



# Newsletter

Editor: Chul-Gyu Yoo

Associate Editors: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Yoshinori Hasegawa, Suga Konno

## Message from the new President



Firstly, it is a great honour for me to assume the role of President of the APSR, a society with a long and distinguished history. Since its establishment in 1986, APSR has evolved into a leading society in the Asia-Pacific region, boasting over 19,000 members. I extend my sincere gratitude to the leaders, including past presidents, who have contributed to the APSR's development, as well as to all member countries and regions participating as en bloc societies. During my tenure as APSR President, I am committed to steering APSR in a positive direction, focusing on key areas.

Although the APSR has grown in size comparable to other respiratory societies like the ATS and ERS, there is room for improvement in terms of quality. Therefore, I believe it's time for the APSR to prioritize quality enhancement. As an international society with members from diverse countries and regions, each facing unique political, economic, and social situations, the APSR acknowledges variations in clinical and research activities among en bloc societies or members. To elevate the overall standard, we aim to provide opportunities for continuing education and institutional support for research.

One of the APSR's missions is to offer educational opportunities that capture the interest of more members and facilitate their participation. Despite geographical challenges hindering on-site education, we have implemented webinars to address the unmet need for education. These webinars will be continued, diversified, and strengthened. Additionally, activating joint symposiums at the annual conference of each en bloc society is a strategy to enhance educational opportunities. Furthermore, plans include gradually increasing training opportunities for younger members.

While funds are crucial for research, some countries experience a contraction in research activity due to challenging economic situations. The APSR aims to find ways to provide research funding where it's desperately needed. Simultaneously, efforts will be made to encourage excellent clinicians and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region, who may not actively participate in APSR activities due to lack of interest.

The active involvement of younger members is vital for the society's creative development. Recognizing limited opportunities for younger members in leadership roles, I am committed to providing them with more chances. Although the APSR has worked hard to maintain membership equity, the diverse clinical and research situations in each country may lead some members to feel marginalized. Recognizing the importance of membership equity, we strive for harmonious development within the APSR.

In this era of globalization, raising the APSR's status among respiratory societies worldwide requires close collaboration among members in the Asia-Pacific region. This involves not only working together but also improving external relations with sister societies. Strategies include holding joint symposia, participating as speakers at sister societies' conferences, and contributing to the creation of guidelines.

While these changes won't occur overnight, it's time to lay down the stepping stones for the journey ahead. The active participation of our members has been fundamental to the APSR's progress since 1986. Without your continued support and active cooperation, the APSR cannot take a single step forward. I eagerly anticipate working with you to lay down these stepping stones, one by one, guiding the APSR to its future destination.

Chul-Gyu Yoo

## Message from the new Secretary General

I would like to express my gratitude for this great honour to have been appointed as Secretary-General of the APSR. At the same time, I feel a great responsibility.

When I was the Chairman of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) Board of Directors from 2018 to 2020, I worked to further strengthen the relationship between the JRS and the APSR. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was away from APSR activities for a while. Since I have been given this opportunity, I would like to serve the APSR and strive to improve the level of research and clinical practice for respiratory health throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The APSR was established in 1986 and has a history of 38 years. Through the efforts of our predecessors, the APSR has over 19,000 members and 16 assemblies for disease-specific areas and various operational functions as an organization. Thus, the APSR has grown into one of the world's leading medical societies for respiratory health. APSR activities are wide-ranging and include hosting the annual Congress in various Asia-Pacific countries and regions, publishing two peer-reviewed journals, and focusing on sharing information among APSR members and especially career development resources for young investigators.

I will respect and firmly maintain the current direction of the APSR and strive to develop it. Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to work as Secretary General of the APSR. I appreciate your continued support.

Yoshinori Hasegawa

## Message from the Editors in Chief of Respiriology

At the time of writing this message, we've just returned from Singapore where we attended the APSR 2023 Congress and had the chance to catch up with many of our APSR colleagues, fellow journal editors, authors and readers.

We'd like to congratulate the organizers on putting together a successful event and giving us the opportunity to showcase *Respirology* at a joint journal symposium together with our colleagues from the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. We hope that the session was informative and we welcome any questions that have arisen since our presentations about publishing your work in *Respirology*. Our Editorial Office staff would like to thank all members who visited the *Respirology* booth, attended the Meet-

the-Editor sessions, asked questions about the journal and signed up to our email content alerts.

It was a great pleasure to meet *Fukuchi* Awardees, Gizal Nakshbandi and Junya Fukuoka, and *APSR Clean Air Research* Awardee Hao Wang in person, and present them with their awards at the Congress Gala Dinner, for their excellent publications:

- [Home monitoring of lung function, symptoms and quality of life after admission with COVID-19 infection: The 'HOMECOMIN' study](#) (2023 Fukuchi Award)
- [A comprehensible machine learning tool to differentially diagnose idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis from other chronic interstitial lung diseases](#) (2023 Fukuchi Award)
- [Targeting the human  \$\beta c\$  receptor inhibits inflammatory myeloid cells and lung injury caused by acute cigarette smoke exposure](#) (2023 APSR Clean Air Research Award)



Fukuchi Award ceremony at the Gala Dinner

We thank panel members Chin Kook Rhee (on behalf of the APSR Research Committee), Antonio Anzueto, Sanjay Chotirmall, Alexander Larcombe and Kazuhiro Yatera for their assistance with selecting the Award-winning papers. The Fukuchi Awards are presented to the two most outstanding original research papers, and the APSR Clean Air Research Award is for the top original research paper investigating the effects of the global environment on lung health.

While in Singapore, we also attended the APSR *Annual General Meeting* where we presented the journal's annual report (including *Respirology Case Reports*) to members. For those unable to attend the AGM, a copy of the annual reports is available on the members-only pages of the APSR website.

One of the highlights in the report is the announcement of the 2022 Impact Factor which has increased to 6.9 (from 6.2 last year). While we want to acknowledge that the impact factor is only one out of several performance [metrics](#), it is pleasing to see that readers are not only downloading more of our papers but also citing them more frequently in their published work. *Respirology* is now ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of 66 *Respirology System* journals in Clarivate's *Journal Citation Reports*

and continues its Q1 journal status.

The report also looks back at some of the Asia-Pacific focused content published in the journal throughout the year, including a review article on [Asthma in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific Region](#) published as part of *The Future of Asthma* review series, a [Meeting Report of the 2022 Big Five Lung Diseases Workshop](#), Letters with the latest respiratory medicine news from several Asia-Pacific countries, and a [commentary](#) by APSR leaders on the importance for the Asia-Pacific region of the World Lung Day theme of ‘*Access to prevention and treatment for all, leave no one behind*’.

We’re very pleased with the progress the journal has made this year, which would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the [expert members of our Editorial Board](#). We’d like to sincerely thank them for their ongoing support and expert contributions, and we also want to warmly welcome new members John Blakey (Senior Editor), Rumi Khajotia (Advisory Board) and Cormac McCarthy (Advisory Board). It was a pleasure to catch up with many Editorial Board members throughout the year, at the various international respiratory conferences and at the virtual Editorial Board Meeting in October, and we look forward to continuing to create catch-up opportunities in 2024.

Finally, we’d also like to thank all our authors, reviewers, APSR members and APSR leaders for their strong support. We would especially like to thank our outstanding Editorial Office team, Lieve, Anke, Christel, Naomi, Debra and Rosa, without whom none of this would be possible. We wish everyone a happy new year and we look forward to continuing to work together in 2024.

Philip Bardin  
Paul Reynolds

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

As you may be aware, in July 2023, *Respirology Case Reports* received its first Clarivate Impact Factor™ of 0.8. We are very pleased with this result and believe it will benefit our authors. Other [metrics](#) for our journal are a Journal Citation Indicator of 0.18, and 2022 CiteScore of 1.3. CiteScore 2022 counts the citations received in 2019-2022 to articles published in 2019-2022 and divides this by the number of publications published in 2019-2022. In CiteScore’s Pulmonary and Respiratory Medicine category, *Respirology Case Reports* is ranked 113/144.

We are pleased to report another successful year of operation. *Respirology Case Reports* submissions (250 predicted for 2023 vs. 249 in 2022) and published manuscripts (176 in 2023 vs. 173 in 2022) remained steady and high this year.

We received manuscripts from 33 countries (similar to 36 last year). The majority of submissions originated from Japan (38%), followed by Australia (11%), China (5%), Malaysia (5%) and Taiwan (4%). 75% of submissions are from the Asia-Pacific region.

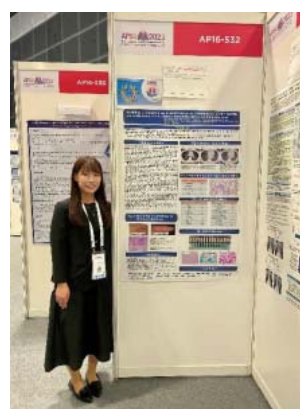
All COVID-19 related papers published are accessible in a special collection on our website: [Special collection COVID-19](#)

The acceptance rate remains high and stable at 73% and on average, the authors are informed of a first decision within 15 days of submission. The articles, once accepted, are published online within a few weeks and then available on PubMed Central within a couple of weeks.

As announced last year, we are currently preparing the journal’s website to be able to consider the submission of clinical trial protocols after receiving enquiries and interests in this article type. If you wish to submit a clinical trial protocol, please contact the [editorial office](#) for updates on when this will launch.

*Respirology Case Reports* is strongly supported by APSR members, who represent about 65% of our published authors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support of our journal. APSR members continue to benefit from a 50% discount of the open access publication charge on case reports and case series published in *Respirology Case Reports* and we hope to see many more members submit manuscripts to our journal. Some other countries in the region are offered a waiver of the open access publication fee by our publisher, Wiley, so we encourage authors from these countries to take advantage of this opportunity to publish in our journal. For an up-to-date list of countries benefiting from discount or waiver, please visit the journal’s website: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/article\\_publication\\_charges\\_and\\_discounts.htm](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/article_publication_charges_and_discounts.htm) and [authorservices.wiley.com/open-research/open-access/for-authors/waivers-and-discounts.html](https://authorservices.wiley.com/open-research/open-access/for-authors/waivers-and-discounts.html)

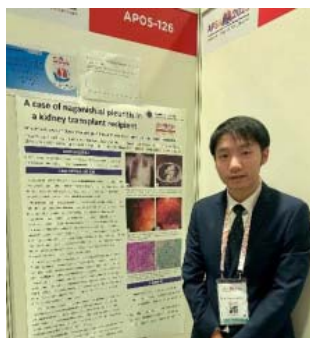
We awarded the Respirology Case Reports Poster Award for the best case report poster presented at the APSR 2023 Congress to Dr Naoko Arakawa



Dr Naoko Arakawa

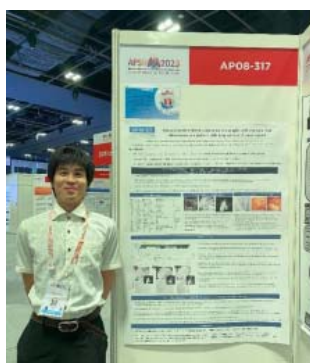
for the poster: “*Autoimmune pulmonary alveolar proteinosis during treatment for nonspecific interstitial pneumonia complicated by clinically amyopathic dermatomyositis: a case report*”. Dr Arakawa and colleagues received a waiver of the open access publication fee if their manuscript is submitted and accepted for publication in *Respirology*

Case Reports, as well as editorial assistance to prepare their manuscript for publication.



Dr Tanapat Tassaneeyasin

Dr Tanapat Tassaneeyasin for the poster: “A case of naganishial pleuritis in a kidney transplant recipient” came second place and Dr Daisuke Jingu for the poster “Atezolizumab-related sclerosing cholangitis with multiple liver abscesses in a patient with lung cancer: A case report”. We encourage them to submit their manuscript to our journal for consideration for publication.



Dr Daisuke Jingu

The Respiriology Case Reports Poster Award is presented each year at the annual APSR Congress. Authors are selected on an opt-in basis from authors presenting a case report

or case series as a poster. If you are attending the 2024 APSR Congress and presenting a poster, don't forget to opt-in for your chance to be considered for this award.

Previous years' winning papers published in the journal can be found here: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2051-3380.poster-award](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)2051-3380.poster-award)

Many excellent case reports were presented at the recent APSR Congress in Singapore, and you may have noticed a postcard from us on your poster if you were presenting a case report as we encourage the presenters to consider submitting their work to *Respirology Case Reports* and take advantage of the 50% discount on the open access publication charge for APSR members. For more information and to submit your case report, please visit the journal's webpage: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/forauthors.html](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/forauthors.html)

Our readership remains global, and has again increased with the number of downloads reaching over 350,000 (from Wiley's 2022 Annual Report). The list of the top 10 downloaded case reports from the Wiley Online library is available on the journal's webpage. [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/mostaccessed.html](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/20513380/homepage/mostaccessed.html)

We were delighted to have our own journal booth with *Respirology* at the APSR Congress in Singapore, and would like to take this opportunity to thank the APSR for providing this opportunity to feature our journal during the Congress. The



“Meet the Editor” session

Editorial Office staff met several authors at the booth and addressed their questions. I also held a “Meet the Editor” session at the booth during the Congress where I chatted with several authors.

The journal was also promoted at the ERS 2023 Congress with a banner at the APSR booth and at the JRS 2023 Congress with a “Meet the Editor” session.

The journal continues to be widely promoted on different channels with the distribution of electronic table of content (eTOC) alerts via email and via the APSR Bulletin. We have continued to advertise the journal on the *Respirology* and APSR websites, as well as those of other societies. Wiley ran email campaigns for Top Cited, Top Downloaded, Calls for Submissions from prospective and current authors, as well as Wiley Open Access marketing. We post a message on Twitter each time a case report is published and have noticed that some case reports have attracted a lot of comments and activity on this social media platform. Case reports published in 2022-2023 received 2,052 mentions online. Twitter was the main source of mentions (2,043), followed by 3 online news mentions, 3 from Wikipedia, 3 from Facebook.

To assist our Associate Editors and to further support our journal, we have created an Advisory Board composed of immediate past Associate Editors and representatives of the en bloc societies. We welcome Ka Yan Fifian Chiang, Tamera Corte, Amitha Fernando, Edward Fysh, Ali Hossain, Ahmad Izuanuddin Ismail, So Ri Kim, Miriam Yano Lalas, Tow Keang Lim, Sean Chee Hong Loh, Michael Maze, Yukari Tsubata, and Trang Thi Thu Vu, as members of our inaugural Advisory Board.

In 2023, we farewelled our Associate Editors Jasleen Pannu, Fu-Qian Wen, and Priya Daniel who stepped down due to other commitments. Tow Keang Lim, Michael Maze and Tamera Corte have also stepped down from their role as Associate Editors to join our Advisory Board. In 2023, we welcomed Young Ae Kang (Republic of Korea),

Panwen Tian (China) and Yuanlin Song (China) as Associate Editors.

We are indebted to our Associate Editors for their work in assessing all the manuscripts submitted to the journal. We would like to thank each one of them for their commitment and support, their expert advice and for championing the journal. We also acknowledge our Deputy Editors, Philip Bardin, Peter Eastwood, Gary Lee and Paul Reynolds, who provide guidance and support to the journal. There is a hardworking team behind *Respirology Case Reports* who need to be acknowledged and thanked including Dr Lieve Bultynck, Managing Editor, and Dr Christel Norman, Deputy Managing Editor who ensure that the journal runs smoothly on a daily basis, as well as the rest of the Editorial Office staff, the team at Wiley and the APSR Secretariat.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2024.

Keiko Kan-o

### Message from the APSR Education Committee Chairperson

WHO Director, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared an end of the COVID-19 pandemic on 5 May 2023. This is after over 760 million cases worldwide and over 6.9 million deaths (slightly over 1%) and more than 13 billion doses of vaccines administered. While the virus has certainly not disappeared and continues to cause deaths worldwide, it provides a poignant moment for us to salute the numerous healthcare workers who have battled for more than three years, many losing their lives in the process. I hope that all of you can join me to have a few minutes silence to remember these heroes. It also allows us to review lessons learnt to better plan for the next pandemic, perhaps disease X.

One major lesson learnt is that education activities must carry on despite the pandemic, with the use of online platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The ad hoc subcommittee led by Dr Grace Lam (Hong Kong) kicked off a series of Grand Round webinars in 2023 featuring clinical cases with good learning points. One was on the theme of Paediatrics, another on Tuberculosis and the other two on Clinical Respiratory Medicine. All four webinars were very well received with an average feedback score of more than 4.7 out of 5 (5 being perfect). I have personally learnt much from attending them, even after being in clinical practice for nearly 40 years. Two other webinars were held, coincidentally both were on diagnostic testing of viral respiratory infections.

The two publications by the Committee, a) *Respiratory Updates* (chaired by Dr Sukhwinder Sohal from Australia) and b) the APSR Bulletin

(chaired by Dr Kazuto Matsunaga from Japan) continued to be popular. The *Respiratory Updates* continues to be the cutting edge of APSR Education with a monthly listing of the top 10 peer reviewed articles within the past 12 months on a particular topic, with direct links to the entire article. It continues to be one of my favourite regular reads. The APSR Bulletin also piloted the new Cappuccino Chat in the past year or so with interviews with prominent or interesting APSR members and this was very well received. To our interviewees (Dr Yoichi Nakanishi from Japan, Dr Chong Kin Liam from Malaysia, Dr Arth Nana from Thailand, Dr Anne Goh from Singapore, Dr Yoshinosuke Fukuchi from Japan and Dr Christine Jenkins from Australia), I thank you all for your contributions and giving us an insight into your interesting lives, which will be an inspiration to many.

The APSR Teaching Library (chaired by Dr Albert Lim from Singapore) continues to take shape with 147 cases already approved. Please visit the Library and test your own knowledge in the comfort of your own home and at your own time. Last but certainly not least, the Patient Education Committee (chaired by Dr Jennifer Ann Wi from Philippines) has put up five common topics on the APSR website in collaboration with heavy-weight partners on Asthma (GINA), COPD (GOLD), COVID-19 (ATS), Pneumonia (CDC) and Sleep Apnoea (European Lung Foundation). I urge you to direct your patients there so that they can have authoritative information instead of swimming around the internet flooded with sponsored information or fake news.

I would like to acknowledge some of the challenges faced by the Education Committee. The main one is that of the 19,000 members of the APSR, only 5,000 have valid and registered email addresses with the APSR. Of these only 1,400+ have a legitimate password. While this is almost triple than when this Committee took office in 2021, it is a pity that more than 17,000 members miss out on precious and free quality educational programmes which are accessed via user ID and password. I await with anticipation to see this lingering issue solved permanently next year as promised by the senior APSR leaders/Secretariat with the new website. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts by all the members of this Education Committee (the list is too long, and I do sincerely apologise to you) who have given sacrificially with no apparent benefit other than the satisfaction of helping our colleagues become better doctors for our patients. I also want to make special mention of the APSR Secretariat, especially Rina Kishigami, Eriko Sato and of course Suga Konno (the Executive Manager) who have worked tirelessly this past year in support of the Committee.

I end with a note that the APSR exists solely for its members and nothing else, and we must always

question how being a member of APSR benefits us.

Philip Eng

### Message from the APSR Research Committee Chairperson

The APSR launched Multi-Society Research Project (a 2-year grant, formally called Multi-Country Research Project) in 2020, and the third funded research project was selected in 2023. The title of this third project is “*Investigation and development of a broad spectrum anti-viral therapy for both seasonal and pandemic influenza A viral infections*”. This study will be performed by Dr Alan Chen-Yu Hsu (PI), Dr Kai Sen Tan from Singapore, Dr Jemma Mayall, Dr Jay Horvat, and Dr Peter Wark from Australia.

In addition to the Multi-Society Research Project, the Research Committee has been involved in reviewing and selecting applications for the Assembly Fund Project. The current ongoing project is “*Developing a novel synthetic lethal treatment with targeting long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) for KRAS-mutated lung cancer*”. This research is being led by the Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly. Project members are Dr Mitsuo Sato (PI), Dr Ichidai Tanaka, and Dr Kazuhide Sato from Japan. There isn't a new project in 2023.

There were three successful trainees for the APSR Short-Term Research / Training Scholarship: Dr Imran Muhammad from Pakistan, Dr Therese Pauline Yap from Philippines, and Dr Animesh Ray from India.

As in previous years, there have been selections for the APSR Travel Awards to the ATS International Conference and the ERS International Congress. The Committee also selected an Educational Leader and a trainee for the Resident Boot Camp at the ATS International Conference 2023.

Chin Kook Rhee

### Message from the APSR Membership Committee Chairperson

Happy New Year to all members of the APSR.

#### Membership category

There are two types of membership in the APSR; en bloc membership and individual membership.

#### En Bloc membership

As of 18 December 2023, the number of en bloc member societies was 13, and the total number of en bloc members was 18,569, representing an increase of 466 members compared to last year.

#### Individual membership

As of 18 December 2023, the number of individual

members was 557 from 43 countries, representing an increase of 56 members compared to last year.

The number of Ordinary members did not change much, but the number of Associate and Undergraduate Student members increased considerably. It seems that the new categories are becoming recognized.

#### FAPSR members

The application has been suspended since 30 June 2022 to review the current criteria, and the Membership Committee is working on finalizing new application criteria for FAPSR. The application for FAPSR is expected to begin in 2024, according to the new criteria.

The total APSR membership has exceeded 19,000 members. As the chairperson of the APSR Membership Committee, I hope all members of the APSR enjoy the privilege of membership of the APSR.

Yasutaka Nakano

### Report from the 27th APSR Congress President

The 27<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR 2023) with the theme of “Current Practice Future Care” was successfully held at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore, from 16 to 19 November 2023. On behalf of the Singapore Thoracic Society (STS) and the APSR Local Congress Committee (LCC), I would like to thank the APSR President, APSR leaders, distinguished guests, speakers and delegates for a successful APSR 2023.



Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception

The theme “Current Practice Future Care” lies at the core of our collective quest to shape the foundation of “Current Practice” for respiratory medicine and aims to achieve true progress in “Future Care” through collaborative efforts and shared insights. It provides unique opportunities for medical professionals, researchers, nurses, and allied health experts to come together and stay updated on the latest development of respiratory medicine.

Our comprehensive scientific programme covered the theme of the Congress with 9 pre-Congress workshops, 8 plenary lectures, 44 assembly symposia, the APSR Gold Joint Session, the joint session dialogue by *AJRCCM* and *Respirology* editors, and 16 sponsored symposia.



A total of 1,992 delegates from 45 countries participated in the Congress. They held discussions, exchanged ideas and listened to various opinions. The Congress will be further supplemented by the on-demand content of the Congress through the APSR 2023 mobile app and virtual platform for three months from the 18 December 2023.

I would like to thank our diamond sponsor (GSK), platinum sponsors (AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer) and all industry partners. They played a crucial role in making APSR 2023 a tremendous success. The exhibition booths, the sponsored luncheons and dinner symposia were venues for promotion and networking, featuring 19 exhibitors and companies.



Closing Ceremony

I hope we will cherish the wonderful memories from APSR 2023 in Singapore. Lastly but not least, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all the delegates, sponsors and exhibitors, and look forward to meeting you again at the APSR 2024 Congress in Hong Kong.



Albert Yick-Hou Lim

## Awards presented at the 27th APSR Congress

The following awards were presented during the APSR 2023 Congress in Singapore.

They include awards named in honour of those members with a long-standing history of teaching and mentorship in their particular field, making significant contributions to respiratory medicine in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further details of all awards can be seen at [apsresp.org/awards/index.html](https://apsresp.org/awards/index.html)

The awardees at the 27<sup>th</sup> APSR Congress include:

### APSR Medal

Arth Nana (Thailand)

### APSR Michiyoshi Harasawa Research Award

Kazuto Matsunaga (Japan)

### APSR Ann Janet Woolcock Research Award

Paul Reynolds (Australia)

### Fukuchi Award for outstanding original papers published in *Respirology*

'A comprehensible machine learning tool to differentially diagnose idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis from other chronic interstitial lung diseases'

*Authors: Taiki Furukawa, Shintaro Oyama, Hideo Yokota, Yasuhiro Kondoh, Kensuke Kataoka, Takeshi Johkoh, Junya Fukuoka, Naozumi Hashimoto, Koji Sakamoto, Yoshimune Shiratori, Yoshinori Hasegawa*

'Home monitoring of lung function, symptoms and quality of life after admission with COVID-19 infection: The HOMECOMIN' study'

*Authors: Gizal Nakshbandi, Catharina C. Moor, Esther J. Nossent, J. J. Miranda Geelhoed, Sara J. Baart, Bart G. Boerrigter, Joachim G. J. V. Aerts, Suzan F. M. Nijman, Helger Y. Santema, Merel E. Hellemons, Marlies S. Wijzenbeek*

### APSR Clean Air Research Award

'Targeting the human  $\beta c$  receptor inhibits inflammatory myeloid cells and lung injury caused by acute cigarette smoke exposure'

*Authors: Nok Him Fung, Hao Wang, Ross Vlahos, Nick Wilson, Angel F. Lopez, Catherine M.*

*Owczarek, Steven Bozinovski*

**APSR-ATS Young Investigator Award**  
Sarina K. Sahetya (USA)  
Emmanuel Twumasi Osei (USA)

**APSR-ERS Young Investigator Award**  
Xinhui Wu (Netherlands)  
Tai Tran-Quoc (Viet Nam)

**APSR-TSANZ Young Investigator Award**  
Denby Evans (Australia)

**APSR-JRS Young Investigator Award**  
Keisuke Anan (Japan)  
Yasuhiko Nakamura (Japan)  
Ryuichi Togawa (Japan)

**APSR Travel Award**  
Cary Amiel Villanueva (Philippines)  
Hiroaki Ikushima (Japan)  
Lei Wang (China)  
Yan Hu (China)

**APSR Young Investigator Travel Award**  
Ke Deng (China)  
Claudia Sim (Australia)  
Dhammika Leshan Wannigama (Thailand)  
Shanshan Wei (China)  
Ye Wang (China)

**APSR / Norbert Berend COPD Young Investigator Award**  
Sarang Patil (India)

**APSR / KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respirology**  
Ryuji Yoshinaga (Japan)

**APSR / Malcolm Winterburn Lung Cancer Young Investigator Award**  
Ranpu Wu (China)

**APSR / KF-CB Lung Cancer Research Young Investigator Award**  
Asha Bonney (Australia)

**APSR / J Patrick Barron Medical Education Young Investigator Award**  
Anita Nur Charisma (Indonesia)  
Van Duong-Thi-Thanh (Viet Nam)

**APSR / Peter Sly Paediatric Lung Disease Young Investigator Award**  
Khe Muoy Um (Cambodia)

**APSR / Paul Zimmerman Physiology Young Investigator Award**  
Minalosani Arumugam (Malaysia)

**APSR / APTA Young Investigator Award**  
Wei Liu (China)

**APSR / KATRD Young Investigator Award**  
Sun Young Paik (Republic of Korea)

**APSR / PCCP Young Investigator Award**  
Nikko John Dalisay (Philippines)

**APSR / VNRS Young Investigator Award**  
Dong Nguyen Van (Viet Nam)

**APSR / VNRS Young Investigator Award for Lung Cancer Research**  
Luan Pham (Viet Nam)

**APSR / Woolcock Vietnam Young Investigator Award**  
Lam Nguyen-Ho (Viet Nam)

**APSR Clean Air Congress Abstract Award**  
Liyang Fan (China)  
Keiko Kan-o (Japan)

**APSR Assembly Education Awards**  
APSR Assembly Education Awards started in 2019,

giving an opportunity for young investigators to experience presenting at an APSR Congress, and get immediate feedback and advice from APSR experts.

**Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly**

Jael Victoria Supan (Philippines)  
Sugeesha Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka)  
Siew Hui Michelle Koh (Singapore)  
Nurul Aini Bari (Singapore)  
Melanie Stevenson (Australia)  
Hyejin Park (Republic of Korea)

**Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly**

Ailin Yang (China)  
Kentaro Hata (Japan)  
Sultana Zahura Afrin (Bangladesh)  
Bumhee Yang (Republic of Korea)

**Clinical Allergy & Immunology Assembly**

Hitoshi Sasano (Japan)  
Kristin Purnama Dewi (Indonesia)  
Shoko Ueda (Japan)  
Tsai-I Lu (Taiwan)  
Sumiko Abe (Japan)  
Takayasu Nishimaki (Japan)

**Environmental & Occupational Health and Epidemiology Assembly**

Sameer Arbat (India)  
Juvenita Sartika Dewi (Indonesia)  
Jooyeon Lee (Republic of Korea)  
King-Pui Florence Chan (Hong Kong)  
Sang-Ryul Cha (Republic of Korea)  
Linh Tran (Viet Nam)

**Respiratory Infections (non-tuberculous) Assembly**

Huong Thien Pham (Viet Nam)  
Tanapat Tassaneeyasin (Thailand)  
Keith Zhi Xian Toh (Singapore)  
Joanne Yep (Singapore)  
Minh Hung Tran (France)  
Toshiki Kimura (Japan)

**Tuberculosis Assembly**

Caroline Victoria Choong (Singapore)  
Bazli Bahar (Malaysia)  
Maneesha Piyuminie Jayasiri (Sri Lanka)  
Budi Yanti (Indonesia)  
Sampath Liyanage (United Kingdom)

**COPD Assembly**

Allabyergyen Myeryemkhaan (Mongolia)  
Keisuke Morikawa (Japan)  
Aldrin John Almario (Philippines)  
Yiting Tang (Singapore)  
Marieke Wuyts (Belgium)  
Hyungmin Jeong (Republic of Korea)

**Lung Cancer Assembly**

Ira Bauty Dwi Octavia (Indonesia)  
Sumithra Appava (Malaysia)  
Koichi Hirano (Japan)  
Rika Hardisa (Indonesia)  
Khi Yung Fong (Singapore)  
Daisuke Jingu (Japan)

**Asthma Assembly**

Sokchinda Kong (Cambodia)  
Jun Tanaka (Japan)  
Chandra Prakash Yadav (Singapore)  
Xiaodi Hu (China)  
Tingfeng Lee (Singapore)



Tomohiro Akaba (Japan)  
**Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep Assembly**  
 Ruwani Perera (Sri Lanka)  
 Mei Ching Yong (Malaysia)  
 Christopher Chew (Australia)  
**Critical Care Medicine Assembly**  
 Catherine Joy R Tubig (Philippines)  
 Seo-Hee Yang (Republic of Korea)  
 Thuy-Anh Do (Viet Nam)  
 Chih-Jung Chang (Taiwan)  
 Yichun Sun (China)  
 Gyungah Kim (Republic of Korea)  
**Bronchoscopy and Interventional Techniques Assembly**  
 Abhinav Guliani (India)  
 Norris Ling (Singapore)  
 Estee Pui Mun Lau (Australia)  
 Ma. Cecilia Lozada (Philippines)  
 Tadashi Sakaguchi (Japan)  
 Lewis Xiao (Australia)  
**Paediatric Lung Disease Assembly**  
 Nhat Quynh Nguyen (Viet Nam)  
 Minjeong Lee (Republic of Korea)  
 Karina Jo Rhudy (Philippines)  
 Sirapoom Niamsanit (Thailand)  
 Melvin Hoo Chuin Shen (United Kingdom)  
**Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly**  
 Erika Faradilla Sukoputri (Indonesia)  
 Zi Yi Christopher Thong (Singapore)  
 Karlo Mayol (Philippines)  
 Fumiya Kotajima (Japan)  
 Syarifah Jannatin Aliyah (Indonesia)  
**Pulmonary Circulation Assembly**  
 Husain Kadhem (Bahrain)  
 Lea Dianne Ayuyao (Philippines)  
 Dingyi Wang (China)  
 Yen Shen Wong (Malaysia)  
 Mirasol Aboga-Pacheco (Philippines)  
**Interstitial Lung Disease Assembly**  
 Apirak Junpeng (Thailand)  
 Wenjia Pearly Koh (Singapore)  
 Naoko Arakawa (Japan)  
 Hao-shuai Yang (China)  
 Mahalakshmi Shanmugasundaram (Singapore)  
 Hui Li Ang (Australia)  
**APSR Teaching Library Case Submission Award**  
 Lam Luk Ping (Hong Kong)  
 Ng Boon Hau (Malaysia)  
 Animesh Ray (India)  
 Aisya Natasya Musa (Malaysia)  
**Respirology Case Reports Poster Award**  
 Naoko Arakawa (Japan)

## Message from the 28th APSR Congress President

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are thrilled to share that the 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR 2024) will be held from 7 to 10 November 2024 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in the vibrant city of Hong Kong. On behalf of the



Dr Fanny Wai-San Ko



Dr James Chung-Man Ho

Local Congress Committee, we extend a warm and cordial invitation to the medical, nursing and allied health community to join us at this exciting event.

APSR 2024 is co-hosted by the APSR and the Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS), sponsored by the Hong Kong Lung Foundation. This collaboration marks the third time (after 2004 and 2012) that these professional societies come together to organize the APSR Congress in Hong Kong, highlighting the importance and success of our partnership.

Under the theme of “Personalized Care in Respirology”, APSR 2024 will feature a comprehensive programme encompassing cutting-edge knowledge and advanced technology in Respiratory Medicine, Critical Care, Thoracic Oncology, and Allergy. Esteemed experts across the globe will be invited to deliver lectures, providing valuable insights and fostering international collaboration.

This Congress provides a unique opportunity for attendees to engage in fruitful exchanges of ideas, share their expertise, and forge meaningful connections with fellow respiratory specialists, allergists, oncologists, scientists, nurses and respiratory allied health professionals. With an anticipated participation of 2,000 to 2,500 delegates, the APSR 2024 Congress promises to be a vibrant and enriching event that should not be missed.

Hong Kong, a city that harmoniously blends Western and Asian influences, stands as a cosmopolitan hub of business, culture, and trade. The breathtaking skyline of Victoria Harbour is visible from the Convention Center. Convenient transportation linking the city from various countries ensures easy access while navigating the city itself is both simple and safe.

We sincerely hope that you will mark your calendars and make plans to join us in Hong Kong for the APSR 2024 Congress. Together, let us contribute to the advancement of respirology and work towards achieving quality healthcare in the Asia-Pacific region.

Stay tuned for further updates on the scientific programme, pre-Congress workshops, abstract submission, registration, accommodation, and social activities, which will be available on our official website [apsr2024.hk](http://apsr2024.hk) Early registration is

highly encouraged to take advantage of special rates.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to welcoming you to the 28<sup>th</sup> APSR Congress in Hong Kong!

Fanny Wai-San Ko  
James Chung-Man Ho

~ *Reports from the APSR Congress  
award winners* ~

**APSR / Norbert Berend COPD Young  
Investigator Award**



I, Dr Sarang Patil, MD, FCCP am very honoured to receive the APSR / Norbert Berend COPD Young Investigator Award at the APSR 2023 Congress. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support from the APSR.

On behalf of my colleagues, I presented our work entitled “*Tele-pulmonology...connecting the last dot*” at APSR 2023. We utilised the recent boom in telecommunication and mobile broadband services in India in reaching the rural and tribal population. With simple tools like wax candle and centimeter scale we were able to triage high risk population for COPD using teleconsultations. On follow-up in the tertiary care centre we were able to diagnose COPD in 40 out of 50 of these patients. Early diagnosis and treatment led to reducing the incidence of exacerbations and improved their overall quality of life. We are more than happy to share our project on the international stage like the APSR, and receive suggestions from our peers around the globe.

I had a chance to network with other researchers / clinicians during the discussion session, and also attended various sessions which were truly up-to-date and state-of-the-art. I again appreciate the APSR for this precious opportunity.

Sarang Patil (India)

**APSR / KF-CB Lung Cancer Research  
Young Investigator Award**

It was a privilege to receive the APSR / KF-CB Lung Cancer Research Young Investigator Award for this year’s Congress in Singapore. I would like to thank the APSR, Prof Kwun Fong and Prof Chunxue Bai for their generous support.



I was able to present two abstracts at the 2023 APSR Congress on incidental findings detected as part of lung cancer screening, with one presentation particularly focused on coronary artery calcification. The Congress was an

invaluable opportunity to meet many colleagues from across the Asia-Pacific region during the lung cancer sessions who share a common interest and learn about their exciting projects.

This was my first APSR Congress, and I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the bronchoscopy and interventional technique workshop as well as the many symposia. I particularly appreciated the local cultural elements incorporated into the opening ceremony and Gala Dinner.

I would like to thank my supervisors A/Prof Manser and Prof Steinfert, as well as all the International Lung Screen Trial team for their support and guidance during my PhD.

Thank you again to the APSR for this generous award.

Asha Bonney (Australia)

**APSR / Peter Sly Paediatric Lung  
Disease Young Investigator Award**



First of all, I would like to say thank you so much for giving me the award and providing me with the chance to join the Gala Dinner at Raffles Hotel in Singapore. I was so excited for all those opportunities. I also would like to thank the APSR for selecting my abstract enabling me

to present my poster in the Congress. Dr Mahesh babu Ramamurthy and one of his colleagues were the leaders of my presentation surrounded by other delegates from Indonesia, Vietnam and China also joined as the audience. I was asked several questions and received some recommendations from them, which will be useful to improve my presentation skills further. During the Gala Dinner at the Raffles Hotel, the light drawing performance was very emotional and skillful, and the food was delicious. It was such a pleasure and honour to sit there and watch all those artists.

The APSR 2023 Congress in Singapore was great. During the Congress, everyone was very punctual and polite, and very helpful when we sought help. The whole organization was exceptional. As I

come from an under-developed country, joining the APSR and listening to all the professors giving their presentations was eye opening. Most of the topics were so interesting. There were a lot of new things to learn and even some new interventions, which are not available in my country. It helps me to see how big the world of medicine is, and I hope one day they will be available in my country. Having the opportunity to join the APSR annual Congress is really a chance to stay up to date with the respiratory field, meet different people from other parts of the world and share different knowledge, experience and cultures. If I could suggest one thing, I wish there were more topics related to pediatric lung disease in the Congress.

Singapore hosted the whole event well. The snacks, the lunches and the dinners were all well prepared. The halls were clean, the sound was clear, the slides were large enough to see and every room was very cool. As the Suntec Convention Center is huge, they gave us very clear directions.

Last but not least, I admire Singapore so much. It is a small country but very modern. Singapore is such a beautiful, multi-cultural country with many different kinds of healthy food. It feels very safe to walk around at night, the streets are very clean, and there is a lot of affordable public transportation including buses and mass rapid transit (MRT). I also noticed that people obey the laws so well. Finally, visiting the Garden by the Bay was a highlight of my trip. It is unique and beautiful, especially at night.

Lastly, I would like to say, thank you again. I will continue submit an abstract every year and I hope I will be able to join the next APSR Congress in Hong Kong next year.

Khe Muoy Um (Cambodia)

### APSR / Paul Zimmerman Physiology Young Investigator Award



I would like to congratulate and thank the APSR 2023 Congress Committee for the memorable conference this year in Singapore. I am honoured by the award presented to me for my team's work on reducing sleep study wait time in Malaysia.

#### Symposiums and talks

The concurrent multi-hall symposiums of various topics provided a good chance for us to select the topic of our interest and follow the latest updates in that area while meeting colleagues with other interests as well. This allowed mingling with professionals from other countries even beyond the Asia-Pacific region to broaden our horizons.

The flow and transition of talks and multimedia assistance was flawless and improved our learning experience.

#### Oral Presentation



Prior to presentation, we were able to rest and prepare for the presentation in a special room for speakers. It provided a quiet environment with refreshments to calm our nerves and go through the slides without disturbances. Later, during the presentation, despite a small technical glitch in the slides, I was able to proceed with my presentation without much interruption. It gave me great pleasure to meet the judges who were well recognised and respected within their fields. They were amicable and the interaction during the presentation was pleasant. Exchange of valuable inputs and remarks given during the feedback has helped to improve the design of my study to achieve better results.

#### Gala Dinner & Award Presentation



The dinner was held in a prestigious hotel in Singapore with so much history to its establishment. I was excited to be with people who have significant contributions to upgrading pre-existing knowledge, improving patient care, new ideas using artificial intelligence incorporated into daily care/monitoring of patient's progress, etc. During the pre-event session, I was able to meet some renowned doctors from around the world who shared their experiences in their own practices.

In summary APSR 2023 was a rewarding experience. While learning what's new in this field, I also managed to make new friends from around the globe. I am looking forward to the next year. Thank you.

Minalosani Arumugam (Malaysia)

## APSR / KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respiriology



I am honoured to share that I was awarded the APSR / KYF Young Investigator Award for Geriatric Respiriology at the 27th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR 2023). The focus of my research was "*Handgrip strength as a predictor of independent walking upon discharge in critically ill*

*adults: a prospective study in advanced emergency and critical care center*". As a physical therapist, I was very honoured to receive this prestigious award, and I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported my research.

This marked my second experience presenting at an international conference. The catalyst for my participation was the research funding I received from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (KAKENHI) this year. My introduction to the conference came through a discussion with a professor at my graduate school, who recommended it as an ideal platform for presenting my research findings. Initially lacking confidence in my English proficiency, I opted for a poster presentation. To my surprise, the format was later changed to an oral presentation. Despite my lack of prior experience in oral presentations, I embraced the challenge positively. Over the course of a month, I diligently prepared answers to potential questions on paper and utilized language learning apps to refine my English pronunciation.

The presence of two chairpersons for my presentation session was another unexpected but pleasant surprise, as such a setup is rare in Japan unless it is a special session. While the actual presentation proceeded smoothly, the question-and-answer session taught me the importance of articulating prepared responses in my own words. Although I attended the Congress alone without a companion, I realized that it is possible to attend an international conference alone.

The award ceremony was a delightful experience, complemented by a splendid dinner akin to a celebration in Japan. Engaging in conversations with other award-winning doctors seated around me was very valuable. During our interactions, I discovered that some awardees were a decade younger than me, emphasizing the diverse age spectrum represented.

I believe that embracing the challenge of attending such an academic conference significantly contributed to the positive outcomes. I hope for increased participation not only from doctors

but also from allied healthcare professionals such as physical therapists. This experience has been enriching and will undoubtedly shape my future research endeavors, fostering substantial growth as a researcher. My heartfelt thanks go to the chairman and all those involved in organizing APSR 2023.

Ryuji Yoshinaga (Japan)

## APSR / J Patrick Barron Medical Education Young Investigator Award



I was very honoured and grateful to receive the APSR/J Patrick Barron Medical Education Young Award Investigator at the 27th Congress of APSR 2023 Singapore. This was the first time for me to attend the APSR Congress and I was impressed by this event

and Gala Dinner. This event successfully featured various topics and recent studies from all over the world. I sincerely hope to attend the APSR Congress again in the future.

I was able to present our study about polymorphisms NAT2 and SCLO1B1 with drug induced Hepatotoxicity caused Isoniazid and Rifampicin in Indonesia. I hope this research could be useful for TB management in Indonesia and could be a lesson for other countries.

I am incredibly humbled by this opportunity and would like to pay my heartiest gratitude to the APSR 2023 Committee. I would like to say thank you to Prof Soedarsono from Department Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya Indonesia. Thank you Prof Shin and Prof Cho from Center for Personalized Precision Medicine of Tuberculosis (cPMTb) laboratory, Inje University College of Medicine, Busan, Republic of Korea, and all my colleagues for supporting my research.

Anita Nur Charisma (Indonesia)

## APSR / J Patrick Barron Medical Education Young Investigator Award



The Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology 2023 Congress was a rewarding experience for me. It marked my inaugural exposure to a worldwide platform, where I learned about a variety of topics and research from experts in Singapore, Australia,

ATS and ERS.

It was also a pivotal moment for studying and establishing strong partnerships within the international respiratory community, such as in Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia, and China.

I particularly appreciated the thoughtful and professional organization of the Singapore Thoracic Society in orchestrating posters and oral presentations.

I express my sincere gratitude to Professor Patrick Barron, Ms Akiko Matsumori, office bearers, and friends of the APSR and APTA, for giving me the honour of receiving the J Patrick Barron Medical Education Young Investigator Award.

This acknowledgement holds significant meaning for me, and it motivates me to work hard to become a respiratory care specialist.



Van Duong-Thi-Thanh (Viet Nam)

### APSR / KATRD Young Investigator Award



First of all, I am very honoured to have been selected to receive the APSR/KATRD Young Investigator Award at the APSR 2023 Congress in Singapore. Joining the 27<sup>th</sup> APSR Congress in Singapore was a valuable and memorable experience for me. It was not only my first international congress

to attend but also an opportunity to give an oral presentation and even receive an award. I had such a meaningful and inspiring time while participating in all the sessions I attended during the Congress. As a first-year newbie respiratory fellow, I found a great motivation to become a researcher and I actually enjoyed listening to other's presentations.

Moreover, I would like to congratulate the APSR for the successful Congress in Singapore. I loved the programmes and sessions that were mostly

well-organized and informative for updating my knowledge and new perspectives about respiratory diseases. I would like to thank the entire committee from the APSR for all this hard work. It was my first time to visit Singapore, and I fell in love with it. While I was sightseeing in the city, I was impressed by the neatness of the country and the atmosphere including all the buildings and skyscrapers harmoniously surrounded by nature. It was stunning that I even felt I would like to live in this country. I would definitely hope to visit Singapore again soon. Besides, I also had the opportunity to attend the Gala Dinner to receive the award. I loved the occasion where it was held and even loved the food and shows they prepared for all attendees. I also had the opportunity to meet many inspiring researchers from other neighbouring countries and enjoyed sharing my experiences and stories in doing research. I enjoyed the entire time during the event. I will keep this memorable event for the rest of my life and hopefully, the inspiration and knowledge I gained from the Congress help me grow to be not only a clinician but also a better researcher.

Last but not least, I would love to express my deepest gratitude to all my supervisors in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Allergy at Hanyang University Medical Center for their warm support and guidance. To wrap all these up, I look forward to seeing everyone next year at the APSR 2024 Congress in Hong Kong!

Sun Young Paik (Republic of Korea)

### APSR / PCCP Young Investigator Award



On 10 October 2023, I received an enthralling message from the APSR Congress Secretariat with the warmest congratulations together with my co-authors as the recipient of the APSR/PCCP Young Investigator Award for the research entitled: "Correlation of Fat-to-Muscle Mass Ratio

Using the Bioimpedance Analyzer with VO<sub>2</sub> Max Among COPD and PRISm Patients". This study has been one of the pioneer studies determining clinical characteristics of PRISm since its introduction with the GOLD 2023.

Developing a study with clinical and societal relevance has been an uplifting dream in my chosen subspecialty, pulmonary rehabilitation. Moreover, the APSR Congress has been a vigorous opportunity to share ideas and scientific findings with the neighbouring countries and collaborate for the best clinical practices. This experience has also been a liberating experience to be an advocate of lung health.



Dr Nikko John Dalisay receiving the award from the PCCP President, Dr Aileen Aniceto

One of the highlights of the Congress is the Gala Dinner. The event was bound to meet fellow pulmonologists of various expertise, and young physicians who will soon have big names in the field of pulmonology. Apart from this, it was a night to highlight Singapore's cultural prowess and undertake a deeper understanding of Asian culture. Overall, the APSR 2023 was a humongous success and a memorable experience for all of its attendees.



The Philippine delegates with the APSR Congress President, Dr Albert Lim Yick Hou

My sincerest gratitude to my research mentors, Dr Bernice Ong-dela Cruz and Dr Ronnie Juanco, the Philippine Heart Center Division of Pulmonary Medicine, and the Philippine Foundation Lung Health Research and Development, Inc. This study has encouraged our team to develop further innovations in pulmonary rehabilitation.



The APSR Awardees at the Gala Dinner

Nikko John Dalisay (Philippine)

## APSR / VNRS Young Investigator Award for Lung Cancer Research



My name is Van Luan Pham, from Department of Respiratory Medicine, 108 Military Central Hospital, Vietnam. I am delighted to once again be speaking as the recipient of an award from the APSR 2023 Congress. This was

the third time I have received an award from the APSR Congress, the previous two being in 2019 and 2021. At this Congress, I had two abstracts with “*Comparative Effects of Afatinib and Gefitinib as First-Line Treatment in Patients with Advanced Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Common EGFR Mutations: Real-World Data on PFS*” at the oral presentation session and “*Blood group B as a predictor of the rate of EGFR mutations in patients with lung adenocarcinoma*” at the poster presentation session. The APSR Congress is truly an extremely useful opportunity for me and my colleagues from countries in the region to learn from leading experts in the field of respiratory medicine to improve our knowledge. I have also met and interacted with doctors from countries such as Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Singapore, and Sri Lanka... That was amazing. Research at our Department focuses on the field of diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, pneumonia, and COPD.

I hope that, during the APSR 2024 Congress, I will have the opportunity to come to Hong Kong and give a report at that Congress. We will see you again at the APSR 2024 Congress.

Luan Pham (Viet Nam)

## APSR / Woolcock Vietnam Young Investigator Award



The APSR 2023 Congress organized at Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre was very successful and provided attendees (like me) with hugely updated knowledge. I would like to thank heartily the APSR committee for selecting me as a candidate for the APSR/Woolcock

Vietnam Award. With this award, I had a wonderful opportunity to attend and present our initiating study about bronchiectasis at this Congress.

Our study entitled “*Bronchial lavage fluid from patients with clinically non-significant and significant*



*bronchiectasis*” which was the initial investigation only to evaluate the small aspect to define a real bronchiectatic disease in clinical practice (further study to measure the neutrophil elastase activity from bronchial lavage fluid). Bronchiectasis can be a condition not uncommon in Vietnam, particularly post-tuberculosis bronchiectasis, but its diagnosis and management is still limited. To overcome these barriers, further bronchiectasis studies at Vietnam are required. (This result can be extrapolated from the achievement of bronchiectasis studies worldwide, for instance Republic of Korea, India, and Singapore have obtained the better results of bronchiectasis management.) I had a wonderful chance to present our study to international colleagues and felt very happy when receiving their questions. Moreover, I also learned from other colleagues via their presented studies, such as the role of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein level among bronchiectasis patients, spirometry patterns in patients with bronchiectasis, and the efficiency of oral high dose N-acetylcysteine in treatment of bronchiectasis.

The second topic very interesting to me at this congress was nontuberculous mycobacterial lung disease (NTM-LD) which showed increasing concern worldwide. Although tuberculosis is endemic in Vietnam (NTM can masquerading as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), these studies focusing this pathogen are lacking. It is great that I had an opportunity to learn NTM-LD from international colleagues via studies such as the association between sputum microbiota and NTM-LD, the role of exosome in NTM-LD, and the effectiveness of clofazimine-containing regimen for the treatment of MAC-pulmonary disease. We are conducting the study in Vietnam to evaluate the prevalence of NTM infection among bronchiectasis patients (using the method of multiplex polymerase chain reaction to detect NTM in bronchial lavage fluid) and hope that it will be published early.

Although this was second time to visit beautiful Singapore, I have had no experience about the country. So, I and my family also spent some time to visit several popular places such as Garden by

the Bay, China Town, Art Science Museum, and Jewel at Changi airport. Moreover, I also enjoyed several traditional foods in Singapore and they were very delicious.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again the APSR who gave me this award to attend this wonderful Congress.

Lam Nguyen-Ho (Viet Nam)

### APSR / Clean Air Congress Abstract Award



I am greatly honoured to be chosen as the inaugural recipient of the APSR Clean Air Congress Abstract Award initiated by Dr Yoichi Nakanishi. I recall that six years ago, Dr Nakanishi hosted the 57th Annual Meeting of Japanese Respiratory Society under the title

'Clean Air & Clean Science'.

The lungs are the only organs directly connected to the external environment and are affected by various substances through respiration. The airway epithelium protects the host from substances and pathogens in the air. Our research focuses on the airway epithelial barrier function and is stemmed from clinical queries such as why patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who have excessive sputum are more prone to exacerbations, and why, even after long periods of smoking cessation, they still experience exacerbations. Our results indicate that smoking-induced airway epithelial barrier dysfunction persists not only in current smokers with COPD but also in past smokers with COPD after long-term smoking cessation. Also, goblet cell hyperplasia due to smoking may further impair airway epithelial barrier function. I hope that our research results will contribute to promoting smoking cessation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the APSR 2023 Congress was my first international conference participation in a long time. Singapore has almost completely recovered from COVID-19, so the APSR 2023 was lively and engaging. I was most delighted to receive the award and reconnect with my former boss, Prof Philip Bardin, at Monash University and Medical Centre. He kindly instructed me to collect airway epithelial cells from patients via bronchoscopy. After returning to Japan from Australia, I continued my research using airway epithelial cells from patients, which eventually led to me receiving the APSR Clean Air Congress Abstract Award. For this, I am deeply grateful to Professor Bardin and his colleagues.

I hope that research and science will continue to contribute to treating and improving symptoms for patients suffering from respiratory diseases.

Keiko Kan-o (Japan)

### APSR / Clean Air Congress Abstract Award



As a recently graduated PhD student, I was honoured to attend the 27th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR 2023), which was held on 16-19 November 2023 in Singapore. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizing committee for their efforts in arranging this Congress

and to the APSR for offering me the opportunity to share my research findings.

Under the theme of "Current Practice Future Care", doctors, researchers, nurses and professionals from all over the world gathered in Singapore to present their work in their specialties, to share cutting-edge ideas, and to discuss the diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and prevention of respiratory diseases.

In the China Day session of the Congress, I delivered an oral presentation on the latest findings from our lab on the "*Role and Mechanism of WNT5A in Benzo(a)pyrene-Induced Acute Lung Injury and Lung Function Decline*". Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are widespread environmental pollutants that contribute to the increasing burden of respiratory disease. Benzo(a)pyrene, a representative PAH, has been demonstrated in previous studies to cause increased incidence and morbidity of lung cancer. However, there is growing awareness of the non-malignant respiratory damage it may cause. Our team revealed that the WNT5A, a key ligand of the Wnt signaling pathway, plays an important role in airway epithelial damage induced by Benzo(a)pyrene, which provided new clues on the preventive and therapeutic targets for early respiratory injury associated with Benzo(a)pyrene or even PAHs. In addition, I made the poster presentation of the above study results to discuss and exchange ideas with investigators working on similar research directions. Indeed, I have gained a lot of insights through these exchanges and received more ideas and thoughts on how to conduct future research.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the leaders of the Environmental & Occupational Health and Epidemiology Assembly and Dr Yoichi Nakanishi for recognizing our lab's work and for awarding

us the APSR Clean Air Congress Abstract Award. We will continue to focus on the respiratory impairment of air pollutants and its related mechanisms in the future studies, and endeavor to provide scientific evidence for the development of controlling measures for populations or for the monitoring or treatment of respiratory diseases related to environmental exposures.

In addition, I listened to many excellent presentations and discussions during the Congress, including a presentation on novel environmental pollutants, air microbiome and microplastics by Prof John R Balmes from the University of California. Professor Balmes called for more attention to the respiratory damage of air microbiome and microplastics because their toxic effects on the respiratory system have been recently identified; however, relevant studies or reports are limited. This aroused my interest as we know very little about these novel air pollutants which might become priority control chemicals globally in the coming decades.

Delightfully, through my participation in the APSR Congress, I also met many colleagues and friends from different countries and regions. We communicated with each other, shared our experiences, and discussed collaboration opportunities in the future. These exchanges gave me a deeper understanding of academic research and practical experience in different cultures and backgrounds, and also made me more determined in my academic pursuit and beliefs.

Overall, it was a very valuable experience, and I am grateful to Huazhong University of Science and Technology for providing me with this opportunity to learn from experts and scholars from all over the world in their scientific investigation practices. I believe this experience will have a profound impact on my future academic research and career development.

Lieyang Fan (China)

### APSR / ERS Young Investigator Award



It was an unexpected chance that I heard that the 27th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR 2023) would be held in Singapore in November 2023, one afternoon after a long day of experimental work at the lab. As a frequent visitor of congresses

organized by the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and the Netherlands Respiratory Society (NRS), the APSR sounded like a Pandora's box to me, but turned out a Xmas gift after unwrapping.



Excitingly, I was informed I would receive the APSR/ERS Young Investigator Award as well as a precious chance to give a talk at the Congress. I really appreciated the opportunity to highlight some latest findings of our recent work on the “*The secretome of pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells supports alveolar epithelial growth*”, which is supported by the Dutch Lung Foundation (Longfonds). This motivated all the young investigators, including me, working on the project and made our contribution to the field of lung repair in chronic respiratory diseases more meaningful.

What’s more, the well-organized scientific programmes, the social events such as the Gala Dinner as well as the great location made my APSR 2023 visit the most fruitful experience in my academic life. I enjoyed the up-to-date research from various of Asian institutes cross multiple countries, and surprisingly met some old friends known from previous a Congress visit years ago. Moreover, at the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening, I made new friends with many young investigators. We really appreciated the organizing committee for providing us with this wonderful occasion to not only enjoy the great food and music, but also to learn the excellent research from each other worldwide.

I would like to recommend this Congress to all young investigators, as this is a fantastic platform to discuss science, brainstorm for research ideas, share experience, and network for future collaborations. The vivid energy I felt from the young investigators as well as their passion on science, made my visit marvellous. In the end, I would like to acknowledge again to the APSR, ERS, Longfonds as well as all the scientists working together within my consortium to support open science.

Xinhui Wu (Netherlands)

### APSR / ERS Young Investigator Award



Receiving the APSR/ERS Young Investigator Award at the APSR 2023 Congress has been an invaluable experience, affording me the opportunity to actively engage in the Congress and establish meaningful connections with experts and peers in the field. The abstract I was honoured for is titled “*Evaluating eligibility for pneumonectomy in patients with bronchial stenosis and atelectasis after pulmonary tuberculosis using cardiopulmonary exercise testing*”.

This marked my inaugural attendance at both the APSR Congress and my first visit to Singapore. The event was a convergence of enlightening speeches

by distinguished professors and intriguing discussions revolving around pulmonary function testing and pulmonology. Interacting with esteemed professors and colleagues from diverse countries such as Japan, China, Bangladesh, and Singapore broadened my perspectives and sparked numerous novel research ideas applicable to clinical practice.

The APSR/ERS Young Investigator Award graciously covered travel expenses and registration reimbursements. My journey to Singapore was delightful, and the city itself proved to be an enchanting destination. The APSR meticulously handled all administrative tasks with precision and care, ensuring seamless communication through timely email notifications. Attending the Gala Dinner was a delightful experience, adding a touch of camaraderie to my visit. On the conference's final day, I presented my oral presentation alongside other recipients of the award. Feedback from the committee chairs will undoubtedly aid in refining my research and paving the way for further research directions.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the APSR and ERS for presenting me with this unparalleled opportunity. It will undoubtedly remain a cherished milestone throughout my academic career.

Tai Tran-Quoc (Viet Nam)

### APSR / JRS Young Investigator Award



It was great pleasure for me to be awarded the APSR/JRS Young Investigator Award at the APSR 2023 Congress in Singapore.

At first, I would like to thank the president of this Congress, Prof Albert Yick Hou Lim and everyone involved.

I would like to share my impressions of the APSR 2023 Congress in Singapore.

My experience in Singapore was intellectually stimulating. The sessions at the Congress covered all the respiratory fields and presentations provided an opportunity to learn about the latest research and offered a comprehensive overview. While it is possible to gain knowledge at domestic conferences in Japan, interacting with researchers from all over the world at the international conference allowed me to learn about differences in healthcare and social environments between our country and others. This Congress exposed me to new methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and brought fresh perspectives to my research. In

addition, I keenly realized an importance of communicating in English.

There were numerous presentations on various biomarkers in interstitial pneumonia. My specialty is interstitial lung diseases, and all presentations in the field were interesting for me. I have strongly sensed the importance of clinically useful biomarker for patients with interstitial lung diseases. This time, I presented our data regarding Decoy Receptor 3 as a biomarker for acute exacerbation of interstitial pneumonia. Our data demonstrated the clinical importance of serum Decoy Receptor 3 as a prognostic biomarker in patients with acute exacerbation of interstitial pneumonia. I am going to progress my research on this biomarker, and publish the data as soon as possible.

It was a great experience for me to join the Gala Dinner at the world-famous Raffles Hotel where the award ceremony was held. I was quite nervous, and initially, I struggled to engage in extensive conversations with other awardees. However, the evening turned out to be comfortable as fellow awardees took the initiative to engage in lively discussions. It was a valuable opportunity to once again experience the joys and challenges of international exchange.

Being selected for the APSR/JRS Young Investigator Awardee, I could gain significant confidence and add an impetus to explore new approaches in my research field. The presentations of other awardees were also highly educational for me. It is sure that the knowledge and experience at the APSR 2023 will have a significant impact on my research and career.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation. I am looking forward to meeting you next year in Hong Kong at the APSR 2024.

Ryuichi Togawa (Japan)

## APSR / JRS Young Investigator Award



I am pleased to receive the APSR/JRS Young Investigator Award.

I express gratitude to my co-authors, family, and all contributors affiliated with the Study Group on Diffuse Pulmonary Disorders. The clarification of ICI's safety and efficacy has the potential to offer

valuable guidance for its application in such cases. I hope that individuals worldwide involved in the APSR will recognize its significance in influencing their medical practices, starting from tomorrow.

Yasuhiko Nakamura (Japan)

## Assembly Reports and Newsletters

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

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## Forthcoming Meetings

### 2024

Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chest Convention  
5-8 March  
Manila, Philippines  
Email: [secretariat@philchest.com](mailto:secretariat@philchest.com)

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)  
5-7 April  
Yokohama, Japan  
Email: [64jrs@jrs.or.jp](mailto:64jrs@jrs.or.jp)  
Website: [jrs.or.jp/jrs64/en/index.html](https://jrs.or.jp/jrs64/en/index.html)

ATS 2024 (American Thoracic Society International Conference)  
17-22 May  
San Diego, USA

ERS 2024 (European Respiratory Society International Congress)  
7-11 September  
Wien, Australia

WCBIP 2024 In Conjunction With National Congress Indonesian Society of Respirology (ISR)  
23-27 October  
Bali, Indonesia

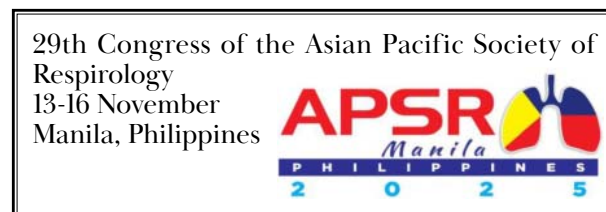
Email address: [sekjen\\_pdpi@ymail.com](mailto:sekjen_pdpi@ymail.com)  
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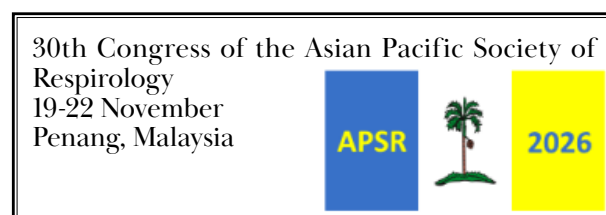
The 137th Congress of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRDIC 2024)  
23-25 November  
Republic of Korea  
Email: [info@katrdic.org](mailto:info@katrdic.org)  
Website: [katrdic.org](http://katrdic.org)

2025

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)  
11-13 April  
Tokyo, Japan



2026



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