



Newsletter

Editor: David CL Lam
Associate Editors: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Chul-Gyu Yoo, Suga Konno

Message from the President



The COVID-19 pandemic has not been an easy time for us all, but we have, and we have to, strike on and move on!

I am sure you all know my own place in Hong Kong was badly hit by a new tsunami of Omicron in March 2022. It was so heartening to see colleagues in different regions fighting hard against COVID-19, pushing the vaccination take-up rate and more importantly, collaborative effort to contain the impact of COVID-19.

Despite the pandemic, the APSR will fulfil her mission of professional education and collaboration with collegiate respiratory societies. We will be holding online Educational seminars on COVID-19 diagnostics. At the same time, we are looking forward to holding the coming Congress in Seoul in a format that is as close to full physical mode as possible. We have started to work on a previous initiative of a joint WHO-APSR workshop on Respiratory Health and we are working hard to try to make it happened soon at future Congress.

We are still striking hard to steer new APSR activities with the help of different standing committees of the APSR, hopefully there will not be another wave of COVID-19 to hit any of us in the region or other parts of the world. We do need a break from the pandemic and use this as a window to sustain and to develop further.

With the support of APSR leadership and officers, I am most honoured to represent the APSR in the capacity of Secretary General for the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) this year, with the anticipated rostering of the APSR to become the President society in FIRS next year. I do hope this will help to boost the professional standing of the APSR and hence bring the APSR to the world to make the APSR become better known and prominent in international respiratory activities like advocacy, and activities through the World Lung Day on the 25th of September each year. That's coming again soon!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the unfailing support from our current officers and new officers joining the APSR this year. With a solid foundation of assembly and *en bloc* membership support, I am looking forward to another fruitful year to come, when I can share with you all further.

David CL Lam

Message from the Secretary General

How are you all APSR members? Of course, there are differences between countries, but overall, the momentum of COVID-19 seems to have declined a lot. Various restrictions are also being lifted one by one. Even amid many restrictions due to COVID-19, the mission of the APSR has been performed, such as the election of new Assembly leaders, preparation of an education programme, collaboration with other respiratory societies such as the ATS and ERS, a joint declaration with FIRS, preparation of a WHO workshop, and preparation of the APSR 2022 Seoul Congress.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all experienced a lot of things we had never experienced before, and even got used to them. In particular, we had the valuable experience that a lot of things can be done in virtual or hybrid mode, and the APSR 2021 Kyoto Congress held in a hybrid format achieved very good results despite many limitations and difficulties. These valuable experiences can be utilized as a good way to diversify the operation of the APSR in the future.

Despite these achievements, many are eager to return to their previous physical conference, and the APSR

2022 Seoul Congress will be held in a face-to-face format. I hope that the calming phase of COVID-19 will continue in the coming months so that many people can meet in person to build friendships and have academic discussions.

Chul-Gyu Yoo

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

With lockdowns lifting and work resuming to a normal pace, manuscript submissions to journals worldwide are also returning to pre-COVID levels. This was also the case for *Respirology* which received 1,260 manuscripts in 2021, 18% less than in 2020. Our readership on the other hand continues to grow - according to the recently released 2021 Publisher's Report, there has been a 20% increase in article downloads with China Mainland, Australia, India, Japan and South Korea being among the top 10 downloading countries, together with the USA, UK, Germany, Canada and Brazil, showing continued interest for our articles within and outside the Asia-Pacific region. The top 5 submitting countries strongly represent the Asia-Pacific region and include China Mainland, Australia, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The overall acceptance rate for all manuscript types combined was 15% and authors are notified within 7 days whether their manuscript will progress to external peer review. A first decision after peer review was received on average after 6-7 weeks, with accepted manuscripts published within 2-3 weeks. This Publisher-reported data is for all manuscript types combined - specific data for Original Articles only will be published on *Respirology*'s [Metrics](#) webpage in July after the release of the 2021 Impact Factor.

An increasing number of *Respirology* articles are published under an open access licence, which allows unrestricted access and sharing of the article and increases the visibility and discoverability of the research presented within. Authors of open access articles retain the copyright for their articles, which means they can reuse them and deposit them on any personal or institutional website or repository. To enable more authors to take advantage of open access publication at no cost to the author, Wiley (*Respirology*'s publisher) continues to expand its Open Access Agreements with institutions and funders worldwide, including in Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. We encourage you to check [Wiley's Open Access Accounts by Country](#) webpage to see if your institution or funder covers your open access fees.

In September last year, *Respirology* put out a Call for Papers on the topic of occupational lung disease. We received several excellent contributions, which were published together with a series of invited reviews in a [Special Issue](#)

on [Occupational Lung Disease](#). The Special Issue was published in June and was curated by Dr Ryan Hoy, who solicited the review papers and wrote the introductory Editorial. The Special Issue cover was created in collaboration with Wiley and highlights some of the hazardous work environments.

We continued the publication of our series of letters from the Asia-Pacific region on and by *Leading Women in Respiratory Medicine*, with letters from Mainland China and Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Korea, New Zealand and Indonesia. These letters put a spotlight on the achievements of Asia-Pacific women in their field of respiratory medicine, and highlight barriers and challenges to women in the different countries, as well as initiatives that are helping to promote gender equality. The series has been expertly coordinated by Editorial Board member Natasha Smallwood and Deputy Editor Fanny Wai San Ko, and the full collection is available as an [Issue on the journal's website](#).

As well as Natasha Smallwood (Australia), we also warmly welcome Bin Hwangbo (Korea), Mariko Koh (Singapore) and Martin MacDonald (Australia) as Deputy Editors. In February, we said goodbye to Deputy Editor Keiko Kan-o (Japan) who left her role at *Respirology* to take on the position of Editor in Chief of *Respirology Case Reports*. We congratulate Dr Kan-o on her new Editorship appointment and we look forward to continuing to foster the relationship between the two journals. We also extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing Editor in Chief of *Respirology Case Reports*, Christopher Lai for his hard work and excellent leadership which has seen the journal grow and develop into a well-respected outlet for clinical cases in the respiratory medicine field.

Finally, we also thank all our authors, reviewers and members of the Editorial Board for their many contributions, as well as the APSR members and leadership for their strong support. We hope to see many of you in Seoul this November at the APSR 2022 Seoul Congress, where we will schedule several 'Meet the Editor' sessions for prospective authors.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

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

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as Editor in chief of *Respirology Case Reports*. The journal received approximately 250 submissions in 2021 and expanded its publication frequency from nine to twelve issues a year.

I have just received from Wiley the 2021 annual publisher's report, and I am pleased to see

that *Respirology Case Reports* continues to grow and perform well. The number of downloads increased 46.2% in 2021 (from about 300,000 to over 360,000), and the journal's readership remains truly international.

I invite you to access the list of the articles that were most downloaded in 2021: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/mostaccessed.html>, nine out of the ten most accessed papers are reporting on COVID-19; which again shows how helpful our journal was as 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's website as a special [COVID-19 collection](https://www.apsresp.org/archive/covid-19/covid-19.html) as well as on the APSR website: <https://www.apsresp.org/archive/covid-19/covid-19.html>

I am delighted to announce that the case report which won the *Respirology Case Reports* Poster award for the best case report poster presented at the APSR 2021 Kyoto Congress was recently accepted for publication and will be published shortly in *Respirology Case Reports*. Congratulations to presenter Dr Abdul Malik and his colleagues.

Many excellent case reports were presented at last year's APSR Congress in Kyoto and we encourage the presenters to consider submitting their work to *Respirology Case Reports*.

Since January, we welcomed Jennifer Ann Wi (Philippines) to our team of Associate Editors as a Clinical Image Editor. 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 members of the APSR for their support of the journal, since they contributed 76% of the articles published last year. APSR members benefit from a 50% discount of the open access publication charge for case reports and case series.

Keiko Kan-o

Message from the APSR Education Committee Chairperson

Dear friends

It has been about two and half years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems like a lifetime for most of us as we plod along the daily grind of looking after patients, with PPE and masks. Even as some ponder over taking the second covid booster vaccination, we also contemplate where we should travel to for our

first holiday as borders start to re-open. Surely, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

There are certainly signs of improvement appearing. I have just looked at the all too familiar Johns Hopkins University covid resource website. To date, there have been 500 million cases with 6 million deaths (1.2% death rate). However, in the last 28 days, there have been 15 million cases with 57,000 deaths (0.38 % death rate) showing the death rates from covid are coming down. There will always be naysayers, and the death rate lags by another two weeks. Another piece of evidence. The APSR Central Congress Committee recently had to discuss whether the APSR 2022 Seoul Congress should be online, hybrid or in person. This is something quite unthinkable only six months ago.

On a different note, it is a time of reflection for members of the Education Committee. As we come towards the second half of the second year of our term, we look back and ask ourselves if we could do better. Certainly so. We ask for a new wind to blow as the sails stay hoisted. We look for new members, new ideas and new energy. The mission of Education is lifelong and endless. We know for sure that the more we learn, the more we realise we don't know. This covid pandemic has taught us that.

If anyone else is keen to volunteer to contribute to the Education Committee, please feel free to email us at education@theapsr.org

Philip Eng

The first APSR Section leaders have been appointed!

The first APSR Section leaders have been appointed.

- Clinical Allied Health is a specialist Section of the APSR Clinical Respirology Medicine Assembly, led by Ms Rekha Hakim
- E-Health is a specialist Section of the APSR Clinical Respirology Medicine Assembly, led by Dr Dushantha Madegedara
- Bronchiectasis is a specialist Section of the APSR Respiratory Infections (non-tuberculous) Assembly, led by Dr Daniel James Smith.

Message from the new APSR Clinical Allied Health Section leader

My name is Rekha Hakim and I am honoured to be nominated as the new APSR Allied Health Section leader. I currently hold the Acting Respiratory Clinical Nurse Consultant role at The Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane, Australia and have worked as a Respiratory Clinical Nurse for 10 years.

Our Thoracic programme cares for patients with Asthma, Bronchiectasis, COPD and Interstitial Lung Disease. We are extremely blessed within our programme to have highly skilled, expert Multidisciplinary team members and we work in collaboration and partnership aiming to optimise best patient care outcomes.

We have a good appreciation of the current challenging health care requirements of our aging population with complex chronic health care needs. We actively participate in research and educational opportunities to deliver best practice care for our patients. We honour and respect to our patients, their families and carers by including them as equal health care decision makers in order to achieve commitment and best health outcomes.

Our Allied Health Team members are privileged to care for our most vulnerable and we believe that we “can always do something for everyone!”

Rekha Hakim

Message from the new APSR E-Health Section leader

The internet burst into being in the year 1990 becoming an irresistible part of life in all aspects. E-health emerged as a promising part of science and technology in the global health system giving rise to the modern-day practice of all the disciplines of medicine. Currently, e-health is used worldwide for the improvement of knowledge in diagnostic and management purposes. E-health facilitates and enhances communication among all medical fraternity around the globe to share knowledge for the benefit of patient management. E-health facilitates the combined use of electronic communication and information technology giving rise to a fruitful outcome. These digital data are transmitted, stored, and retrieved for clinical, educational, and administrative purposes. The introduction of the e-health section under the umbrella of the Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly will be utilized to improve knowledge of clinical respiratory medicine and make a platform to share clinical material among the global respiratory community.

I am Dr Dushantha Madegedara, MBBS, MD (Colombo), FCCP (SL), FCCP (USA), FRCP (Edin), FAPSR. Consultant Respiratory Physician at the National Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka. This unit is the second biggest respiratory unit in Sri Lanka and a training unit for undergraduate and postgraduate students. My overseas training was in Princess Alexander Hospital, Brisbane, Australia. I have authored many research papers and have over 250 publications in reputed local and international journals

and delivered three orations. My research interests are clinical, occupational health and interventional pulmonology. I am a member of many international research collaborations including ANOLD, BOLD, RESPIRE and PACE. I have been involved in formulating and co-authoring many national guidelines for Sri Lanka including asthma, tuberculosis, pneumonia and extra pulmonary tuberculosis. I have held many official positions in various medical societies including the first secretary, the first chief editor of *Respire* and past president of the Association of Pulmonologists, Sri Lanka. I am a member of the editorial boards of many international and national journals including *Respirology* and *ERJO*. I have been Deputy Head, Head-Elect and Head of the Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly of the APSR. I am very happy to lead the E-Health Section of the Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly in my fullest capacity.

Dushantha Madegedara

Message from the new APSR Bronchiectasis Section leader

I am very grateful and extend my sincere thanks to the APSR for the opportunity provided for me to lead the development of the Bronchiectasis Section.

Bronchiectasis is one of the three major chronic inflammatory airway diseases. Emerging data from the US and Europe highlight the substantial health and economic burden of disease and the need for advances in care, with a transition from a focus on treatment of infections, to the prevention of exacerbations and disease progression. The impact of bronchiectasis often falls on indigenous populations and those living with the greatest social disadvantage, and the global burden of disease in such populations remains poorly understood and likely substantially under-estimated.

I completed my medical training in Birmingham, UK, before relocating to the Brisbane, Australia to complete my specialist training in the thoracic and sleep medicine. Subsequently, I have completed post-fellowship training in cystic fibrosis (CF) and PhD studies, exploring the factors which contribute to the persistence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in the CF lung. My current research interests include the role of “cloaking antibodies” in the prevention of immune clearance of gram-negative infections, and the use of wearables and information technology to remotely monitor health stability of patients with chronic respiratory disease. I am a founding member of the Australian Bronchiectasis Consortium, which aims for a better understanding of the burden of disease and advocates for improved health care for

people with bronchiectasis.

In recent years I have been fortunate to be involved as a local investigator in the pivotal clinical trial programmes which have developed highly effective CFTR disease modulators, which offer hope of transforming the lives of people with cystic fibrosis. In particular, these novel therapeutics reduce the impact chronic pulmonary infection and offer future hope of preventing the development and progression of bronchiectasis in people with CF. The advances attained in the field of CF act as an example of how, through multi-disciplinary team research, innovation and collaboration with industry, we can together improve the lives of people suffering from bronchiectasis.

Daniel James Smith

Message from the 26th APSR Congress President



Dear colleagues and friends,

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in February 2020, we've been deprived of many things we had enjoyed and taken for granted in our daily lives – the scenery of the commuting route, social gatherings, etc.

Fortunately, the pandemic is subsiding thanks to the public adherence to social distancing, massive vaccine rollout, and above all the arduous work of medical professionals including the members of the APSR.

Korea joined the global move to lift social distancing to return to daily life in April 2022. While uncertainty lingers around the future course of the pandemic, I am excited about the increased possibility of meeting APSR members in person at the APSR 2022 Seoul Congress.

We are making utmost effort to make the Seoul Congress an in-person (physical) event that is safe and free from the virus. Korea's daily caseload has been on a steady decline for the past month with the death rate remaining low at 0.1%. We expect that Korea will become an even safer country to visit by November. Please come and join us at the Seoul Congress in November, the most wonderful time of the year in Korea when you can savour the bluest and clearest skies and cool autumn weather perfect for travelling.

We are working vigorously to offer high-quality



academic programmes, the crème de la crop in an academic conference, for the APSR 2022 Seoul Congress. Assembly leaders' voices have been heeded as much as possible in the course of developing the symposium programme. We are planning to have four different symposiums covering four major diseases (asthma, COPD, interstitial lung disease, and lung cancer), two of which will be in the formats of "Meet the Professor" and "Pros and Cons."

In the "Meet the Professor" symposium, a renowned scholar will be invited to give a 30-minute lecture, followed by a one-hour discussion. The "Pros and Cons" symposium will be held in an interesting format with the following sequence: introduction & voting (chair) - pro (speaker) - con (speaker) - comments - Q&A - voting & closing.

We will lay the foundation for advancing respirology "above and beyond" by offering diverse academic programmes and opportunities to learn from prominent scholars, covering key topics of today, boosting the APSR Congress to become an esteemed academic conference that members can attend with pride. We are also preparing special programmes reflecting the uniqueness of Seoul as a venue that will unite the members coming from all over the world to enjoy a festive mood in two years. Your interest and participation will be greatly appreciated.

Ki-Suck Jung

Reports of recent APSR Educational Webinars

The sponsored APSR Educational webinar on "Respiratory Infections in the COVID-19 Era: An uncertain season ahead" was held on Wednesday 15 June 2022. This webinar provided a platform for respiratory health professionals

around the globe to share their experiences on the emerging landscape of respiratory infections in the COVID-19 era and the need for us to be better prepared for an uncertain season ahead. Participants had the chance to ask questions, discuss and hear perspectives from the speakers and panelists.

Talks:

“Influenza and RSV before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic” - Prof. Ian Barr

“Rapid Respiratory Multiplex Testing and How it Transforms Your Practice” - Dr Jonathan Chambers

Panel Discussion:

COVID-19 and Influenza Convergence: Potential ramifications and actions needed for the respiratory season

Speakers:

Prof. Ian Barr Deputy Director (WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, Doherty Institute, Melbourne, Australia)

Dr Jonathan Chambers (Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Western Diagnostic Pathology, Australia)

Panelists:

Dr Aus Molan (Procurement, PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Edith Cowan University, Australia)

Dr Megan Rees (Consultant Physician, Respiratory, Sleep and General Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia)

Varsha Potdar, PhD (Scientist 'E' & Influenza Group Leader, ICMR- National Institute of Virology National Influenza Centre, MoHFW, India)

Dr Peter Wark (Senior Staff Specialist, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, John Hunter Hospital, Conjoint Professor, University of Newcastle, Australia)

Moderators:

Dr Yuanlin Song (APSR Respiratory Infections (non-TB) Assembly, China)

Dr Steven Badman (Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Cepheid, APAC)

This event was organized as one of three separate livestreamed educational webinars sponsored by Cepheid, and a recording can be watched at apsresp.org/archive/avm/webinar-20220615.php The second and third webinars will be scheduled after September 2022. An upcoming webinar “Revamping Pneumonia Diagnosis and Antimicrobial Stewardship with Advanced Molecular Diagnostics” sponsored by bioMérieux is scheduled for 19 July 2022.

Reports from the APSR en bloc societies

Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF)

Annual events in 2022 and 2023

Past events:

1. Annual general meeting 2022 was successfully held on 26 March 2022.
2. On the occasion of the eid-ul-fitr festival, the BLF distributed clothing and food among underprivileged children at Dhaka city on 29 April 2022.
3. A CME was held on Pulmonary Fibrosis on 16 May 2022 in Dhaka.
4. On 26 May 2022 we hosted a CME entitled “Pulmonary Updates: Steps towards healthy lung” in Jeshore district where we discussed asthma updates, pulmonary fibrosis and chest radiology.
5. To observe World Asthma Day we arranged a CME in Dhaka on 29 May 2022 and presented the GINA 2022 update.

Future plans for 2022 and 2023:

1. CME on pulmonary updates in different medical colleges all around the country throughout the year.
2. Observance of different ‘Days’ in pulmonology, such as World Lung Day, World Pneumonia Day, World COPD Day, etc.
3. In 2023 we will organize our international conference – Pulmocon- the 7th international conference on lung health
Date: 21-23 February 2023
Venue: BICC at Dhaka

Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS)

13 March 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting 2022

The 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting jointly organized by the Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS) and CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau, supported by the Hong Kong Lung Foundation was successfully held online on 13 March 2022. The meeting was well attended with 201 participants. The rich one-day programme included topics on airway diseases, lung transplantation, COVID-19 treatment, obstructive sleep apnoea, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria, early mobilization in intensive care, and home ventilation. Professor David Hui shared his thoughts on “the Challenges



and Fun of being an Academic Clinician in Hong Kong” in the distinguished Donald Yu Lecture. Sharing from and discussion between international and local experts were highlights of the day. This year, the respiratory community was saddened by the passing of the late Professor Wah-kit Lam. A memorial session was dedicated to Professor Lam in the meeting.

24 May 2022 Kick-off event for “Tobacco Endgame: Zero Hazard • Smoke-free Generation” programme

The Hong Kong Thoracic Society is a supporting organization of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH)’s publicity programme “Tobacco Endgame: Zero Hazard • Smoke-free Generation”. The programme echoed the World Health Organization’s “World No Tobacco Day” on 31 May, drawing global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and diseases it causes. The HKTS joined the kick-off event held in collaboration with the Radio Television Hong Kong on 24 May 2022. The “Smoke-free Sportswear Day” activity was the highlight of the programme to create a social atmosphere for smoking cessation. A healthy, smoke-free lifestyle was promoted through wearing sportswear and doing exercise on 31 May 2022.



The official mascot “Wise Mike” met guests at the kick-off event.

25 May 2022 COPD Public Awareness Campaign in collaboration with the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

Hong Kong Thoracic Society collaborated with the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) Community Rehabilitation Network (CRN) to launch a COPD Public Awareness Campaign. A survey of the public on their knowledge of COPD was conducted, and a COPD patient information booklet was published. Content of the booklet included causes and symptoms of COPD, diagnostic tests and treatments available, prevention of the disease as well as practical tips for patients and their carers. On 25 May 2022, Presidents of the HKTS and the CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau, and Chairman of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation attended a joint press conference with CRN to report results of the survey and announced the publication of the booklet.



Joint press conference with the Community Rehabilitation Network of the Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation on 25 May 2022



Soft copy of the COPD patient information booklet can be accessed at the website of Hong Kong Thoracic Society. (hkts.hk).

Indonesian Society of Respirology (ISR)

The Indonesian Society of Respirology (ISR) is a professional organization that brings together all pulmonologists in Indonesia. It started as “dokter Jawa” (Javanese doctors) during the Dutch colonial era and has developed for today’s Indonesian pulmonologists. The late Dr Rasmin Rasjid was the main initiator of “Panitia Pembentukan Perkumpulan untuk Dokter-Dokter Ahli Paru” in 1973, which laid the foundation of “Ikatan Dokter Paru Indonesia” (IDPI). After the 5th Congress in 1990, IDPI changed its name to “Perhimpunan Dokter Paru Indonesia” (PDPI) or known as ISR today.



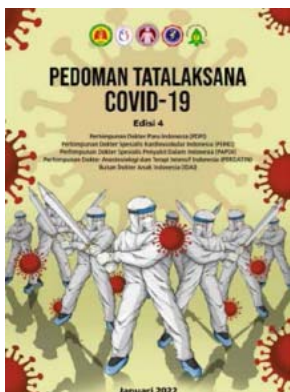
When the world was hit by the coronavirus disease in late 2019 (COVID-19), the ISR was one of many organizations that participated in managing the

pandemic cases with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. The ISR became the front line in managing COVID-19 hospital cases and established the COVID-19 Disaster Team. In addition, the ISR produced many guidelines in COVID-19 management, collaborating with other medical professional organisations (PAPDI, PERKI, IDAI, PATKLIN). Educating the general population and Indonesian healthcare professionals is one of the ISR's obligation as COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc.

The disaster team works across the country in many natural disasters that hit some regions. One of them was the Lombok flood in December 2021 that affected 3,000-4,000 people. Another was the Mount Semeru volcano eruption that happened in the same month. During the pandemic, all activities became more constrained. But that hasn't put a halt to humanitarian missions as the ISR is always ready when needed.



The ISR participated in producing and publishing many guidelines about the pandemic to standardize the professional healthcare system with all precautions considered. COVID-19 diagnostic and treatment pathway, clinical practice guide for COVID-19, SARS CoV-2 PCR recommendation, standard operating procedure (SOP) for nebulization, SOP for monoclonal antibody usage, SOP for spirometry in COVID-19, clinical practice guide for post COVID-19 and



“Pedoman Tatalaksana COVID-19” with other medical professional organizations, are some of many guidelines published by the ISR and/or participated in the making.

Aside from COVID-19-related guidelines, the ISR also published four national guideline books in the one-year period (2021-2022):

1. “Asma: Pedoman Diagnosis & Penatalaksanaan di Indonesia”
2. “Tuberkulosis: Pedoman Diagnosis dan Penatalaksanaan di Indonesia”
3. “Panduan Umum Praktik Klinis Penyakit Paru

dan Pernapasan”

4. “Panduan Vaksinasi untuk Penyakit Paru dan Pernapasan pada Orang Dewasa”

Webinars and online symposia became the normal stage as COVID-19 cases went up and down for more than a year. All educational topics were streamed through the internet for healthcare professionals and the general population. With face-to-face meetings still restricted, webinars became more frequent and accessible to everyone. The ISR worked together with online media, television and others to keep the Indonesian general public well educated and well informed about COVID-19 and other diseases without reducing the importance of tuberculosis eradication in Indonesia.

The ISR participates in the field of international journal publications and national journal publications. *Jurnal Respiriologi Indonesia (JRI)* is an open access peer-reviewed thrice monthly scientific publication for the Indonesian community, while *Respiratory Science* is the international version that was first published in October 2020. The latest publication is 2nd volume number 2 published in 2022. There are four international editors for *Respiratory Science*.

1. Prof. Dr Mohammad Azizur Rahman (SCOPUS: [57216556346](#)), Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Under Faculty of Medicine, Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Dr Jennifer Ann Mendoza-Wi, MD, FPCP, FPCCP (SCOPUS: [57188569639](#)), Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital, Dagupan, Philippines
3. Dr Kazuma Kishi, MD, Ph.D (SCOPUS: [57204733599](#)), Department of Respiratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Toho University, Tokyo, Japan
4. Dr Surya Kant (SCOPUS: [23004667500](#)), Department of Respiratory Medicine, King George, Medical University, Uttar Pradesh, India

Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS)

The 31st Annual General Meeting was held on 3 December 2021 at the One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Office Bearers 2021-2023

The following were elected as office bearers for the term 2021-2023:

President	Assoc. Prof. Dr Pang Yong Kek
Vice-President	Assoc. Prof. Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail
Hon Secretary	Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh
Hon Treasurer	Dr Jessie Anne de Bruyne
Hon Assistant Secretary	Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy
Hon Assistant Treasurer	Dr Su Siew Choo
Committee Members	Dr Asiah Kassim Dr Tan Jiunn Liang Dr Nurul Yaqeen Mohd Esa Dr Noor Ain Noor Affendi

Prof. Dr Roslina Abdul Manap was co-opted into the committee.

Honorary Auditors

The following were elected as the Honorary Auditors for the term 2021-2023:

- 1) Associate Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Fadzil Abdullah
- 2) Prof. Dr Liam Chong Kin

MTS 2021 Annual Congress

The MTS Annual Congress 2021 was held at the One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, from 2-5 December 2021. It was the first major physical congress organised by the MTS since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019. The Congress was well attended with 532 participants from all over Malaysia, and it was a successful and fruitful meeting despite the strict Standard Operating Procedures which had to be put in place to ensure safety of all participants. The Organising Committee was chaired by Dr Tan Jiunn Liang, and the Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail (adult programme) and Dr Su Siew Choo (paediatric programme).

The congress started off with three full-day workshops on 2 December 2021, which were well attended with over 120 participants. This year's workshops covered the topics of Pleural Diseases, Sleep Scoring and Remote Monitoring and Home Respiratory Care in Children.

The main congress comprised 3 plenary lectures and 21 symposia covering a wide spectrum of respiratory diseases in adults and children. The topics covered various updates in respiratory medicine and aimed to cater for the needs of all participants ranging from general physicians to respiratory subspecialists. The faculty of speakers consisted of eminent local and overseas experts. For the first time, all our overseas experts delivered their lectures and took part in the Question & Answer session virtually due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19

pandemic. There were 13 symposia sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, there were Multidisciplinary Case Discussions for paediatric and adult respiratory medicine and a Debate on the hot topic of tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were 5 oral paper presentations, 33 poster presentations on scientific papers and 52 poster presentations on case reports. The delegates presented their paper/poster on the second day of the congress. All 5 oral presenters were awarded prizes while the best 6 posters for scientific papers and best 7 case reports were also awarded prizes. The Lung Foundation of Malaysia provided cash prizes for the scientific paper awards and best case report poster award.

Other Activities

Most educational activities and meetings continued to be held online in the first few months of 2022. Paediatric Grand Ward Rounds and MTS Webinars continued for a second consecutive year. The MTS continued to host online educational modules on the MTS Education website. Restrictions on travel and physical meetings were relaxed from April 2022 and further physical meetings and hybrid meetings are being planned. The MTS Spirometry Certification Programme has resumed after a hiatus of two years. A trainer refresher course was held on 27 May 2022, the Phase 1 course was held on 28-29 May 2022, and the Phase 3 course will be held on 20-21 August 2022.

MTS Annual Congress 2022

The MTS 2022 Annual Congress will be held in Setia SPICE Convention Centre, Penang, from 13-16 October 2022. Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy has been appointed as Organising Chairperson. Dr Tan Jiunn Liang heads the Adult Scientific Committee and Dato' Dr Rus Anida Awang heads the Paediatrics Scientific Committee.

Prepared by Hooi Lai Ngoh, Hon Secretary



*The MTS Executive Committee – photo taken on 3 December 2021 during the MTS Annual General Meeting.
L-R: Assoc. Prof. Dr Pang Yong Kek, Dr Asiah Kassim, Dr Jessie Anne de Bruyne, Assoc. Prof. Dr Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail, Dr Lalitha Pereirasamy, Prof. Dr Roslina Abdul Manap, Dr Su Siew Choo, Dr Noor Ain Noor Affendi, Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh, Dr Nurul Yaqeen Mohd Esa, Dr Tan Jiunn Liang*

Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ)

TSANZSRS Annual Scientific Meeting

The highly successful Annual Scientific Meeting of The Australia and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science and The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand was held on 31 March - 2 April 2022. We were delighted to host over 1,000 delegates at the Meeting. This year's programme included some fantastic national and international invited speakers, showcasing the latest clinical and research lung health practices.

We achieved close to gender parity in this Meeting for invited speakers and achieved parity for session chairs.

Over the Conference, we had nine awards announced, with a total of almost \$150,000 given out by the Thoracic Society, Lung Foundation Australia, and the Centre of Research Excellence in Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Next year's Meeting will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand - we are all eagerly looking forward to a face-to-face meeting!

TSANZ Branch Events

SA Branch - Respiratory & Sleep Advanced Trainee Welcome Dinner

The South Australian Branch had yet another quality event for Respiratory & Sleep Advanced Trainees on 3 March 2022. The Respiratory & Sleep Advanced Trainee Welcome Dinner was held at the National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide with the topic "What I wish I knew". In this meeting, the Advanced Trainees had a fantastic opportunity to receive essential advice for training and practice, network with colleagues as well as enjoy a delightful three-course dinner.

WA Branch - Lung Club Meeting

The Western Australian Branch Executives organised the Lung Club virtual meeting on 5 May 2022. The meeting had an outstanding line-

up of speakers, with Dr Jamie Wood joining virtually from NYC to present on the US experience of post-COVID-19 followed by a talk on keeping young children well in advance of CFTR modulator therapy by Prof. Steve Stick. The meeting was well attended with 50 participants joining from across Western Australia.

VIC Branch - Lung School

The Victorian Branch Lung School Session was successfully held on 24 May 2022, at the Ryne Restaurant, Melbourne. The Lung school session offers a series of events with clinician-delivered content on topics of interest identified by advanced trainees. Dr Phan Nguyen, Director of Thoracic Medicine of Royal Adelaide Hospital, presented an educational talk on "Radial EBUS". There was also a presentation from the sponsor AstraZeneca to introduce the new triple therapy (Breztri) for COPD patients.

NSW/ACT Branch - Clinicians in Training Weekend 2022

The New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory Branch Clinicians in Training Weekend symposium was held on 28-29 May 2022, at the Crowne Plaza, Terrigal with 63 participants. The weekend symposium offered respiratory Advanced Trainees and Nurses a highly interactive residential training programme that aims to:

- Provide high-quality education targeted at NSW/ACT-based Respiratory Advanced Trainees and Respiratory Nurses, with prolonged sessions to allow in-depth coverage of presented topics;
- Prepare Advanced Trainees and Respiratory Nurses for practice with pragmatic skill and knowledge base;
- Introduce Advanced Trainees to their colleagues and increase networking;
- Improve Professionalism and Teaching skills, with non-clinical education topics; and
- Provide career advice and planning to advanced trainees.

TSANZ Clinical Guidelines

The TSANZ has published three clinical guidelines since 2021.

Title	Published date	Journal	Link
Ventilatory support at home for children: A joint position paper from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand/Australasian Sleep Association	13 August 2021	<i>Respirology</i>	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/resp.14121
Oral corticosteroids stewardship for asthma in adults and adolescents: A position paper from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand	29 September 2021	Respirology	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/resp.14147
Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Position Statement on Acute Oxygen Use in Adults: 'Swimming between the flags'	17 February 2022	Respirology	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/resp.14218

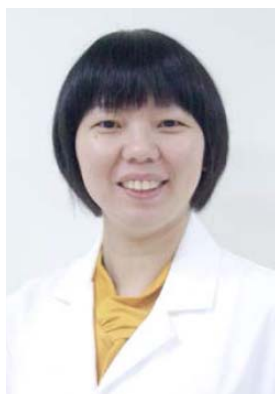
Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM)

2022 World Asthma Day press conference

To promote correct medication for asthma, the Taiwan National Health Insurance Administration, TSPCCM, Taiwan Medical Clinics Association and Taiwan Society of Health-System Pharmacists held a 2022 World Asthma Day press conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people pay more attention to lung health. We hope to let the public know the correct use of asthma inhalers by using simple examples. Inhaled corticosteroids should be used as the first choice to prevent the risk of asthma attack. Since 2021, more and more primary clinics have participated in pay-for-performance programmes for asthma. The great effect is attributed to primary clinics, medical associations, and government.



Reports from the award winners who participate the ATS International Conference



I am Dr Mei-Chuan Chen (Kathy Chen), a Pulmonologist from Taipei Medical University Hospital, Taiwan. It was a tremendous honour for me to be selected for the APSR-ATS Young Investigator Award, with the exceptional chance to present my research to the world. With great expectation, I had been prepared for

the International Poster Colloquium section of the ATS International Conference. However, I missed my wonderful opportunity to attend in-person by reason of active COVID-19 infection. So I was blessed that I could attend online and share my research with an e-poster.

Being a clinician, during COVID-19 pandemic, I have been actively participating in caring for infected patients and doing research for a better understanding of this disease. My e-poster entitled “Impact of Placenta-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells on Patients with Severe Lung Injury Caused by COVID-19 Pneumonia: Clinical, Serum Cytokine and Immune Aspect” is one of our team efforts on severe COVID-19 patients. As we know, this patient population has high mortality even with the currently well-known medical treatment. In this study, we tried placenta-derived mesenchymal stem cells on those who were refractory to the standard treatment. We shared our experience of stem cells treatment in this novel infection from bedside to bench.

Apart from my research presentations, I was also impressed by various interesting presentation topics from global experts. For a young researcher, it was a great occasion to learn the distinct points of view.

This award inspires me how important the science is. It would have been impossible for me to achieve this award without a good leader and good teamwork, to whom my deepest respect belongs. It would also not have been feasible without my family’s great support and understanding. Being able to attend the congress, winning the APSR-ATS Young Investigator award, encourages me in variant aspects. Thank you for empowering me in this way!

Mei-Chuan Chen (Taiwan)



with colleagues from all over the world at ATS 2022.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to present my research entitled “Which Came First, Emphysema or Small Airway Disease? A Longitudinal Analysis of Parametric Response

Mapping on Chest Computed Tomography in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease” in the Poster discussion session and International Scholars Poster Colloquium. Emphysema and small airway disease, the key pathological features of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, can be quantified using parametric response mapping (PRM) in chest computed tomography (CT). In this study, we derived and validated that the high functional small airway disease group had a significant increase of the proportion of emphysema in the follow-up chest CT scan while the low functional small airway disease group had almost none. These findings suggested that the longitudinal analysis of PRM CT scans may provide important evidence that small airway disease might precede emphysema in COPD.

During the Poster discussion session, I had constructive discussions with the audience. Receiving feedback from senior researchers and discussing further plans for this work was extremely beneficial. The strong passion for research and accomplishments of other young researchers I met at the International Scholars Poster Colloquium also inspired me greatly.



I understand how important it is to attend international conferences in order to maintain a keen interest in science and to advance as a pulmonologist. Participating in the ATS International Conference allowed me to gain valuable visibility that could potentially help me advancing research in my respective field. I am truly grateful to the APSR for giving me countless significant opportunities by allowing me to attend the ATS 2022.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Prof. Park and many colleagues for their inspiration and advice on my research.

Yunjoo Im (Korea)

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

For training in Interventional Pulmonology at the Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand under the supervision of Dr Jamsak Tscheikuna, Associate Professor, Division of Respiratory Medicine and Tuberculosis, Faculty of Medicine (28 February 2022-20 May 2022)



I am very pleased to announce the completion of my Short-Term Research Training/Fellowship in Interventional Pulmonology under the aegis of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology. I am very grateful to the APSR for offering me this opportunity to hone my skills in interventional pulmonology.

I had the opportunity to work with the eminent Interventional Pulmonologist Dr Jamsak Tscheikuna, who is a pioneer of interventional pulmonology at the Siriraj hospital in Bangkok, which is one of the largest teaching hospitals in Thailand. He has done lot of original work on post tubercular airway stenosis, which is my area of interest as well. The IP unit at Siriraj is very busy and they do a wide variety of IP procedures.

In my host institute, I was got the chance to assist and observe various bronchoscopic and pleuroscopy procedures. Here a large number of procedures are being done which include EBUS Radial biopsy, EBUS TBNA, rigid bronchoscopy and rigid pleuroscopy. I had an excellent opportunity to learn the innumerable cases of EBUS Radial probe biopsies under fluoroscopy guidance. I also got to learn whole lung lavage for PAP and rigid bronchoscopic interventions including electrocautery, lasers, tumor debulking, balloon dilatation and stent placement.



My project was on endobronchial TB and I observed that endobronchial TB, as in India, is common in Thailand and it warrants frequent endobronchial intervention by the rigid scope. I learnt the nuances of rigid bronchoscopy intubation and scope maneuvering. I also attended the journal club every Friday, and had the opportunity to present an article on lung cryobiopsy.



The support staff in the unit was very helpful and friendly. My special thanks to Dr Chayanon and Dr Pete, IP fellows in the unit, who went out of their way to help me. I am forever indebted to Dr Jamsak and his associate Dr Supparerk, who helped me hone my interventional procedures skills and were always kind and smiling. Finally, I thank the APSR for their Scholarship in the field of pulmonary medicine, which is continuously encouraging young physicians from all parts of Asia-Pacific region, to hone their skills and become better pulmonologists.

Arjun Khanna (India)

Assembly Reports and Newsletters

Assembly reports and newsletters 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

2022

ERS International Congress 2022
4-6 September
Barcelona, Spain (Hybrid)

Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR) Annual Meeting 2022 in conjunction with 2nd Indonesian Chronic Lung Disease International Meeting (ICLIME)
22-24 September
Jakarta, Indonesia
Email: pdpicabangjakarta@gmail.com
Website: parujakarta.or.id

Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2022
13-16 October
Penang, Malaysia
Email: m.thoracicsociety@gmail.com
Website: 2022.mts.org.my

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



2023

BLF Pulmocon- the 7th international conference on lung health
21-23 February
Dhaka, Bangladesh

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)
28-30 April
Tokyo, Japan
Email: 63jrs@jrs.or.jp
Website: jrs.or.jp/jrs63/en/index.html

ATS International Conference
19-24 May
Washington, DC, USA

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



2024

28th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology
Hong Kong
The date and further details will be announced when confirmed.



Notice from the Secretariat

Invitation to bid for the 2025 Congress!

We invite you to make a proposal to host the 29th Congress of the APSR in 2025. Bids will be considered at the next Executive Committee Meeting. You will be asked to present your thoracic society's plans for the arrangements, financial planning and infrastructure of the event (Local Congress Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (congress@theapsr.org)

FAPSR Application is temporarily suspended until further notice

We will soon review the criteria for applying for FAPSR. Therefore, the application for FAPSR is temporarily suspended. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

When the new FAPSR application is launched, we will start the reception again at our website.

If you have any queries, please contact at member@theapsr.org

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