



Newsletter

Editor: Yoichi Nakanishi
Associate Editors: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, David CL Lam, Suga Konno

Message from the President

A Happy New Year to all APSR members.



Last year was a year of COVID-19. The APSR was also influenced by the disease, and the APSR 2020 Congress in Kyoto was postponed to 2021. I would express sincere appreciation to the Japanese Local Congress Committee team for their tremendous efforts to re-arrange the Congress, and also to the Korean Local Congress Committee team for their kind acceptance of postponement of the APSR Congress in Seoul to 2022.

Under this difficult situation, we should not stagnate scientific progress and educational activities. We have held two COVID-19 webinars, three APSR virtual meetings, an ATS-APSR joint webinar, joint symposia with the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP), the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) and the Taiwan

Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM). It is a great pleasure that many APSR members joined these web meetings and all of them were so successful. I am profoundly grateful to the Central Congress Committee members, Assembly members, presenters, facilitators, audiences, en bloc members, sponsors and the APSR secretariat office.

The Asia-Pacific region has the biggest population in the world and is accomplishing rapid development, though it still has many health problems such as air pollution, tobacco smoking, respiratory infection including tuberculosis, and poor medical infrastructure. We are happy to have lots of projects to solve these problems. This year, we are going to further enhance our activities in order to achieve our objectives, i.e., “The advancement and promotion of knowledge of the respiratory system in health and disease, which strives to encourage research, improve clinical practice through teaching, increase awareness of health problems in the area and promote the exchange of knowledge among respirologists in the Asia-Pacific region”.

Although we cannot feel completely refreshed in mind and body due to the COVID-19 surge, we can still be in this world and can feel at least average-sized happiness. I would like to thank our society, friends and family with great sincerity. Let’s make this year better than last year.

Finally, I would introduce one famous haiku made by the haiku poet, Issa Kobayashi. (Haiku is the shortest poetry in the world)

my “Happy New Year!”
about average
my spring

Yoichi Nakanishi

Message from the new President-Elect

The Beginning of a Year is always a good time to review, to sum up, to evaluate and to look forward to the new year with hope.

In 2020, I was really honoured to have gathered enough support from colleagues in the APSR to take up this position in preparation to serve the APSR further. It’s my fortune to have all the predecessors who laid down a strong and solid foundation for the APSR. Strengths have been built up but we do need to face up to challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic imposes a great challenge for the APSR. The annual Congress has had to be postponed. Educational activities have had to be conducted online, and we seem to be a long and tough distance away from the possible end of this pandemic.

We are, however, looking forward to the challenge of working even more closely with colleagues in the APSR. The online platform doesn't separate us but enables us to meet and to host educational activities even more frequently than having physical meetings as before.

As President-Elect, I have the luxury of working with current office bearers and with great help from the APSR Secretariat. We are planning ahead to revamp the APSR strategic planning and action in the region to face up to the challenges ahead of us and to move forward in the New Normal state to come.

I would wish you all stay Safe and Healthy for the New Year.

David CL Lam

Message from the Co-Editors in Chief of *Respirology*

Firstly, we'd like to wish all APSR members a healthy and prosperous new year. 2020 has been very challenging and we hope that 2021 will bring relief for everyone.

In November 2020, we presented *Respirology's* 2020 Annual Report to the APSR Executive Committee. A copy of the report is also available to members via the APSR website. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we're happy to report that *Respirology* performed well in 2020, its 25th year of publishing. The journal experienced a significant jump in manuscript submissions this year, especially during the months of April, May and June when submissions doubled compared to last year. Close to a quarter of submissions were on topics related to COVID-19, and 12% of these were accepted and fast-tracked for publication. A [collection](#) of all COVID-19 related publications is available on *Respirology's* website, and the journal has dedicated the cover of its [December issue](#) to the topic of COVID-19.

We're very thankful to our editors, Editorial Board members and reviewers for continuing to dedicate their time to *Respirology* while also dealing with the demands of being at the frontline. Thanks to their support, *Respirology* was able to maintain the same turnaround time (9 days until rejection before review, and 56 days until first decision after review). Since the last newsletter, we've welcomed Garun Hamilton, Stavros Selemidis and Emily Stone, and promoted Frits Franssen, to the Deputy Editor team responsible for pre-

screening new submissions. The pre-screening process continues to be very competitive, with only 12% of Original Articles being approved for external peer review. But more than 50% of those are eventually accepted for publication. The Asia-Pacific region continues to be well-represented with more than half of the published papers reporting research from this region.

The 2019 impact factors were announced in June and it was pleasing to see that *Respirology's* Impact Factor has increased to 4.88 (from 4.756 last year) and the journal remains in the top 20% of *Respiratory System* journals (*Clarivate Journal Citation Reports*) ranking 12th out of 64. A list of the top cited papers is available on our [website](#) and includes many review papers. Since the last newsletter, *Respirology* has published two new series of reviews of great interest – the '*Interventional Pulmonology Pearls*' series edited by Phan Nguyen, Pyng Lee and Noriaki Kurimoto, was published as a Special Issue in September; and the '*Essential Update in Lung Cancer Medicine*' edited by Alistair Miller and Emily Stone, was published as a Supplement in November.

We'd also like to draw your attention to the winning papers of the 2020 Fukuchi Award for Best Original Research Paper in *Respirology* - *Predictive factors and prognostic effect of telomere shortening in pulmonary fibrosis* and *Novel endosomal NOX2 oxidase inhibitor ameliorates pandemic influenza A virus-induced lung inflammation in mice*. With the help of a generous donation by Dr Fukuchi, we can now reward two papers per year, starting 2020. We congratulate the authors on this achievement and we look forward to meeting them at the award ceremony at the 2021 APSR Congress in Kyoto.

This year has highlighted the importance of thorough peer review and rapid publication of high-quality respiratory research. We're proud that *Respirology* is part of this important mission and we thank all our Editors, Editorial Board members, Editorial Office staff, APSR staff and Wiley for supporting us in this goal by offering their time, knowledge and expertise.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

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

Respirology Case Reports saw a 66% increase in publication in 2020. Submissions almost tripled during the period of March to July and overall increased by 34% in 2020 compared to 2019. We received manuscripts from 29 different countries (compared to 27 last year). The majority of submissions originated from Japan (40%), followed by Australia (14%) Malaysia (9%) and Taiwan (6%). To cater for this increase in

publication, we are pleased to announce that we will publish 12 issues in 2021 (compared to 9 in 2020).

We received 24 manuscripts on COVID-19 and published 9 in 2020. All COVID-19 related papers published are accessible in a special collections on our website: [Special collection COVID-19](#).

The acceptance rate remains high and stable at about 70% and on average, the authors are informed of a first decision within 23 days of submission. The articles, once accepted, are published online within a few weeks and then available on PubMed Central within a couple of weeks.

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 individual 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. Some other countries in the region, are offered a waiver of the open access publication fee by our publisher, Wiley, so we encourage authors from these countries to take advantage of this opportunity to publish in our journal. For an up-to-date list of countries benefiting from discount or waiver, please visit the journal's website: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/article_publication_charges_and_discounts.htm and <https://authorservices.wiley.com/open-research/open-access/for-authors/waivers-and-discounts.html>

We are pleased to report that we have now published the case report that won the poster award at the APSR congress in Hanoi: Huan, N-C, Mohamed Arifin, N, Khoo, T-S, Lai, Y-C. (2020) Management of extensive subcutaneous emphysema using negative pressure wound therapy dressings. *Respirology Case Reports*, 8(3), e00544. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rcr2.544>. Dr Huan and colleagues received a waiver of the open access publication fee for their case report as well as editorial assistance to prepare their case for publication. We also published the runner-up case report: Sarkar, NK, Gope, BP. (2020) Pulmonary tuberculosis in an immunocompetent patient with primary laryngeal aspergillosis. *Respirology Case Reports*, 8(5), e00586. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rcr2.586>

Readership remains global and has again increased with the number of downloads reaching over 200,000 (from Wiley's 2019 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 and 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 2020, we farewelled our Editorial Board members, Garun Hamilton from Australia, Fabien Maldonado from the US and Wai-Cho Yu from Hong Kong, who stepped down due to other commitments, and Hiromasa Inoue from Japan who had come to the end of his term. We welcomed new Editors Diego M Castillo Villegas from Spain, Simon Joosten, Yet Hong Khor and Phan Nguyen from Australia, Jasleen Kaur Pannu from the US and Cameron Sullivan from New Zealand who have now settled into their new roles. We are indebted to our Editorial Board members for their work in reviewing all the case reports submitted to the journal in particular this year, when they accepted a heavier workload than usual despite all the additional challenges they faced in their practices. We would like to thank each one of them for their commitment and support, their expert advice 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 ensure that the journal runs smoothly on a daily basis, as well as the rest of the Editorial Office staff, the team at Wiley who managed to continue publication without interruption despite the global pandemic and the APSR Secretariat.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2021.

Christopher Lai

Message from the new APSR Education Committee Chairperson

Dear friends

It gives me great pleasure to serve as Chairperson of the Education Committee of the APSR. Indeed it has been a challenging in the past 12 months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 63 million cases have been reported worldwide with 1.3 million deaths. The economic impact has

spared very few countries and individuals, with many losing their jobs. Despite this, there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel with positive news of at least three effective vaccines in the near future.

I believe that in every situation, there must be important lessons for us to learn. With regard to COVID-19, I will share two thoughts that have echoed loudly in my mind in current times.

1. We are all interconnected. If we are irresponsible and do not follow safe distancing and universal masking rules, we might be infected with the virus. The younger folks amongst us may escape with nothing more than a few sniffles, but they might bring the potentially deadly virus home to their vulnerable elderly parents.
2. Importance of alternative forms of education, like on-line forums and webinars. I have never 'Zoomed' so much in my life. In the current pandemic, up to date information via on-line educational meetings and symposiums are extremely useful for us in our clinical practice. This helps us stay the course amidst the cyber world filled with fake news.

With these thoughts in mind, I look forward to working with all of you in the APSR. Education has remained a foremost mission of the Society since its inception in 1982. If you have any new ideas or thoughts or are willing to contribute your time and expertise to the Education Committee, please feel free to drop me a note.

Stay safe.

Philip Eng

Message from the APSR Research Committee Chairperson

Happy new year to all members of the APSR.

In 2020, the APSR launched the new “Multi-Country Research Project”. Nine research proposals were submitted before the deadline and sent to 25 research committee members for evaluation and scoring. The best scored research project was from Dr Ho Namkoong, Dr Naoki Hasegawa, Dr Kozo Morimoto and Dr Takanori Asakura from Japan, Dr Rachel Thomson from Australia and Dr Byung Woo Jhun from South Korea. This research project was approved by the APSR Executive Committee members in October. After the approval, the agreement was signed by the APSR and the selected project team, and the ‘selected research project’ was announced on the APSR webpage apsresp.org/research.html This new project started on 1 January 2021.

The APSR has sponsored APSR Short-Term Research Scholarships and APSR Travel Awards

to the JRS, ATS, ERS, CHEST annual conferences and the APSR Annual Congress every year. In the era of COVID-19, even though most of the international meetings are held in a virtual format, the APSR continues to sponsor our members to these scientific meetings.

Young Whan Kim

Message from the new APSR Membership Committee Chairperson

Happy New Year to all members of the APSR.

The APSR has been growing with en bloc members in the Asia-Pacific region. There are two types of membership in the APSR, en bloc membership and individual membership. New membership categories for individual members will start from the next membership term starting in April 2021.

New membership dues for individual members from April 2021

	<i>Tier1</i>	<i>Tier2</i>	<i>Tier3</i>
<i>Ordinary membership</i>	60	40	25
<i>Associate membership</i>	30	20	15
<i>Undergraduate Student membership</i>	20	15	10

Currently 633 individual members have been registered from 40 countries, showing the increase of 15 individual members compared with the previous year.

En bloc member societies are divided into three tiers according to their GNI.

Tier 1 societies are JRS, Japanese Respiratory Society (12,768 members), TSANZ, Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (1,655 members), TSPCCM, Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (650 members), KATRD, Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (500 members), STS, Singapore Thoracic Society (93 members), and HKTS, Hong Kong Thoracic Society (223 members). These six societies' total membership is 15,889.

Tier 2 society is MTS, Malaysian Thoracic Society (254 members).

Tier 3 societies are PCCP, Philippine College of Chest Physicians (218 members), ISR, Indonesian Society of Respirology (515 members), SLCP, Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists (72 members), VNRS, Vietnam Respiratory Society (75 members), BLF, Bangladesh Lung Foundation (150 members), and MSR, Mongolian Respiratory Society (59 members). These six societies' total membership is 1,089.

Total number of en bloc membership is currently 17,232, which shows the increase of 1,040 members compared with the last year (as of 1 November 2020)

As the chairperson of the APSR Membership Committee, I hope all members of the APSR enjoy the privilege of membership of the APSR.

Yasutaka Nakano

Report of the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting

Under the current difficult situation, we had series of sponsored Assembly Virtual Meeting successfully. It is a great pleasure that more than one hundred abstracts were accepted. Among the accepted abstracts, three abstracts were awarded in each symposium. The awardees list and reports from awardees are in this issue. Please enjoy the reports. All accepted abstracts are shown at apsrsp.org/archive/avm/abstract-index.html

Assembly Virtual Symposia

- Respiratory Infections (non-tuberculous) Assembly Symposium sponsored by bioMérieux and BioFire
“Achieving Better Diagnoses and Outcomes for Patients with Respiratory Infections, With or Without a Pandemic”
Date: 10 November 2020
Main speaker: Dr Tufik Assad
Abstract presenters:
Catherine Jordan (Philippines) *Gold Award
Muhammad Imran (Pakistan) *Silver Award
Matthew Ing (Australia) *Silver Award
Aniket Inamdar (India)
Santony (Indonesia)
- Respiratory Structure & Function Assembly Symposium sponsored by Orient EuroPharma
“Exploring the Small Airway Disease”
Date: 21 November 2020
Main speaker: Prof Alberto Papi
Abstract presenters:
Joan P.Y. Sim (Australia) *Gold Award
Naoya Tanabe (Japan) *Silver Award
Tomohiro Handa (Japan) *Silver Award
- Asthma Assembly Symposium sponsored by AstraZeneca
“Asthma Paradoxes”
Date: 28 November 2020
Main speaker: Prof Hao-Chien Wang
Abstract presenters:
Keiko Kan-o (Japan) *Gold Award
Tsunahiko Hirano (Japan) *Silver Award
Noriyuki Tashima (Japan) *Silver Award
Duminda Yasaratne (Sri Lanka)

Kazuto Matsunaga, the APSR Central Congress
Committee Chairperson
Yuanlin Song, Assembly Virtual Meeting Organizer

~Reports from awardees presented at the Assembly Virtual Meeting~

Respiratory Infections (non-tuberculous) Assembly Symposium



Being able to receive the news that my abstract was one of the chosen studies to be presented for the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting was something that boosted our morale especially during these trying times. Few days after, I was able to receive bigger news that my abstract was the recipient of the Gold Award among the chosen abstracts for the respiratory infections (non-tuberculous) symposium. It was definitely a blessing to be given the opportunity to represent the Philippines and the St. Luke's Medical Center, and to be able to share our study on an international platform with a bonus of being chosen as the best abstract for this assembly.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and congratulations to all the organizers of this virtual meeting who really put a lot of effort and hard work in order for this conference to push through despite and in spite of the odds of pandemic. Indeed, this virtual conference has provided us with an opportunity to showcase our research, express our thoughts, share our knowledge and gain new ones in return from the presentations and discussions during the symposium. It was well organized and all of the staff have been very accommodating even to my most trivial queries despite us working in different time zones. Despite not being able to meet face-to-face, this symposium was able to serve as an effective avenue for learning and certainly, a lot of new ideas and information have been conveyed not only to the presenters, but also to the rest of the attendees.

After my presentation in the symposium, I received a lot of positive feedback and valuable input regarding our study. All the questions posted and comments given during my presentation were highly appreciated. These remarks have inspired and challenged me at the same time to come up with better research in the future.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to my co-authors, Dr Timmons Cruz, Dr Armin Masbang and Dr Marites Tan-Ang. This study would not have been a success without your valuable input and guidance. I would also like to thank the Department of Medicine and Institute of Pulmonary Medicine of St. Luke's Medical

Center for their unwavering support.

Again, thank you the APSR for giving me a source of joy and inspiration during these difficult times. I hope and pray that I will be given another opportunity to participate and present in upcoming congress once this pandemic is over. Here's to wishing that everyone will remain safe and healthy as we work our way towards winning this battle against the pandemic!

Catherine E. Jordan



I am Dr Muhammad Imran, Consultant Pulmonologist at COVID-19 Hospital Peshawar, Pakistan. In the midst of the corona pandemic when all activities were at a standstill, the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting gave an excellent platform

for sharing our experience with rest of the world. It was great event, where I had the opportunity to present my abstract titled "Prevalence of Covid-19 in asymptomatic healthy residents of border quarantine facilities of district Khyber, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan". Special thanks to the APSR committee for honouring me with a Silver Award. It is indeed, a moment of great pride for me. Thank you!

In our study the overall prevalence of COVID-19 was 10%. Men were involved much more than women. Moreover, taxi and truck driving came out to be significant risk factor for contracting infection. Most of the drivers usually transport patients from border areas to different hospitals of Peshawar, stay in groups for their meals and refreshment, which puts them at increased risk for contracting infection. Most of the positive individuals remained asymptomatic throughout study periods.

Apart from sharing of our research, the Assembly Virtual Meeting provided an opportunity to meet with renowned researchers like Dr Tufik Assad. His experience about achieving better diagnoses and outcomes for patients with respiratory infections with or without a pandemic, compelled us to review our standard operating procedures and make space for BioFire-FilmArray. The data for BioFire-Film Array was very convincing and would help us to make swift diagnosis and manage patients appropriately.

Furthermore, fellow abstract presenters also shared their experience on various aspects of non-TB respiratory infections. Some important topics, like role of thrombolysis in thoracic empyema, pulmonary rehabilitation and comparison between CRB and qSOFA score, were really helpful.

Lastly, I would like to thank the APSR Secretariat for arranging such knowledgeable events. I am also planning to attend symposiums on exploring the small airway disease by one of my favorite presenters Prof Alberto Papi and Asthma paradoxes by Prof Hao-Chien Wang. On the whole, the event helped us a lot in uplifting our research and professional experience and I am looking forward to being an active member of the APSR and attend future events well.

Muhammad Imran



It was an honour to be able to participate and present at the recent APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting for respiratory infections. It has been the first international virtual symposium I have been involved in during 2020 and I can only speak

glowingly about the fantastic organisation and efficiency surrounding this event. It is a testament to the dedication of Dr Yoichi Nakanishi and the APSR team that coordinated an international symposium in the midst of a global pandemic.

I thoroughly enjoyed the symposium and was impressed with the significant contributions by all of the authors to the growing literature surrounding respiratory infections. On reflection it is uplifting that despite a global pandemic and international restrictions, we are all a part of a worldwide medical fraternity that continues to strive, through evidence-based medicine, to improve patient outcomes.

I had the pleasure of receiving the Silver Award for our study entitled "*Management of thoracic empyema in an Australian tertiary referral hospital; a 36-month retrospective study.*" I'm incredibly humbled by this award and would like to thank the APSR on behalf of all the authors for the recognition of our work. The symposium gave me an excellent opportunity to present our work and field questions that were insightful and thought provoking.

Thank you.

Matthew Ing

Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly Symposium

I am very honoured to have been selected to receive the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting Gold Award and to attend the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting 2020. My study was on the "Investigation of airway oscillometry indices in post-lung transplantation: a cross sectional study", where we found that oscillometry indices – in particular R_5 ,



R_{5-20} , X_5 and A_x – reflect allograft dysfunction in lung transplant recipients through a comparison with spirometry FEV_1 , and could also differentiate between Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction severity.

The APSR AVM 2020 was an amazing experience where I was given a platform to present my work to an international audience. It has been a challenging year for everyone, and it is regrettable that the APSR Kyoto Congress had to be postponed. Nevertheless, this Assembly Virtual Meeting was very well organized and delivered a valuable experience. Presenters who shared different findings from a myriad of topics contributed to the success of the AVM. It was exciting to learn from many respectable senior doctors, some of whom have devoted decades of hard work researching in the field of respiratory medicine. The sessions that I attended offered new perspectives in respiratory medicine and furthered my interest in this field. I also appreciated all the questions and comments from the audience, which served as a great opportunity for us to interact and learn from each other.

Finally, my sincerest gratitude goes to my supervisors: Dr David Darley, Dr Katrina Tonga and Prof Marshall Plit for their expertise and unwavering support. I would also like to thank everyone else who have helped make this study possible. As a medical student, I am deeply humbled to receive this recognition and it is a great encouragement for me to pursue future research work.

I am extremely grateful to the APSR for providing me this opportunity to participate in this meeting. I sincerely hope to attend the APSR Congress in person in future.

Joan P.Y. Sim



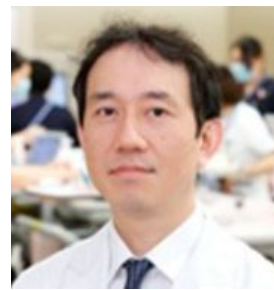
It was my great honour to receive the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting Silver Award. My presentation was about disproportionately impaired diffusion capacity relative to airflow limitation on chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease (COPD). This study was based on the collaboration by Japanese and Korean research groups. We analyzed clinical and structural features and long-term prognosis in the two cohorts including the Korea COPD Subgroup Study cohort and Kyoto University cohort. Airflow limitation was assessed using FEV_1 and diffusion capacity was assessed using D_{LCO} . The results showed that a disproportionately impaired D_{LCO}

relative to FEV_1 was commonly found in both cohorts. Furthermore, the data showed that the disproportionately impaired D_{LCO} relative to FEV_1 was associated with greater symptoms, reduced exercise capacity, paraseptal and centrilobular emphysema, arterial blood gas abnormality (lower PaO_2 and $PaCO_2$), and increased long-term mortality in COPD patients. Although we could not attend a face-to-face meeting due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, I made my presentation online and got important feedback.

Finally, I would like to thank all the collaborators in Japan and Korea for their great contributions and also thank the members of the APSR, especially the Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly, for giving me this opportunity. Hopefully, we can see each other face to face and directly discuss the pathophysiology of lung disease in the next APSR conference.

Naoya Tanabe



I was very honoured to receive the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting Silver Award at the Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly Symposium. During this hard situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish all of the APSR

members are keeping safe. This symposium was one of the steps to overcome this difficult situation and continue academic exchanges between researchers.

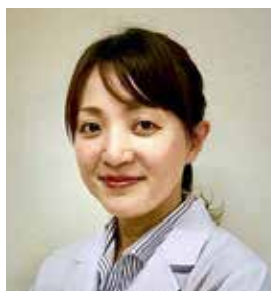
The main theme of this symposium was small airway disease (SAD). Prof Alberto Papi made an excellent lecture about SAD in asthma and COPD. Dr Tanabe presented his research on COPD phenotyping using pulmonary function parameters, and Dr Sim presented her study on the clinical utility of oscillometry in the assessment of CLAD.

I made a presentation about my research conducted in collaboration with Fujifilm Corporation. We developed an artificial intelligence-based quantitative CT technology, and quantified parenchymal and vascular volumes in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). We found that the vascular volumes in upper regions were independently associated with survival in IPF, while the extent of hyperlucent lung volumes were not.

I really enjoyed all of the presentations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the APSR for this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing you at the APSR annual congress next year in Kyoto.

Tomohiro Handa

Asthma Assembly Symposium



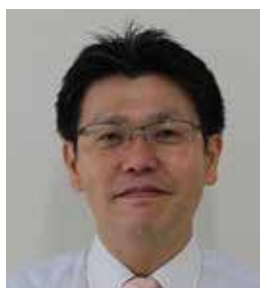
It was an honour and privilege to be selected as a recipient of the APSR Asthma Assembly Gold Award. I would like to thank everyone who organized the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting (AVM). We were forced to stop all experiments in our lab

after the government declared a nationwide state of emergency on April due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and many physician scientists have been still in a difficult situation here in Japan. It was a great pleasure to present our basic research in the APSR AVM which encouraged me to pursue further research.

The title of my presentation was “Incense smoke induces airway hyperresponsiveness, alterations of tight junction proteins and loss of airway epithelial barrier integrity via oxidative stress”. As you know, incense burning is a common cultural practice in many Asian countries. Recent clinical studies have suggested that inhalation of incense smoke may result in impaired lung function and asthma. In the presentation, we tried to show experimental evidence to link incense smoke exposure with airway dysfunction and suggest its detrimental effects. I greatly appreciate Dr Lee’s good comments and suggestions on our study.

I sincerely hope to attend 25th Congress of the APSR 2021 and make face to face conversation with many researchers.

Keiko Kan-o



I was deeply honored to be a part of the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting and receive the Silver Award of Asthma Assembly Symposium in 2020. The title of my presentation was “Airway TNF-LIGHT expression and associated molecular

inflammatory profiles in asthma patients with persistent airflow limitation.” New TNF family ligand, LIGHT induces inflammation by proinflammatory cytokines and promotes fibrosis in the airway and the molecule has been thought to be a crucial driver of the mechanism of difficult asthma. Therefore, we demonstrated that abundant LIGHT in the asthmatic airway was associated with persistent airflow limitation during treatment by ICS and the overexpression of cells and mediators which are linked to airway remodeling and steroid resistance. In short, inflammatory cells, which was induced by

stimulation such as smoking, air-pollution and virus, could provide extracellular matrix (ECM) dysregulation, neutrophil / T cell activation and oxidative / nitrative stress through LIGHT. Our results suggested that cooperative involvement of LIGHT with inflammatory and profibrogenic radical/molecules may have a pivotal role in the persistently steroid-resistant airflow limitation of patients with asthma.

I know that I wouldn’t have been at the AVM if it was not for the support of my supervisor Kazuto Matsunaga and my coworkers. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone have been supporting to me, people involved in the selections and all related people. I hope I contribute to the further success of the APSR and respiratory medicine. Furthermore, I want to attend the APSR annual congress and am looking forward to being able to see the APSR members again in the future.

Tsunahiko Hirano



I was very honoured to receive the APSR Assembly Virtual Meeting Silver Award in 2020. This was the first time for me to attend an international virtual meeting. It was a great pity that the APSR 2020 Congress had been postponed due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. However, thanks to the efforts of the APSR President, Prof Nakanishi, the chairs, the secretariats, and AstraZeneca, the Asthma Assembly Virtual Meeting was held in November 2020. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to present our research at the meeting.

My title was “Elevated serum free fatty acids may be a risk factor of adult onset asthma: Nagahama Study”. Obesity is a risk factor for asthma, especially in females. Plasma free fatty acid levels are usually elevated in obesity. There were reports of metabolome analysis focusing the relationship between serum fatty acids and the morbidity or the severity of asthma. The associations between levels of serum fatty acids and long-term asthma incidence remain unknown. In this study, we comprehensively performed mass spectrometry of serum fatty acids and identified the fatty acids that contribute to the asthma incidence by partial least squares discriminant analysis. The Nagahama epidemiological study is a long-term, large-scale cohort study that includes detailed interviews on diet, prescription of hyperlipidemic drugs, time between meal and blood sampling, and so on. We could obtain reliable analysis results with the cooperation of the subjects.

At the virtual meeting, I was amazed important findings which motivate me to further research.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the APSR Congress in Kyoto in November 2021. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped this study, the APSR staff, my boss Dr Matsumoto, and colleagues in our department.

Noriyuki Tashima

APSR COVID-19 Educational Webinar

Title: *“Rapid Syndromic Molecular Detection in the ED and ICU: a game-changer for the management of COVID-19 patients”*

Date: 14 January 2021

Sponsor: bioMérieux and BioFire

Speakers: Dr Chien-Chang Lee / Dr Hari Kishan Gonuguntla

Registration: Free for APSR members.

Message from the 25th APSR Congress President

The 25th Congress of the APSR will be held at the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto), Japan, 18–21 November 2021. We are currently working on the details of how to hold the event and the programme. We will let you know as soon as it is decided. My message "Letter from Japan: Rethinking our future" can be found in *Respirology* at [2020 Dec 8. doi: 10.1111/resp.13989](#)

We hope you enjoy reading that article.

Shu Hashimoto

Assembly Reports and Newsletters

Assembly reports are available via apsresp.org/assemblies/annual-reports.html (members-only access)

Councillor Reports

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

Forthcoming Meetings

2021

World Conference on Lung Cancer Singapore (Virtual)

28-31 January

Website: wclc2020.iaslc.org

40th Annual Chest Convention Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP)

“RED Pulmo: Reinventing EveryDay Pulmonology”

(Virtual)

2-5 March

Email: secretariat@philchest.org

Website: philchest.org/xp/40th-annual-convention/

Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS) Annual Scientific Meeting

28 March

131st Conference of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)

10 April

Pusan, Korea

Email: katrd@lungkorea.org

Website: eng.lungkorea.org/

61st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)

23-25 April

Tokyo, Japan

Email: 61jrs@jrs.or.jp

Website: jrs.or.jp/jrs61/en/index.html

ATS 2021

14-19 May

San Diego, USA

ERS 2021

4-8 September

Barcelona, Spain

2021 KATRDIC (Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases International Conference)

11-12 November

Seoul, Korea

Email: katrd@lungkorea.org

Websites: eng.lungkorea.org, katrdic.org/

25th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
18-21 November
Kyoto, Japan
Website: apsr2021.jp



2022

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society

22-24 April

Kyoto, Japan

26th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
17-20 November
Seoul, Korea



Organization of the APSR

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President-Elect: David CL Lam
Co-Editors in Chief: Philip Bardin, Paul Reynolds

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		Vietnam:	Chau Ngo Quy Vu Van Giap Le Thi Tuyet Lan

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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	YoungSoo 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
21st Congress	Bangkok	2016	Sumalee Kiatboonsri
22nd Congress	Sydney	2017	Jane Bourke, Mathew Peters
23rd Congress	Taipei	2018	Chong-Jen Yu
24th Congress	Hanoi	2019	Chau Ngo Quy
25th Congress	Kyoto	2021	Shu Hashimoto
26th Congress	Seoul	2022	Ki-Suck Jung



Asian Pacific Society of Respirology

Fellow of the APSR (FAPSR)



The FAPSR is a special distinction available exclusively to current APSR members who meet certain requirements. These include having more than five years of experience in healthcare or research in respiratory medicine or related disciplines. The Fellow is entitled to use the "FAPSR" post-nominal for as long as they remain an APSR member. Details and the register of current Fellows can be seen at www.apस्प.ऑrg/members/fellows.php

APSR Awards

Over 30 award opportunities for APSR members, and even some for non-members. The awards cover all ages and all levels of expertise.

- APSR Congress Awards
- Other society annual meeting Awards
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and join the hundreds of previous award winners who have benefitted from these opportunities! www.apस्प.ऑrg/awards/index.html



Register of APSR Donors



You are invited to make a donation for the APSR to invest funds into such educational projects to enable young researchers to raise their skill level more rapidly than before. Details and the register of current Donors can be seen at www.apस्प.ऑrg/members/donors.php

Due to the temporary suspension of international mail delivery for some countries, membership cards and certificates delivery may be significantly delayed.

The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology

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