos and visual abstracts – a new feature presenting the key message of research articles in a single image, for use in presentations and journal clubs.

The progress of Respirology would not be possible without the strong support of many people. As always, we are very grateful to all the Editors and Editorial Board members for their hard work and we were pleased to see many of our members at the various Editorial Board meetings throughout the year. We also warmly welcome Vanessa McDonald as Associate Editor, as well as Ngo Quy Chau, Dushantha Madegedara and Saly Saint who will represent the VNRS, SLCP and CPA respectively on the journal’s Editorial Board. We’d also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of this year’s Fukuchi Award, Hai V. Nguyen, Saideep Bose, Shweta Mital, Anthony Chau Ang Yi, Shin Yuh Ang, Sean Shao Wei Lam, Devanand Anantham, Eric Finkelstein and Mariko Siyue Koh for their paper entitled “Is bronchial thermoplasty cost-effective as treatment for problematic asthma patients? Singapore’s perspective on a global model” published in Vol 22, Iss 6, p 1102-1109.

We would also like to thank the hard-working staff in the Editorial Office and Wiley. Both teams have joined forces again this year to deliver an author workshop at the 2018 APSR Congress in Taipei. The presentation from this workshop is now available to members on the APSR website and we encourage all early career members to seek out future workshops of this kind to help achieve publishing success.

Finally, we would like to thank the APSR members, the APSR Secretariat, and the members of APSR’s Executive Committee for their continued strong support of Respirology. We are committed to continuing our efforts to publish high quality research papers, reviews and other relevant scientific and clinical material.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

Message from the Editor in Chief of Respirology Case Reports

I am pleased to report that Respirology Case Reports is continuing to grow and develop. In 2018, we published 9 issues and 94 manuscripts which represents a strong increase from the 59 manuscripts published in 2017.

There has been an increase in the number of submissions and the number of different countries of origin compared to the past year (93 submissions from 22 different countries compared to 78 submissions from 20 countries in 2017). The majority of submissions (80%) originate from the Asia-Pacific Region with Japan (45%), Australia (17%) and Taiwan (5%) as top-submitting countries.

The acceptance rate remains high and stable at about 70% and on average, the authors are informed of a first decision within 30 days of submission. The articles, once accepted, are
published online within a few weeks and are available in PubMed Central a couple of weeks after that.

*Respirology Case Reports* is strongly supported by the APSR members, who represent about 75% of the manuscripts published. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support of our journal. APSR members and members with en bloc membership to the APSR via their societies continue to benefit from a 50% discount of the open access publication charge when their manuscript is published in *Respirology Case Reports* and we hope to see many more members submit to our journal. Many case reports were presented at the recent APSR Congress in Taipei and we encourage the presenters to consider submitting their work to *Respirology Case Reports*.

Readership remains global and has again increased with the number of downloads reaching over 100,000 (from Wiley’s 2017 Annual Report). The list of the top 10 downloaded case reports from Wiley Online library is available on the journal’s website.

The journal continues to be widely marketed by Wiley. The journal has electronic table of content (eTOC) alerts. We have continued to advertise the journal on the Respirology and APSR websites, as well as that of other societies. There have been advertisements in the WABIP and Wiley’s *Respiratory Medicine* Newsletters and flyers at the APSR, ATS and ERS conferences. We send a message on Twitter each time a case report is published and have noticed that some case reports have attracted a lot of comments and activity on this social media.

In 2018, we said goodbye to Helen Davies from the UK who joined the Respirology team as Deputy Editor. We welcomed Sita Andarini from Indonesia, Michael KY Hsin from Hong Kong, Fabien Maldonado from the USA and Daniel Kwok Keung Ng from Hong Kong to help our team with the increased number of submissions. We are indebted to our Editorial Board members for their work in reviewing all the case reports submitted to the journal and would like to thank each one of them for their expert advice and support and for championing the journal. We also acknowledge our Deputy Editors, Philip Bardin, Peter Eastwood, Gary Lee and Paul Reynolds who provide guidance and support to the journal. There is a hardworking team behind *Respirology Case Reports* who need to be acknowledged and thanked including Dr Lieve Bultynck, Managing Editor, and Dr Christel Norman, Deputy Managing Editor who ensures that the journal runs smoothly on a daily basis, as well as the rest of the Editorial Office staff, the team at Wiley and the APSR Secretariat.

Christopher Lai

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**Message from the APSR Education Committee**

Happy New Year, to every member of the APSR. It is an era when the world is changing rapidly.

The amount of information is said to be 10,000,000 times of what it was 10 years ago, and a report on an incident on the other side of the earth can now arrive instantly. Medical information is no exception; academic information will arrive, but the actual medical practice is highly dependent on the domestic economic situation.

The role of the Education Committee is to cooperate with multiple Assemblies and distribute accurate information to the right place. Currently, as information spreads beyond national borders, we want to share information beyond our medical area while correcting the differences in values.

Although this is not a political message, we aim to share the perspective of the dignity of life and carry out the educational programme based on a fair perspective.

My predecessor, Dr David Lam, left a great achievement. I succeed him in his role and will strive to improve the respiratory pathology and medical practice of the Asia-Pacific region. I ask for your cooperation.

**APSR Respiratory Updates**

With the support of experts in the region, we continue to release monthly the APSR Respiratory Updates. New and archived issues are all available on the APSR official website: www.apsresp.org/publications/resp-updates.html. We continue to invite authors to share their views on updated literature in their areas of expertise.

**Future Plan**

Application for hosting ESAPs and APSREEs in 2019 is open. Suggestions for topics from APSR members and potential hosts are most welcome. We would like to plan these activities ahead.

Arata Azuma

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~Tribute to Dr David Lam and welcome to Dr Arata Azuma to the APSR Education Committee~

Dr David Lam served as Chairperson for the APSR Education Committee in 2011-2018. During his term of office, the Committee has been enthusiastically propelling educational activities for the wide and diverse APSR membership. He regularly coordinated or provided guidance for the successful organization of ESAP or APSR-endorsed events (APSREE) conducted by various member units. He has revamped the
APSR Respiratory Updates to become a monthly online issue with invited experts who share their comments on recent hot topics in clinical advances or research in respiratory medicine; and expanded the APSR Bulletin as a communication channel bringing monthly updates for APSR members.

During his term, he guided the successful creation of the APSR Teaching Library where educational cases are made available on the APSR official website for members. We are deeply appreciative of Dr Lam’s dedication of time, effort and expertise in this leadership role over the past eight years.

We now welcome Dr Arata Azumi as the new Chairperson. Dr Azuma is a longstanding active APSR member. He is a Professor of Nippon Medical School and the current Head of the APSR Interstitial Lung Disease Assembly. He is also the President of WASOG 2019 - World Association for Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders.

We look forward to many exciting educational activities for members of the APSR under his leadership.

Mary Sau-Man Ip

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Message from the APSR Membership Committee

Happy New Year. Hopefully, this year will be a year full of success, joy, happiness and prosperity for you and your family.

Last year the Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS) and the Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF) joined as our new en bloc member societies so that currently the number of APSR members is around 15,500. We want to encourage the members to become APSR Fellows.

I hope that throughout this new year the members can improve their knowledge and skills through various scientific events organized by the APSR and become highly professional health workers in dedicating their knowledge to the community. Finally, I hope that all members achieve great success and optimal achievement in 2019.

Faisal Yunus

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Message from the 23rd APSR Congress President

It is our pleasure to announce that the APSR Congress 2018 was successfully held at Taipei, Taiwan from 29 November to 2 December 2018.

The APSR 2018 turned out to be a joyful and productive meeting. With the collaboration between the Local Congress Committee and the Central Congress Committee, the APSR 2018 has successfully fulfilled its duty to serve as an educational and networking platform for all respiratory specialists in the Asia-Pacific region. An exciting scientific programme was delivered, including 3 Plenary Lectures and 35 Symposia with a lineup of 219 international renowned experts and leaders from 22 countries.

We were gratified to see 3,328 participants in attendance from 41 countries. Every day, we saw many doctors attending scientific sessions, visiting exhibition booths and joining the satellite symposia. It is our strong belief that through active participation, academic discussion, and proactive networking, we can form a sound and intimate relationship between doctors, medical organizations, academic institutes and pharmaceutical industries to ensure the continuous improvement in both quality and capability of health care in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are also confident that all the participants must have enjoyed the beauty of Taipei city, the delicious food, as well as safe and comfortable atmosphere when strolling in the city.

Once again, on behalf of the local organizing committee and the Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM), we would like to express our sincerest gratefulness...
to all the delegates and sponsors. Thank you again and looking forward to an eternal linkage between you and Taiwan TSPCCM doctors.

Dr Ngo Quy Chau (left) and Dr Chong-Jen Yu (right)

Awards presented at the 23rd APSR Congress

The following awards were presented during the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei.

They include awards, each bearing the name of the award’s benefactor who has a long-standing history of teaching and mentorship in their particular field, making significant contributions to respiratory medicine in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to these awards, the APSR is proud and honoured to partner with the following eminent physicians and organization, to continue helping future generations of researchers, by supporting Young Investigator attendance and presentation of their work at our annual APSR congress.

The awards are:

**APSR/KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respiratory** supported by Dr Yoshinosuke Fukuchi. The award is named after the slogan “敬和以慧富”, coined by Dr Fukuchi. It means “Respect harmony in peace to enrich your wisdom” in English.

**APSR/Malcolm Winterburn Lung Cancer Young Investigator Award** supported by Dr Andrew Bush

**APSR/Geoffrey Bush Paediatric Young Investigator Award** supported by Dr Andrew Bush

**APSR/APTA Young Investigator Award** supported by APTA (Asian Pacific Thoracic Association). APTA is registered as the APSR’s NPO (Non-Profit Organization).

Further details of all awards can be seen at apresp.org/awards/index.html

**APSR Medal**
Wah-Kit Lam (Hong Kong)

**APSR Michiyoshi Harasawa Research Award**
Kazuo Chin (Japan)

**APSR Ann J Woolcock Research Award**
Sandra D Anderson (Australia)

**Fukuchi Award for the Best Original Paper in Respiratory 2017**
*Is bronchial thermoplasty cost-effective as a treatment for problematic asthma patients? Singapore's perspective on a global model*
Hai V. Nguyen (Canada), Saiddeep Bose, Shweta Mital, Anthony Chau Ang Yit, Shin Yuh Ang, Sean Shao Wei Lam, Devanand Anantham, Eric Finkelstein and Mariko Siuye Koh *Respiratory* 2017, Volume 22, Issue 6, pages 1102–1109

**APSR-ATS Young Investigator Award**
Meredith A. Tennis (United States)
Neeta Thakur (United States)

**APSR-ERS Young Investigator Award**
Sohail Ahmad (Malaysia)
Brijesh Prajapat (India)

**APSR-TSANZ Young Investigator Award**
Eunice To (Australia)

**APSR-JRS Young Investigator Award**
Koji Furuuchi (Japan)
Mari Hikichi (Japan)
Motoyasu Kato (Japan)

**APSR/Peter Sly Paediatric Young Investigator Award**
Pham Uyen (Vietnam)

**APSR/Norbert Berend COPD Young Investigator Award**
John Ray Galamay (Philippines)

**APSR/Paul Zimmerman Physiology Young Investigator Award**
Mary Claire Orden (Philippines)

**APSR/KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respiratory**
Yijue Zhong (China)

**APSR/Geoffrey Bush Paediatric Young Investigator Award**
Crestita Gorme (Philippines)

**APSR/Malcolm Winterburn Lung Cancer Young Investigator Award**
Karen Anne Bispo (Philippines)

**APSR/APTA Young Investigator Award**
Anjuli May Jaen (Philippines)

**APSR Travel Award**
Debkanya Dey (India)
Omohaire Dilangalen (Philippines)
Christy Efiyanti (Indonesia)
Huong Ho (Vietnam)
Dhammika Leshan Wannigama (Thailand)
Mary Joy Ordanza ((Philippines)
Ruwanpura Saleela (Australia)
Sayantan Sengupta (India)

APSR Young Investigator Travel Award
Wei-An Chang (Taiwan)
Victor Chun (United States)
Kuei-Pin Chung (Taiwan)
Yun Feng (China)
Jie Huang (China)
Yuki Ikematsu (Japan)
Hanbyeol Lee (Korea)
Yuji Matsumoto (Japan)
Fariz Nurwidya (Indonesia)
Li Yang (Australia)

Message from
the 24th APSR Congress President

Dear APSR members,

Greetings! On behalf of the organizing committee of the APSR Congress 2019, we are delighted to welcome you to the Congress, which will take place in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14-17 November 2019.

Since the first Congress in 1988, the APSR Congress has steadily grown in importance and become a worldwide annual meeting covering topics in pulmonary and critical care medicine and sleep breathing disorders, including COPD, asthma, lung cancer, chronic and acute respiratory failure, interstitial lung diseases, pneumonia, bronchiectasis, smoking cessation, respiratory rehabilitation and clean air, etc.

The Chairs of the Central and Local Congress Committees, together with all of us are working hard to bring you a programme that addresses the needs of all respiratory professionals, from scientists to clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals. I am confident that the 2019 programme will stimulate debate and shed new light on advances in the field.

Alongside the programme, the Congress provides a great opportunity for all delegates to create a network with peers from across the world. Knowledge is deepened when it is shared and by meeting together, discussing experiences and debating various approaches to key topics, enabling us to work towards a better future for respiratory health.

As time is getting closer to this unmatched event, registration will launch soon. We encourage you seize the opportunity to be the part of this prestigious progress. Students or scientists who are APSR members can take advantage of all that the APSR Congress 2019 has to offer at reduced rates.

The success of the APSR Congress 2019 depends on our dedicated and loyal members, and to those of you who join us for our Congress each year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined us this year, as we have seen our numbers rising thanks to our new membership strategy with national and international societies. We look forward to seeing you all in Hanoi, Vietnam for our 24th Congress, which will be one of the biggest events in pulmonary and critical care medicine in the Asia-Pacific region.

Join us and we believe that you will have a fruitful meeting and pleasant stay in Hanoi!

Ngo Quy Chau

Reports from the APSR Congress award winners

APSR/KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respirology

I was very grateful I was able to attend as a delegate and oral presenter during the APSR Congress 2018. This was my first international congress and my first time to visit Taipei. I felt honoured to be chosen as the recipient of the APSR/KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respirology. This award was my stepping stone to APSR membership which has offered many opportunities to me as a fellow in training in respiratory and critical medicine. In addition, I was glad to attend the meeting with my colleagues Dr Jiping Liao and Dr Chao Sun.

One highlight of my attendance was the oral presentation of my original research entitled “The role of Sirtuin1 in the macrophage polarization induced directly by airborne PM2.5”. The session was a good venue to hear and exchange ideas from experts in Environmental & Occupational Health and Epidemiology. I was also able to view papers and gain additional knowledge from their cases and research studies in other sessions. Another highlight of the congress was the gala dinner. This was an opportunity to meet and socialize with some respirologists in the Asia-Pacific region as well as young investigators from other countries, while enjoying the delicious food and the beautiful

- 6 -
view of Taipei at night.

Thank you again the APSR for the opportunity to attend the congress.

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Yijue Zhong

APSR/Paul Zimmerman Physiology Young Investigator Award

Flying high. Like the sky lanterns released by tourists in Jiufen, the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei, Taiwan provided an opportunity to dream and aim high. This is the first international convention that I was able to attend and it allowed me to see different countries unite through pulmonology, share our local experience on bilateral diaphragmatic dysfunction and gain new knowledge that could help in my future practice.

First, the pulmonologists who attended the conference showed that despite differences in culture, background and training, all aim to develop knowledge, skills and technology to better serve patients and contribute to improvements in society. There was dynamic discussion between physicians and scientists during the poster presentation and during daily congress lectures. This was an opportunity to grow through interaction and exposure to experiences from other nations.

Second, this congress allowed me to share our local experience on bilateral diaphragmatic dysfunction with people from other nations. I am very thankful for this opportunity to present my case report in an international convention. I am also honoured to be awarded this year’s APSR/Paul Zimmerman Physiology Young Investigator Award. Meeting Dr Zimmerman himself and hearing his encouragement for us to continue pursuing excellence and learning more about our fields of interest were advance Christmas gifts for me.

Lastly, the new guidelines, management approaches and experiences shared by the speakers during the different lectures provided knowledge and understanding that could help in managing our patients in our institutions. This is especially true for new technologies such as lung transplantation, which is under development in our country. This was a way for me to expand my horizon in terms of my practice as a pulmonologist.

It is clear that this conference will springboard future developments in the field of pulmonology. Hopefully it will inspire physicians and scientists to never stop learning and developing ourselves with the ultimate goal of improving our care for patients and society. I look forward to hearing updates in the next congress.

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Dr Virginia de los Reyes (left), Dr Mary Claire Orden (middle) and Dr Paul Zimmerman (right)

Mary Claire Orden

APSR/Geoffrey Bush Paediatric Young Investigator Award

I felt very privileged I was able to attend the APSR Congress 2018 which was held in Taipei, Taiwan from 29 November to 2 December 2018. It was my first time to visit Taiwan and I wish I could go back again one day. I love the food, the culture and most especially its people.

I am equally grateful that the research committee had chosen me to be the recipient of the APSR/Geoffrey Bush Paediatric Young Investigator Award for my research study “The utility of fractional exhaled nitric oxide in differentiating upper respiratory tract infection and bronchial asthma in healthy normal school children”. It was an honour to be able to share a local study with an international audience. The presentation of my research was a great experience, albeit
daunting because it was my first time to present orally in this convention.

It was the objective of the congress to provide updates on the advancement and promotion of knowledge of the respiratory system in health and disease and increase awareness of health problems in the area, and to promote exchange of knowledge among respirologists in the region. This aim was fully met as there were various novel and interesting topics and lectures during the convention. The APSR Congress also provided updates on the latest in the area of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicines. Guidelines were discussed and several research studies were presented which are very helpful and applicable in our practice. It was also a good venue to exchange knowledge among pulmonologists/sleep doctors from other countries. As a fellow in training, the congress was an opportunity to update and acquire more knowledge and skills in the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, which can help us in the decision making with regards to the diagnosis and management of our patients. It was a good scientific ground to share our own research studies and the rare cases we have encountered in our institution.

I would like to say “Thank you” to the APSR for this opportunity and support. I hope to see you all again in future congresses.

This is a very auspicious moment for me as we all have gathered once again for the much-awaited APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei, Taiwan. It is a great honour for me to be given accolades and awards and it feels great on being rewarded for the hard work that one does. I am glad that the APSR acknowledged my efforts and chose me amongst all others for this year’s APSR/Norbert Berend COPD Young Investigator Award. For the past two years, I have been attending the annual congress and each year my dream of holding this award in my hand grew strongly. And by the grace of God it is the day that I, with due diligence and gratitude am able to grasp this award firmly. This award is a dream come true and clearly a motivating spirit for all my future undertakings in Pulmonary Medicine. By receiving such an award, I am moved with more dedication and focused intentions to convert dreams into reality and prosperity in all my future endeavours.

Indeed, although it is me who is receiving this award, but behind it there are several individuals along with the great power of God who have enabled me to put in efforts in getting this award. Dr Teresita De Guia, Dr Ma. Encarnita Blanco-Limpin, Dr Aileen Guzman-Banzon, Dr Rommel Bayot and Dr Fernando Ayuya, my mentors/research advisers, have enabled me to bring the ideas into reality. My sincere gratitude to all of you for the tremendous encouragement, effort and dedication as well as for allowing me to bring out the best in me and inspire me to further reset my limits to the extreme. As they say, collated team achievements are much more mesmerizing than partial achievements succeeded through lone efforts. This award is a token of our past efforts and also a push factor for our future endeavours.
To the APSR officers and staff, to my institution the Philippine Heart Center, my sincerest and deepest gratitude for allowing me to present my research project in the annual congress. There is so much to be thankful for and this statement cannot fully express the magnitude of my appreciation. Lastly, winning this honour would not be possible without my family’s moral support and inspiration; they are truly my backbone. I cannot thank God enough for making my existence fruitful and ensuring that my focus has allowed me to drive, through dedication permeating the deeds that I do for myself and the people related to me.

The entire journey was a learning experience for me and with the success of this research project, I am more energized and charged to take up new challenging projects which would work to benefit in the field of Pulmonary Medicine.

The APSR has always been at the forefront of pulmonary medicine in the region and across the globe. It provides a venue for distinguished clinicians and researchers to share their expertise, advance their research and set trends toward improvement in the delivery of pulmonary health.

I admire the APSR because they do not stop at recognizing the key leaders in the region. They also extend their support to young researchers and clinicians like me. The various awards they bestowed on us will inspire us to produce more quality research that could pave the way to some ground-breaking ideas and shape the healthcare of tomorrow.

As an APSR/APTA Young Investigator Awardee, the APSR gave me an opportunity to join one of the post-graduate courses. I had the chance to listen to the editors of Respirology and the European Respiratory Journal, the peer reviewers, and the people behind ORCID and Wiley. Their insights changed my perspective on how to make future research publishable. It allowed me to see the publishing of research papers through their eyes.

The Congress proper allowed me to meet the pillars of the APSR and hear them speak on new guidelines, recent developments, and advances in pulmonary medicine. It was an opportune time for getting updated.

Another fun experience I had was meeting fellow young researchers. It allowed us to discuss our research, share ideas, and connect with each other. Coming from a developing country like the Philippines, I cannot help but appreciate the state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment developed countries have in their respective institutions. I also admire those that produce relevant and timely papers despite the inadequacy of equipment and laboratories.
Lastly, Taipei. Yes, Taipei. During the Gala Dinner, we saw the aboriginal traditional dances and heard the beautiful voices of their singing group, who sang one song in Chinese. It was nice to immerse in their culture, taste their food and see the wonderful sights Taipei has to offer.

Thank you very much to the APSR for the opportunity and thank you very much for choosing me as one of your awardees. It inspired me to do better and write more research. I cannot wait for the next Congress!

Anjuli May Jaen

APSR-ATS Young Investigator Award

I was honoured to receive an APSR/ATS Young Investigator Award at the APSR 2018 Congress and would like to express my appreciation to the ATS leaders Drs Polly Parsons and Jim Beck for this opportunity. This was my first time to attend an APSR Congress and to visit Taiwan, and both were great experiences!

In a Young Investigator Award session, I presented an overview of data from our studies on epigenetic regulation of Frizzled 9 and the prostacyclin analogue iloprost in the context of lung cancer chemoprevention. We have identified new mechanisms involving miRNA, lncRNA, and methylation that may modulate response to iloprost chemoprevention through Frizzled 9. As we learn more about how iloprost and Frizzled 9 work, we can make the refinements needed for clinical application of iloprost chemoprevention in populations at high risk of lung cancer. Sharing my group’s work led to valuable conversations where I shared our motivations for advancing chemoprevention strategies. I hope this generated new appreciation of the importance of lung cancer prevention.

After hearing presentations during both Young Investigator Award sessions on 30 November, I was inspired by the exciting research and perspectives of these researchers at the beginning of their bright careers.

It was a pleasure to attend the 2018 APSR Gala Dinner, where we enjoyed amazing food and wonderful entertainment! I was privileged to have time to travel around Taiwan before the conference and was truly stunned by the natural beauty of places like Taroko Gorge and Sun Moon Lake, and enlightened by cultural experiences such as Fo Guang Shan Monastery and sky lanterns in Shifen. My family is still raving about the delicious food in Taiwan and upon returning home to the United States we quickly searched for restaurants with Taiwanese chefs where we can continue to enjoy delicacies such as xiao long bao, zongzi, and brown sugar pearl milk tea.

My sincerest thanks for the honour of receiving a Young Investigator Award and I look forward to future interactions with the APSR community!

Anjuli May Jaen

APSR-ERS Young Investigator Award

It is a matter of great honour and satisfaction for me to be selected for the APSR-ERS Young Investigator Award 2018. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the APSR and the ERS for providing me this opportunity. I presented our research work titled “A qualitative study exploring the barriers and challenges to asthma management as perceived by Malaysian asthmatic patients” and “Validation of risk factors of asthma attack questionnaire among Malaysian adult asthmatic patients”. After the oral presentation, the feedback received during question and answer sessions encouraged us to extend our research from one state (Selangor) to other states of Malaysia. The findings of our studies presented at the APSR 2018 Congress will be helpful to identify the risk factors of asthma attack and optimize the asthma management by addressing the barriers and challenges as cited by Malaysian asthmatics.

In addition to one oral and poster presentation, I attended scientific sessions and two training workshops (respiratory infections and severe asthma), interacted with various speakers/chairs, visited exhibition booths, and made new research links with respiratory experts throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Throughout the congress, I received much encouragement from the world’s leading respiratory research experts. The skills and lessons learnt from the congress motivated me to keep dedicating my research career in respiratory diseases. The acknowledgement of our work through this award will definitely enhance the research productivity and passion of our research team.

I would also like to express my sincerest gratefulness to all the members of my research team (especially Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail, Dr Mohd Arif Mohd Zim, Ms Wong Yii Zhi and Ms Nurul Irfana), staff and leadership of Faculty of Pharmacy, MAHSA University, Malaysia for their kind assistance throughout these research activities.

Meredith A. Tennis
It was a great honour and privilege to be chosen as the APSR-JRS Young Investigator Award at the 23rd Congress of the APSR. I had a wonderful experience to share our work on detecting a new biomarker and autoimmunity in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Since research in this field was challenging and hard to achieve the goal, this award strongly encouraged us to keep investigating the mechanism of lung disease of unknown etiology. I appreciate all the attention, questions and comments from the audience, which became a great opportunity for learning and exchanging ideas leading to our future research. I would like to express my gratitude as well to my supervisors, Dr Shu Hashimoto, Dr Yasuhiro Gon and Dr Shuichiro Maruoka, for all the tremendous support during my PhD programme and letting me have this opportunity to present our advancement in interstitial pneumonia.

During this congress, I was able to look around the city and was amazed with the historical architecture, rich culture and delightful people. It was a perfect location to meet and learn from other researchers with different backgrounds.

I would like to thank the APSR and the JRS again for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to attend future APSR Congresses.

Mari Hikichi

**APSR-JRS Young Investigator Award**

I am very honoured to have been chosen to receive an APSR-JRS Young Investigator Award to attend the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei (29 November-2 December 2018). The title of my presentation was ‘Combination treatment with nintedanib and prednisolone for patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis’.

We focused on the treatment for patients with both idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and autoimmune features. Recently, a combination therapy with prednisolone, azathioprine, and N-acetylcysteine was reported to increase the risk of early hospitalization and death in the PANTHER trial. Thus, clinicians tend to avoid treating IPF with steroids. However, there have been few studies on combination therapy with nintedanib and prednisolone for IPF in a real-world setting. Our aim is to investigate the efficacy and toxicity of combination therapy with nintedanib and prednisolone for IPF. We analyzed the effect of the treatment by evaluating the change in FVC and assessed the differences in the FVC change and the survival time from the initiation of nintedanib treatment, between the patients who received nintedanib only (N) and those who received both nintedanib and low dose of prednisolone (NP). Moreover, we analyzed the safety of nintedanib, specifically with regard to adverse gastrointestinal events in a real-world setting. In our presentation, we showed that there was no significant difference in the FVC change and survival time between the N and NP groups. The incidence of diarrhea was
significantly lower in the NP group than that in the N group. There was no significant difference in other adverse effects between the two groups. Therefore, the combination therapy comprising prednisolone and nintedanib may not differ to nintedanib monotherapy in efficacy and toxicity and may prevent nintedanib-induced diarrhea in IPF patients.

I received valuable feedback after my presentation about our clinical study. The future plan of our research will be clearer. We obtained many important new findings of the basic and clinical science of respiratory medicine in the APSR conference.

Taipei was very beautiful and friendly city and I enjoyed eating Taiwan’s traditional food and going sight-seeing in Taipei city. I hope that further APSR Congresses will be held in Taipei again in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank my department members in our department, especially Dr Kazuhisa Takahashi, for their support and encouragement.

I would like to thank everyone who joined and helped this project, particularly Dr Dean Augustine M K Choi and Dr Suzanne M Cloonan (Weill Cornell Medicine, USA) for the support and discussion for this project, and also Dr Li-Chao Fan (Shanghai Tongji Hospital, China) for the great contribution in the work about lipid synthesis in AT2 cells. I would also thank Dr Chunxue Bai (Fudan University Zhongshan Hospital, China) for hosting the China day session on 29 November, and for providing the opportunity for presentation and scientific sharing. Finally, I appreciate Dr Chong-Jen Yu, the President of the 23rd APSR Congress, for this wonderful and probably one of the most successful APSR Congresses.

I would like to thank everyone who joined and helped this project, particularly Dr Dean Augustine M K Choi and Dr Suzanne M Cloonan (Weill Cornell Medicine, USA) for the support and discussion for this project, and also Dr Li-Chao Fan (Shanghai Tongji Hospital, China) for the great contribution in the work about lipid synthesis in AT2 cells. I would also thank Dr Chunxue Bai (Fudan University Zhongshan Hospital, China) for hosting the China day session on 29 November, and for providing the opportunity for presentation and scientific sharing. Finally, I appreciate Dr Chong-Jen Yu, the President of the 23rd APSR Congress, for this wonderful and probably one of the most successful APSR Congresses.

Dr Motoyasu Kato (left) and Dr Arata Azuma (right)

Motoyasu Kato

APSR Young Investigator Travel Award

It was my great honour to receive the APSR Young Investigator Travel Award to attend the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei (29 November to 2 December 2018). This was a wonderful platform not only for the Asia-Pacific region but for international scholars in various lung fields to share and learn the new clinical and scientific progress.

My presentation was about the role of mitofusins in type 2 alveolar cells (AT2) and in the development of pulmonary fibrosis. In the past decade, the critical role of mitochondria has been uncovered in regulating cell metabolic reprogramming. Mitofusins (MFN), including MFN1 and MFN2, are responsible for mitochondrial outer membrane fusion, and have been shown to orchestrate cell metabolic adaptations to various stresses. Several studies suggest that perturbed mitochondrial fusion and mitochondrial damage in AT2 cells may affect pulmonary fibrosis development. To elucidate the role of MFN1 or MFN2 in the function specific to AT2 cells and in pulmonary fibrosis development, we generated mice with deletion of MFN1 or/and MFN2 specifically in AT2 cells, using Sftpc-driven CreER2 recombinase. We found that MFN1 and MFN2 differently regulate mitochondrial morphology in AT2 cells, showing that MFN1 depletion causes mitochondrial fragmentation with decreased mitochondrial size, while MFN2 depletion leads to the appearance of swollen mitochondria. Deletion of MFN1 or MFN2 in AT2 cells exacerbates the mitochondrial damage in AT2 cells after bleomycin treatment, resulting in more severe lung fibrosis. Strikingly, mice with deletion of both MFN1 and MFN2 in AT2 cells can develop spontaneous pulmonary fibrosis. The results above suggest that MFN1 and MFN2 may have a critical role in certain function of AT2 cells. Through extensive transcriptomic and lipidomic profiling specific in AT2 cells, we revealed that MFN1 and MFN2 are both crucial for lipid metabolism and surfactant lipid production in AT2 cells under mitochondrial damage. We further confirmed that impaired lipid synthesis in AT2 cells will exacerbate lung fibrosis development after bleomycin treatment.

I would like to thank everyone who joined and helped this project, particularly Dr Dean Augustine M K Choi and Dr Suzanne M Cloonan (Weill Cornell Medicine, USA) for the support and discussion for this project, and also Dr Li-Chao Fan (Shanghai Tongji Hospital, China) for the great contribution in the work about lipid synthesis in AT2 cells. I would also thank Dr Chunxue Bai (Fudan University Zhongshan Hospital, China) for hosting the China day session on 29 November, and for providing the opportunity for presentation and scientific sharing. Finally, I appreciate Dr Chong-Jen Yu, the President of the 23rd APSR Congress, for this wonderful and probably one of the most successful APSR Congresses.

Kuei-Pin Chung

Kuei-Pin Chung

APSR Young Investigator Travel Award

I was very honoured and grateful to receive the APSR Young Investigator Travel Award at the APSR Congress 2018 in Taipei. This was the first time for me to attend an international congress and I was impressed by various topics and recent studies from all over the world.
The APSR Congress offered me a special opportunity to present our research on 'Immunological analysis of pleural effusion in cancer patients who received immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) for the development of biomarkers' in an oral session. Now, anti-PD-1 therapy of ICIs is an essential therapeutic option for NSCLC patients as well as several cancers and gaining more insight in the immunological aspect of the tumour microenvironment such as malignant pleural effusions (MPEs) which is of great interest in order to identify new biomarkers. In this study, we comparatively analyzed lymphocytes in MPEs by flow cytometry from cancer patients who received ICI or not. Our study suggests that anti-PD-1 therapy upregulates alternative immune checkpoints other than PD-1 on T lymphocytes in MPEs and lower expression of LAG-3 on CD4+ T cells and IL-17-producing CD4+ T cells in pleural effusion may be predictive biomarkers of response to ICI. In this oral session, I was very pleased to have time to discuss our study with the excellent chairman and audience, and received beneficial feedback on our research.

During the congress, not only our oral session, but also many sessions such as posters, lectures and symposia, gave me a new perspective of target molecules, prognostic factors and therapies of lung cancer, COPD, asthma and interstitial pneumonia. The great experience of the congress will reinforce our further and new studies and give a special advantage to daily clinical practice.

Taiwan is familiar to Japan and I was very comfortable to spend time and enjoyed the congress with my colleague.

Again, I appreciated that the APSR gave me this wonderful and precious experience as well as the honour of a travel grant of this Young Investigator Award. I sincerely hope to attend the APSR Congress again in the future.

Yuki Ikematsu

APSR Assembly Fund Award 2018
Environmental & Occupational Health and Epidemiology Assembly Awardees
Chao Sun
Jun-Pyo Myong

Colin Sullivan Awardees from Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep Assembly
Wenyang Li
Mei Ching Yong
I-Duo Wang

Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly Awardees
Hiroshi Shima
Geak Poh Tan

- 13 -
Asthma Assembly Awardees
Jiameng Zhou
Dorothy Cheong
Yoshinari Endo

COPD Assembly Awardees
Yuandi Wang
Shirley Ngai
Wan Shun Daniel Tan

Clinical Allergy and Immunology Assembly Awardee
Mitsuhiro Moda

Assembly Reports
Assembly reports are available via www.apsresp.org/about/assemblies.html (members only access)

Councillor Reports
Council reports are available via www.apsresp.org/about/councils.html (members only access).

Message from FIRS Executive Director
FIRS was involved in two United Nations High-Level Meetings in September, on tuberculosis and noncommunicable diseases, and joined activities that led up to and followed them. At the meetings, UN member nations signed a declaration to work to eliminate tuberculosis and to reduce the impact of noncommunicable diseases. FIRS and the respiratory community emphasized that air pollution should be a WHO major health risk and were delighted when it was designated so at the meetings. Following the meetings, the task is to hold countries accountable to their pledges. FIRS was involved in the follow-up WHO meetings and pledged to have its organizations’ members take a lead in educating patients and communities on the health effects of air pollution.

FIRS’ position paper, Electronic Cigarettes and Youth, cautioned about the hazards of nicotine in young people. The goal was to reduce exposure and enticement of children to electronic cigarettes, which have become a major health problem. FIRS’ two-part article on Air Pollution and Non-communicable Diseases emphasized the deleterious effects of air pollution on many organ systems. The goal of this document was to mobilize all health-care organizations and workers in the fight for clean air.

FIRS has been involved (on the executive committee) in GARD (Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Disease), a WHO alliance to support its mission. GARD is being reinvigorated with many new activities; its meeting in 2019 will be held in China.

Dr Kwun Fong took the lead in a FIRS application for a long-acting muscarinic agent to be on the WHO essential medicine list.

Dr Arth Nana, former president of the APSR, will represent FIRS at the prestigious Prince Mahidol Award Conference, which will also have representatives from the WHO, World Bank, and UN agencies.

World Lung Day (25 September) was greatly expanded in 2018 with 70 partners, nearly 4,000 Facebook posts, and a hashtag seen by over 2 million people. Please contact Lisa Roscoe
Forthcoming Meetings

2019

2nd Indonesia - Asian Intensive Reading of Radiographs for Pneumoconioses According to ILO Classification
5-7 February
Jakarta, Indonesia
Email: pipkraparu@gmail.com
Website: www.pulmo-ui.com/index.php/pipkra?id=244

2019 PCCP Annual Chest Convention
5-8 March
Manila, Philippines
Email: secretariat@philchest.org
Website: www.philchest.org

Advanced Course on Sleep & Breathing 2019 cum Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and CHEST Delegation
Hong Kong and Macau Limited
22-24 March
Hong Kong
Email: sigourney.liu@mims.com
Website: www.hktsmeetings.com (under construction)

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

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

MTS Annual Congress 2019
18-21 July
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: m.thoracicsociety@gmail.com, secretariat@mts.org.my
Website: www.mts.org.my/mts2019/

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

16th Annual Meeting: Work Conference of the Indonesian Society of Respirology (ISR)
11-14 September
Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia
Email: konkerpdpi.2019@gmail.com
Website: under construction

WASOG/JSSOG 2019 (Joint Conference of International Conference on Sarcoidosis and Interstitial Lung Diseases 2019 (WASOG) and The 39th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous Disorders (JSSOG))
9-11 October
Yokohama, Japan
Email: wasog2019@coac.co.jp
Website: www.wasog.org

PULMOCON 2019 (6th International Conference on Lung Health of BLF)
4-6 November
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Email: pulmocon@gmail.com
Website: www.bdlungfoundation.com/

128th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
7-8 November
Seoul, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: eng.lungkorea.org/

24th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
14-17 November
Hanoi, Vietnam
Website: https://apsr2019.vn/

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
Autumn Respiratory Seminar 2019 of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and CHEST Delegation
Hong Kong and Macau Limited
November (TBC)
Hong Kong
Email: sigourney.liu@mims.com
Website: www.hktsmeetings.com (under construction)

2020
129th Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)
11 April
Daejeon Metropolitan City, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Website: eng.lungkorea.org/

60th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)
24-26 April
Nagoya, Japan
Website: under construction

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: 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

2021
26th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
18-21 November
Seoul, Korea

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
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**Secretary General & President-Elect:** Yoichi Nakanishi  
**Treasurer:** Chunxue Bai  
**Co-Editors in Chief:** Philip Bardin, Paul Reynolds

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<td>Australia</td>
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