



Newsletter

Editor: Yoichi Nakanishi
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Message from the President



Dear members of the APSR,

We have had a difficult life swayed by SARS-CoV-2 for over a year. However, points of interests in the virus have been changing; from understanding of symptoms and signs of COVID-19, its diagnostic approach and prevention by social distancing, to emerging variant viruses, effectiveness of vaccine and fair delivery of the vaccine. In fact, widespread introduction of the vaccine has dramatically reduced the number of patients with COVID-19 in Israel and the United Kingdom.

Unfortunately, the ratio of vaccination is low in the Asia-Pacific region except a few countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Mongolia. Under this situation, rapid increase of infected cases is a concern in India, Thailand, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Philippines. Moreover, the number of infected cases is increasing in Taiwan and

Vietnam where strict countermeasures such as social distancing and quarantine were successful. We have learned that both administrative ability and vaccination have a big impact for the control of corona virus infection. Accordingly, I express my deepest respect to everyone struggling with measures to overcome COVID-19.

The roles of the APSR are to share newest information on COVID-19, to widely inform the effectiveness of vaccine in cooperation with WHO and FIRS (Forum of the International Respiratory Societies), and to foster research activities on the disease. In addition, the study of, and treatment and care of, the sequelae of COVID-19, are other urgent issues on which the APSR should work.

I sincerely hope our Society members save the breath and life of patients and themselves. Now is the time all the stakeholders such as investigators, health care workers, politicians and entrepreneurs should work together to conquer the difficult disease.

“There is no rain that does not stop”.

Yoichi Nakanishi

Message from the President-Elect

This COVID-19 pandemic has indeed transformed our ways of life and practice. It has been a difficult year for everybody in the world, yet it was not easy to see whether colleagues in the APSR were staying safe and healthy. We are all thankful to be able to continue to work towards the APSR goal of organizing activities and disseminating education in respiratory medicine.

Being in the pandemic gave us opportunity to transform. We are working to find a way to adapt to the new normal state. Congresses and Seminars will be held in virtual mode or hybrid mode. New Assembly troika members have been elected. Research and Education are still two important missions for the APSR. We shall try hard to seize any opportunity to make preparation for changes and to face new challenges.

By means of embracing this time in history we can all look forward to getting out of this as soon as we can and to move towards a bright new future for the APSR.

David CL Lam

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

Over the past six months, *Respirology* has continued to publish papers on the latest research into SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19, including a series of comprehensive reviews focusing on the epidemiology, impact, viral kinetics, clinical spectrum and treatment options of COVID-19, and pathophysiology of SARS-CoV-2. In addition, the journal publishes one Letter each month from a different country describing their experience of the pandemic. The [complete collection of COVID-19 papers](#) is freely available through a direct link from *Respirology*'s website so the articles can be accessed easily and shared widely.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Respirology* has seen an influx of submissions and to help manage the extra workload we have expanded the journal's [Editorial Board](#). Albert Li (Hong Kong), Edmund Lau (Australia) and Diane Gray (South Africa) have been appointed as Associate Editors, while Keiko Kan-o (Japan) has joined the team of Deputy Editors, and Tracy Leong has taken on a role as Editorial Board member. We send them a warm welcome at the same time as saying goodbye to Deputy Editor Graham Hall and Associate Editor Stefano Aliberti – both stepped down to take on other responsibilities and we sincerely thank them for their many excellent contributions to *Respirology*.

We'd also like to acknowledge Series Editors Christine Jenkins and Pascal Chanez for their work on the Invited Review Series on COPD. We highly recommend this series, which brings together three excellent reviews by experts in the field, focusing on aspects such as natural history and mechanisms of COPD, patient burden, role of gender, and exacerbation fundamentals. The review articles have been published in the April, May and June issues.

The selection process for the 2021 [Fukuchi Awards](#) has commenced and the winning papers will be announced shortly. The Awards for 2021 and 2020 will be formally (and virtually) presented at the upcoming 2021 APSR Congress. We are delighted with the news that the congress will go ahead in hybrid format and *Respirology* looks forward to publishing the Congress Abstracts. In support of the congress, the journal is showcasing images of the host city on its [cover page](#), together with details of the congress and a link to [congress website](#).

Finally, we'd like to thank the authors, reviewers and all the members of the Editorial Board for their contributions, and to the APSR members and leadership for their ongoing support.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

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

I have just received from Wiley the 2020 annual publisher's report, and I am pleased to see that *Respirology Case Reports* continues to grow and perform well. The number of downloads has continued to increase, from 200,000 for 2019 to over 300,000 for 2020, and the journal's readership remains truly international.

I invite you to access the list of the articles that were most downloaded in 2020: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/mostaccessed.html. A number of articles on COVID-19 raised a lot of interest and I hope were a valuable resource for clinicians facing this ongoing pandemic.

I take this opportunity to remind you that all published COVID-19 related manuscripts are available on our journal website as a special [COVID-19 collection](#) as well as on the APSR website apsresp.org/archive/covid-19/covid-19.html.

As we reported last year, the journal experienced an increase in submissions and publication of over 60%. As such, we increased our publication frequency to monthly. Our acceptance rate remains similar to last year (about 70%). Our turn-around time (median 21 days to first decision) keeps improving. Since January, we welcomed Johnny Chan (Hong Kong) and Michael Maze (New Zealand) to our team of Associate Editors and farewellled Stephen Lam (Canada) who stepped down due to increasing responsibilities elsewhere. We are indebted to our team of Editors (see the full team [here](#)) for their hard work and dedication to the journal and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the APSR for their support of the journal, since they contributed over 70% of the articles that we published last year. APSR members benefit from a 50% discount of the open access publication charge.

Christopher Lai

Message from the APSR Education Committee Chairperson

Dear friends,

More than 18 months after the first cases of COVID-19 surfaced, we now count 163 million cases worldwide with 3.3 million deaths to date. The pandemic does not seem to be abating but there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel with 1.4 billion doses of vaccine administered to

date. With this backdrop, the APSR has continued to pursue its important mission of education of our members. Many educational events have pivoted to an online format. The APSR annual congress for 2020 was postponed and will now be held in November 2021 on a hybrid platform. Several changes have taken effect since January 2021.

1. *Respiratory Updates* has switched to a topical slant with each Assembly taking turns monthly to select the top ten peer reviewed articles over the previous 12 months. The articles have also been hyperlinked so that the reader can click and read the full article easily.

2. The APSR Bulletin has also embarked on a few major changes. Obituary news of our members have been published and we welcome other articles like book reviews too. A new section has featured a selected case monthly from our APSR Teaching Library.

3. A new patient education subcommittee has been formed. Patient education material on Asthma and COPD is now available on the APSR website, courtesy of our partners. We hope that members can use this information meaningfully so that we can partner our patients for better clinical outcome. More topics like smoking, COVID-19, lung cancer and pneumonia will be progressively added.

4. A new Teaching Library subcommittee has been formed to oversee the Library, hoping to expand and use it as a valuable teaching resource. To date, over 100 cases are available on the Library platform. Feel free to browse through the cases at apsresp.org/education/teaching-library/index.php. If you have not yet registered your user-id and password, please see "[How to register to access the APSR members-only pages](#)" in this issue.

All these efforts have been made possible by the tireless efforts of many volunteer members, ably supported by the APSR Secretariat. If you have any other new ideas or feedback, please feel free to let me know.

Stay safe!

Philip Eng

Message from the 25th APSR Congress President

Dear APSR members,

It is our great pleasure to announce that the 25th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR 2021) will take place on 20-21 November 2021 for the first time as a hybrid event that will be held both in-person in Kyoto



and online around the world. The first day will be an in-person and online hybrid event, while the second day will be a virtual congress only, taking full advantage of online technology. In-person and virtual congress registrations will include free access

to the on-demand virtual platform, open until December 2021 (tentative). For APSR 2021, in addition to the regular programme about respiratory medicine, we are planning various programmes in accordance with the theme of the congress, "Our Future". We are planning a symposium organized by young doctors called "Emerging Talent Symposium" to nurture and encourage them, a symposium discussing why coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) occurred and spread, a symposium to discuss the latest topics on the pathogenesis of COVID-19, and a symposium discussing career plans that can provide all individuals with equal opportunity.



Kyoto in Summer, Now

It has been speculated that bats are the reservoir host of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and that it was transmitted to humans through intermediate hosts such as domestic animals, wild animals, or domesticated wild animals. Thus, diseases that develop when infectious pathogens are transmitted from animals or birds to humans are called zoonotic diseases. We have experienced zoonotic diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian Influenza (H5N1), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and others that have spread worldwide. How do zoonotic diseases develop? The outbreaks and pandemics of such zoonotic diseases are caused by the reduction of the habitats of wild animals and birds such as forests and wetlands. The habitats are reduced by global warming and climate change, expansion of farmland and livestock grazing areas to meet the demand for food due to population growth,

and infrastructure development. As a result, wild animals and birds approach livestock grazing areas and residential areas and come into contact with livestock and people, increasing the likelihood that infectious pathogens will be transmitted from wild animals and birds to livestock and people. This is how zoonotic diseases occur. The prevalence and spread of infectious diseases depend on a variety of factors, including the availability of effective vaccines and therapeutic agents. In addition, we should not forget that social inequities such as racial disparity, racism, gender inequality, economic disparity, educational disparity, and health disparity are also involved.

The main cause of global warming is carbon dioxide excretion and methane excretion from the burning of fossil fuels. The average global temperature has risen by 1°C from pre-industrial levels, and at the current rate of warming, it is projected to reach 1.5°C by 2050. To meet the challenge of keeping the average temperature below 2°C, and even below 1.5°C, carbon dioxide emissions must be reduced by 70%. In addition to reducing the burning of fossil fuels, this will require the preservation and increase of forests and wetlands that absorb and store carbon dioxide. Companies, government agencies, and educational institutions are working to achieve the goal of zero carbon emissions, which means that the difference between carbon dioxide excretion and absorption is zero.



What is the role of medical academia? Global warming and climate change are associated with many diseases such as zoonotic diseases mentioned above, a variety of infectious diseases, allergic diseases, exacerbation of bronchial asthma, COPD and cardiovascular diseases, mental diseases, heat-related illness, and so on. Medical academia should confirm the relationship between global warming and climate change, and diseases in their respective areas of expertise, and emphasize that the goal of zero carbon emissions is to contribute to human health and the reduction of disease incidence. As for academic congress, especially international conferences, innovations in the way conferences are held are needed to reduce carbon dioxide

excretion from fossil fuel combustion in airplane flights. Consider eliminating printed materials and bags, minimizing signage and displays, using locally produced and consumed food, using vegetables and meat raised using farming and animal husbandry methods that minimize carbon dioxide and methane emissions as much as possible, using fair trade products, reducing food loss, and banning the use of plastic containers. Furthermore, priority will be given to companies that contribute their operations to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). As for the conference management, programme organization and presentation, in addition to doctors with rich experience, early career doctors and female doctors will be given the opportunity to speak freely and manage the conference. They are a rich source of ability and create the future. I know that there are many arguments for promoting women's participation, and I would like to positively discuss them. Traditions and systemic barriers to the advancement of young people and women should be removed. Over the past few decades, we have learned how diversity contributes to the advancement of medicine in all fields of practice, research and education. Now is the time to seriously create an environment of equal opportunity and career development for all. APSR 2021 welcomes active discussions on women's leadership and career development. We also welcome to discuss gender-based scientific research in medicine.



Kyoto in autumn, the time of the conference

I believe that APSR 2021 will provide an opportunity to think about the future of academic societies. Many conferences held under the COVID-19 pandemic have a hybrid format of on-site participation and online participation, or the conference is held only online. We found it convenient to view the programme from anywhere globally without having to go to the conference site. We also learned that there are programmes that can be viewed on-demand after the conference even if they are not available during the conference. The same is true for speakers. You don't have to come to the venue to give a talk online. However, direct interaction between people is important for the exchange of

medical knowledge and, more importantly, for fostering culture.

Corporate sponsorship is required to hold a scientific congress. Physicians should devote their time to clinical practice, research, and education, and should focus on programme organization for a scientific congress.

The 25th Congress of the APSR has been postponed from 2020 to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, Local Congress Committee (LCC) members have been devoting themselves to the medical practice of COVID-19 patients and the development of medical systems in addition to their regular medical practice. In this clinical situation, LCC members have had to bear a tremendous mental and physical burden. This is true not only for LCC members but also for all medical professionals, medical administrators, and first-line workers around the world. For LCC members, they have to scramble to get sponsorship for APSR 2021 in a situation that is draining for them. In order for the APSR to mature as an academic organization in the Asia-Pacific region, it is important for the APSR to share values with companies that have a philosophy of contributing to the improvement of health and well-being in the Asia-Pacific region, rather than for the LCC to scramble for sponsorship. We have worked to get the best rate of the APSR Congress registration fees for members' interests and discussion on registration fees will continue in the future.



Last but not least, I would like to thank the members of the LCC, the staff of APSR, the staff of JRS, the PCO (professional congress organizer) staff who are running the conference, and all the people involved. I hope that COVID-19 will be resolved as soon as possible, and that all people around the world will have equal opportunities, that discrimination and disparities will be eliminated, that medical care and safe food and water supplies will be available, and that an environment will be created where no one is left behind. APSR 2021 strives to provide not only the latest information on respiratory diseases but also a variety of programmes in line with the theme of the conference, "Our Future". It is also a place for us to exchange our hearts. Wishing you, your family, friends, and colleagues safety and

happiness, I would like to deliver this message as the Congress President of APSR 2021.

Shu Hashimoto

Reports from the APSR en bloc societies

Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF)

Response to COVID-19 pandemic

Considering the global COVID-19 pandemic, the BLF is taking part to combat the crisis by providing the education and guidance to the COVID-19 dedicated team of physicians and nurses up to the district level across the country to strengthen the healthcare system in Bangladesh. For this purpose, a nationwide training programme on "COVID-19 case management and infection prevention and control", endorsed by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), supported by Save The Children International and funded by USAID, has been running since 3 September 2020. So far, the training has been successfully conducted in about 16 medical college hospitals in different districts and the process is underway throughout the country.



Similarly, the BLF is also providing training regarding "Triage and COVID-19 case management and IPC for Rural Community Support Team", which began in January 2021. Already health professionals from healthcare facilities of the country's six regions have benefitted from the training.

Furthermore, a number of scientific seminars have been conducted by the BLF in various medical college hospitals in different parts of the country as part of our Continuing Medical College (CME) programme on "Recent advancements for improvement of lung health".

In addition, to celebrate World Asthma Day on 5 May, the BLF organized several programmes choosing the virtual platform considering the safety related to pandemic. These included webinars, and sequential live programmes on Facebook and YouTube.



Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)

The 131st Annual Meeting of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD), the 50th Workshop, and the 16th Lung Cancer Symposium were held in Busan on 9-10 April 2021. The appropriate COVID-19 social distancing and national quarantine guidelines were followed, and the safety and health of on-site participants remained the foremost priority. The event itself was held as a hybrid meeting. The on-site and live virtual conference was held by limiting the number of on-site attendees according to the level of social distancing. In addition, an Interactive Learning programme was created to help junior members communicate with each other and promote career development. A new approach was also attempted to effectively cover subject matter that had been difficult to deal with at regular academic conferences, but is required knowledge for doctors in the field. Specialists for each subject were in charge of all related content, and practical knowledge was delivered in the most appropriate manner, such as through on-site practice sessions, panel discussions, talk-show format roundtables, and lectures. The KATRD is very proud that we successfully held on-site symposium safely in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 National Public-Private Mix (PPM) Tuberculosis Management Project Workshop was held on 30 April and was broadcasted live online. This workshop consisted of a meeting where tuberculosis experts from the both private and public sectors participating in the project gathered together to discuss related issues with the aim of improving the efficiency of the nation’s tuberculosis management measures and enhancing the management of tuberculosis patients through strengthened public-private

cooperation. The following topics were presented and discussed: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the National PPM Tuberculosis Management Project; Measures to effectively promote tuberculosis control projects during the COVID-19 crisis; Case management measures in connection with the provision of welfare services to socially and economically disadvantaged tuberculosis patients.

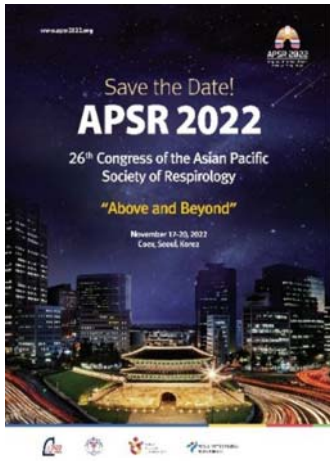


Under the slogan “Breathe Better, Live Better”, the KATRD International Conference 2021 (KATRDIC 2021) will be held at the Seoul Lotte Hotel World from 11-12 November 2021 via a hybrid format encompassing both online and offline sessions.

KATRDIC 2021 will serve as a significant opportunity to deliver novel fundamental and clinical knowledge on respiratory diseases as well as information on the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. Yoichi Nakanishi (APSR President, Kyushu University, Japan), Joanna Chorostowska-Wynimko (National Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Poland), Vincent Cottin (Louis Pradel University Hospital & Claude Bernard University, France), Lynn M Schnapp (ATS President-elect, University of Wisconsin, USA), Woo Jin Kim (Kangwon National University, Korea) and Shu Hashimoto (APSR 2021 Congress President, Nihon University, Japan) are expected to participate as plenary speakers.

The 26th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory (APSR 2022) is scheduled to take place on 17-20 November 2022 at the COEX centre in Seoul, Korea under the theme “Above and Beyond.” It will serve as a valuable opportunity to promote the advancement and cooperation in the field of respiratory from basic research to clinical trials and treatment, move the field above and beyond where things are now, and create a reliable network with a wide variety of renowned scholars from around the world. This is the second time that Korea has been given the honour to host this prestigious event following the 2009 APSR Congress in Seoul. We will ensure





synergies are created by replacing this year's annual conference of KATRD with APSR 2022. We cordially ask for your interest and participation.

cleaning the air. The Hong Kong Thoracic Society as a supporting organization will continue to work hand-in-hand with CAN towards cleaner air and a lower carbon footprint.



Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS) Annual Scientific Meeting 2021



The 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting jointly organized by the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau, and supported by the Hong Kong Lung Foundation, was successfully held online on 28 March 2021. The rich one-day programme

included topics on COPD, asthma, sleep medicine, lung cancer, IPF, as well as various aspects of COVID-19 from vaccination to patient recovery and rehabilitation. Sharing from and discussion between international and local experts was the highlight of the day. The meeting was well attended by 205 participants.

“COPD in the era of COVID pandemic” TV programme

The Hong Kong Thoracic Society continues to reach out to the public with health information. Dr Fanny Ko represented the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau in a health information programme entitled “COPD in the era of COVID pandemic” broadcasted by the Hong Kong Open TV on 21 May 2021. COPD awareness in the community, proper use of inhalers, exercise, as well as vaccination against COVID-19, influenza and pneumococcus were emphasized.

Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) MTS 2020 Virtual Congress

The MTS 2020 Annual Congress was originally scheduled to be held in Fraser Place, Puteri Harbor, Johor Bahru from 16-19 July 2020 but had to be postponed to 10-13 December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was supposed to be held as a hybrid conference but because of restrictions and uncertainties from the Conditional Movement Control Order, it was finally held as a fully virtual conference with the attendance of 527 delegates. The organising chair was Dr Rozanah Abd Rahman, and the Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy (adult programme), and Dr Asiah Kassim, Dr N Fafwati Faridatul Akmar Mohammad and Dr Eg Kah Peng, (paediatric programme).

The congress started off with the workshop on nicotine addiction and EVALI on 10 December, which was conducted by Dr Nurhayati Mohd Marzuki and the MTS secretariat via Zoom meeting.



Citizen clean air plan

The Hong Kong Thoracic Society continues to support initiatives for the betterment of lung health. The Citizen Clean Air Plan was launched by the Clean Air Network (CAN) on 22 April 2021 identifying gaps where stronger attention should be paid to tackle air pollution, and setting out aspiration and conditions to define the success of the next phase of initiatives towards

The main congress comprised 2 plenary lectures, 1 keynote address and 19 symposia covering a wide spectrum of respiratory diseases in adults and children. The faculty of speakers consisted of eminent local and overseas experts. Another 8 symposia were sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. The keynote address on “Battling

COVID-19 in Malaysia” was delivered live by Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Director-General of Health, Malaysia.

There were 5 oral paper presentations, 25 scientific paper posters and 37 poster presentations on case reports. The oral paper presentations were done on the second day of the congress. Winners for 5 oral papers, 6 best scientific paper posters and the best case report were announced on the second day. The Lung Foundation of Malaysia provided cash prizes for these awards. The MTS research grant award for 2020/2021 was also announced.

Other activities

The Federal Government imposed a second Movement Control Order (MCO) on all states in Malaysia except Sarawak from 13 January 2021 until 4 March 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This gave way to a Conditional MCO in most states but cases of COVID-19 surged again and a third MCO was imposed nationwide from 12 May 2021 until 7 June 2021 to bring the pandemic under control. Since physical meetings were restricted, the MTS organised numerous educational events in the form of webinars. More modules are planned for the MTS Education website which was launched in February 2020. All committee meetings were also held via video conferencing.

MTS Annual Congress 2021

The MTS 2021 Annual Congress will be held in One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, from 2-5 December 2021. Dr Tan Jiunn Liang has been appointed as Organising Chair. Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail heads the Adult Scientific Committee and Dr Su Siew Choo heads the Paediatrics Scientific Committee.



The keynote address for MTS 2020 Virtual Congress on “Battling COVID-19 in Malaysia” was delivered live by Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Director-General of Health, Malaysia. The chairpersons were Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy, Chairman of Scientific Committee (Adult Programme) and Assoc Prof Dr Pang Yong Kek, President, Malaysian Thoracic Society



The last meeting of the MTS Executive Committee on 18 July 2020 during the MTS Annual General Meeting. Seated L-R: Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh, Assoc Prof Dr Pang Yong Kek, Dr Jessie Anne de Bruyne. Standing L-R: Dr Su Siew Choo, Dr Tan Jiunn Liang, Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy, Dr Asiah Kassim, Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail, Dr Fauzi Mohd Anshar

Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh, Hon Secretary, MTS

Singapore Thoracic Society (STS)



Singapore has observed an increase in COVID-19 community cases in the past few weeks and we have embarked upon a Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) series of measures and restrictions to minimise transmission. The Singapore Thoracic Society (STS) supports these initiatives and efforts made by our frontline staff.

The STS is also pleased to collaborate with The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH), Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine to organise a joint webinar entitled: “State of the Art Lung Health” on 12 June 2021. Two topics will be discussed, namely 1) COVID-19 and COPD; and 2) Pulmonary Fibrosis beyond Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. We are delighted to welcome our distinguished speakers Professor Don Sin and Professor Ganesh Raghu to present on the respective topics.

Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) Year 2021 Highlights - activities/events Governance

The PCCP leadership, amidst the challenges of the current pandemic, conducts with great gratitude the general management of the affairs of the organization. For this year, the Board has been excited to implement the 3Ps that has been foreseen to make the PCCP much stronger: Perspective Change, Partnership, and Professionalism.

The PCCP leadership, despite individual responsibilities in their respective institutions, quickly rallied our forces together, sans the

usual face-to-face meetings using Zoom videoconferencing and Viber chat rooms to full use and came up with the following actions and resolutions:

1. Innovative shift to
 - a. digital banking and effective management of our investments
 - b. online software-based BOD meetings (via Zoom meeting, Viber)
 - c. Extensive network of Digital Communication (intra- and inter-sectoral) amongst Chapters, Councils, Training Institutions (via Zoom meeting or Viber)
2. Financial assistance (PPE-KN95 purchase) to our 10 Chapters and 15 Training Institutions.
3. Creation of COVID Taskforce employing CoHISM for the community
4. Provision of COVID up-to-date online resources in one file for the community
5. Creation of Guideline Statements and algorithms

PCCP Statement/Recommendations related to COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed from philchest.org/xp/pccp-statement-guideline-recommendations-related-to-covid-19-pandemic/

Membership

The main contribution of the PCCP to this current pandemic is undeniably our MEMBERS; the pulmonologists across the country, who were present at the very beginning and until this pandemic ends. Since 2020, the PCCP has issued statement/guideline/recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic for our members' guidance and reference. Regular CME learnings were also offered to update on the diagnosis and management of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 situation became prolonged and drawn out, and as the cases continue to rise, the exposure to frontline workers increased in direct proportion to the rise in the number of cases. The PCCP started getting reports that a number of our colleagues were afflicted by COVID-19, these members were given "COVID-19 Care Package" and offered disability benefit (for critical illness).

Advocacy and Corporate Social Responsibility

Recognizing our role in the society as advocates of pulmonary healthcare in the country, the College continuously engages in various activities all with a common goal of enhancing pulmonary health in our country. For this year, the majority of the activities will be conducted via online/virtual platform.

Useful links:

- philchest.org/xp/advocacy/
- philchest.org/xp/world-asthma-day-2021/
- philchest.org/xp/world-no-tobacco-day-2021/
- philchest.org/xp/chapter-initiated-cme-and-advocacy/

The College also launched the COPD Patient Education Booklet in four languages. This educational material provides useful and

practical information on how to LIVE WELL WITH COPD. It is hoped that this booklet will be a valuable resource for COPD patients, their families, and health care professionals, particularly those living in remote areas.

philchest.org/xp/copd-and-pulmonary-rehabilitation/

Training

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PCCP has been struggling to cope with the disruptions in delivering the Pulmonary fellowship training programme in our respective institutions. Clearly, there is a need to balance the service component of fellowship training with to the need to ensure that our graduates will receive the necessary knowledge and skills.

The PCCP's Training Committee has reviewed how the different training institutions had been coping with the requirements for promotion, graduation and accreditation in the midst of the pandemic. Interim guidelines were released to address the different issues related to training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Training conferences, procedures, and cases were monitored through the Web-based Census and Accreditation System (WebCAS), maintaining the data input lock-out period of 60 days to facilitate tracking of training activities.

Continuing Medical Education

In keeping with the College's commitment to constantly promote the personal growth of each member and unity among members, CME activities are held on a regular basis.

Major Activities for Continuing Medical Education

2021	2022
Year-End Pulmonary Update 4-5 November 2021 <i>Virtual; Registration is Free</i>	41st Annual Chest Convention 1-4 March 2022 <i>Virtual; Registration is Free</i>

CME-related activities:

- Post Graduate Courses and Workshops including Online Training of Pulmonology Fellows-in-Training on the Use of Medical *Shinansha*
- Virtual pulmonary conferences and industry-initiated scientific symposia.

Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM)

1. The Second Taiwan Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) Day activity

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread rapidly around the world in 2020, more and more people started to concern about their lung health. To improve the public awareness of causes and treatment of IPF, TSPCCM held the event "919 Fun Walking" on 19 September 2020 in southern



Taiwan. People above 50 years old were invited to the Weiwuying Metropolitan Park to participate in this walking activity. During the activity, they learned about IPF and the importance of lung health.



2. TSPCCM - APSR Joint Symposium on COVID-19

The TSPCCM and APSR organized an online symposium on 12 December 2020 to discuss the updated management of COVID-19. The goal of this symposium was to give the members of TSPCCM and APSR the cutting-edge information about treatment, preventing the transmission of COVID-19, and the development and challenge of this disease.



4. 2021 World Asthma Day (WAD) press conference

To disseminate the correct information of asthma, the TSPCCM invited Dr Po-Chang Lee, the director general of Taiwan's National Health Insurance Administration with Taiwan Medical Clinics Association to hold the 2021 WAD press conference. In this event, we raised the issue that patients with asthma who overuse short-acting β 2-agonists (SABA) are prone to asthma attack. Inhaled corticosteroids, instead of SABA, should be used as the first choice to prevent asthma attack. From the data in the National Health Insurance (NHI) MediCloud system, we identified the risk factors for disease progression and allocation of NHI resource could be therefore optimized. It is the TSPCCM's aim to bring a win-win situation for patients and the healthcare system.

3. Taking care for the public's lung health – Beyond 50, march towards 80 stairs

People who can only climb 50 stairs in one minute have a higher risk for mild Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease (COPD). To identify and treat these people as early as possible, the TSPCCM held an event and invited the public to take the one-minute upstairs challenge. Through the activity, people understood whether they were at risk for COPD, and paid more attention to their lung health.



Reports from the award winners who participated the ATS Conference



I was very honored to receive the APSR Travel Award to the ATS International Conference 2021 and would like to thank the APSR and ATS for their generous support.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to present our research

entitled “Association of Prehospital Advanced Airway Management by Physician or Emergency Medical Service Personnel with Return of Spontaneous Circulation After Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Due to Drowning” in the e-poster session and International Scholars poster Colloquium. It was my first experience to give a presentation at the international conference and virtual live colloquium, so I was very nervous. In my presentation, I showed that prehospital advanced airway management by physician may increase the chance of prehospital Return of spontaneous circulation. Thanks to the constructive comments and suggestions, I was able to clarify future issues, and this presentation was very beneficial to me. I would like to use this experience to continue my training in the future. I would like to thank moderators and presenters of the colloquium.

During the conference, I was able to gain a lot of knowledge about the latest findings in the field of intensive care and the results of cutting-edge research. I also gained a lot of useful information about COVID-19, which is currently spreading all over the world. I would like to use this knowledge in my clinical practice for the benefit of my patients.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Fukuda and many colleagues who gave me a lot of advice for my research.

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

Takumi Chinen



It was my great honour to receive the APSR Travel Award to attend the ATS International Conference 2021. I had the pleasure to get connected with researchers and clinicians from around the world through the virtual platform, despite not

being able to be together in person.

During the conference, I presented my study, “**Nocturnal Hypoxemia in Interstitial Lung Disease: A Systematic Review**”. Nocturnal hypoxaemia is common with a pooled prevalence of 37%, which is associated with reduced diffusion capacity of the lung and the presence of pulmonary hypertension. It is also a potential prognostic factor in patients with interstitial lung disease. However, the diagnostic criteria of nocturnal hypoxaemia are variable, and no long-term studies have evaluated the therapeutic effects of nocturnal oxygen therapy in this population. This is the first comprehensive systematic review summarising current evidence regarding nocturnal hypoxaemia in interstitial lung disease, highlighting the key evidence gaps for future research. This study is now in press at *Thorax*.

In addition, I supported Dr Hui Li Ang, a resident whom I have supervised, to present our study – “**Online patient information on domiciliary oxygen therapy: an evaluation of quality, suitability, and readability**”. We found that currently available online patient resources for domiciliary oxygen therapy are often not reliable, as well as being inaccurate and incomplete, with low readability for the general population. Our study highlights the pressing need and the critical areas that need to be addressed in developing high-quality online patient information on DOT, as well as creating awareness among health care professionals about the limitations of the current online resources.

The American Thoracic Society virtual conference was very informative, with a diverse range of talks where key experts shared their views and provided the latest updates in the fields. Attending these sessions helped to keep my knowledge on different aspects of respiratory medicine up to date from both clinical and research perspectives. Among those, the Special Events on “**Outpatient Management: Post COVID-19 Patients**” and “**COVID-19: Regional Approaches to Vaccination**” offered live interactions between the speakers and attendees from different countries, which shared the global experience and strategies for tackling this pandemic. There were also many fantastic abstract sessions that showcased a breadth of work spanning basic, clinical, translational, and public health research. I was truly inspired by the exciting range and depth of presentations, as well as the dedication and commitment of the researchers in the midst of the unprecedented disruption by COVID-19.

I really enjoyed attending the 2021 American Thoracic Society Virtual Conference. I would like to thank the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory for this valuable opportunity and ongoing support for early-career researchers.

Yet Hong Khor

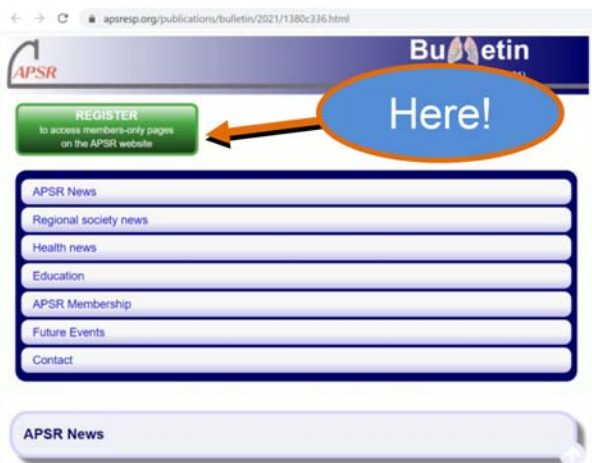
Assembly Reports and Newsletters

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

How to register to access APSR members-only pages

There is a wealth of useful clinical information on the APSR website, many pages requiring a user-id and password to access; for example, earlier issues of the Bulletin, Teaching Library, educational video materials, and so on.

If you have not yet registered a user-id and password, click the green **REGISTER** button at the top of the latest APSR Bulletin, and follow the online instructions. Registration is a quick and simple procedure.



Forthcoming Meetings

2021
ERS 2021 (Online)
5-8 September
Website: erscongress.org

2021 KATRDIC (Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases International

Conference)
11-12 November
Seoul, Korea
Email: katrd@lungkorea.org
Websites: eng.lungkorea.org, and katrdic.org

25th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
20-21 November
Kyoto, Japan
Website: apsr2021.jp



Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual
Congress 2021
2-5 December
Selangor, Malaysia
Website: 2021.mts.org.my

2022
The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese
Respiratory Society (JRS)
22-24 April
Kyoto, Japan
Email: 62jrs@jrs.or.jp

ATS 2022
13-18 May
San Francisco, USA
Website: thoracic.org

26th Congress of the Asian
Pacific Society of Respirology
17-20 November
Seoul, Korea
Website: apsr2022.org/



2023

27th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of
Respirology
16-19 November
Singapore



Notice from the Secretariat

Invitation to bid for the 2024 Congress!

We invite en bloc member societies to make a proposal to host the 28th Congress of the APSR in 2024. Bids will be considered at the Executive Committee Meeting in November 2021. You will be asked to present your thoracic society's plans for the arrangements, financial planning and infrastructure of the event (Local Congress Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (APSRinfo@theapsr.org)



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.apstresp.org/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
- Other Awards and opportunities

and join the hundreds of previous award winners who have benefitted from these opportunities! www.apstresp.org/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.apstresp.org/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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