



Newsletter

Editor: Chul-Gyu Yoo
Associate Editors: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Yoshinori Hasegawa, Suga Konno

Message from the President



Dear APSR Members,

As we have emerged from a global COVID-19 epidemic, we are facing another challenge, global inflation. How are you doing lately in the era of global inflation, when the cost of living is going up every day? It seems that after one hard thing comes another hard thing.

The APSR is no exception and has faced a new challenge. Traditionally, the annual APSR en bloc membership dues are in USD, but the recent strengthening of USD has increased the exchange rate for many countries by too much. If the annual dues are collected at the recently increased exchange rate, the burden for each en bloc society increases, and if the annual dues are collected at the usual exchange rate, the APSR, whose expenses are in USD, suffers a decrease in income. Therefore, we are looking for a middle ground that is acceptable to both en bloc societies and the APSR.

Whatever the decision will be, the net result will be a significant decrease in APSR's revenues. As far as the financial status is concerned, APSR has been forced to tighten its belt due to declining revenues. While we'll try to minimize excessive spending, we'll continue to make necessary expenditures to improve the APSR. We'll actively maintain education, research funds, and any other support for APSR members, especially young, early-career members.

As the saying goes, "The child is the father of the man," our future is in the hands of our young, early-career members. We must give them as many opportunities as possible for education, research, presentation, networking, etc. I'm going to expand the current opportunities for young, early-career members. We are in the process of diversifying our research fund to provide opportunities for younger, early-career members to apply. At the same time, we are considering a new programme for them in the APSR Congress. In order to provide speaking opportunities to as many qualified members as possible, we will ensure that speakers from previous congresses do not exceed one-third of the total speakers, starting with the Hong Kong Congress.

I'd like to end this post with a request I always make of you. No matter how good a plan is, it will never produce good results without the continued support and active cooperation of its members. I look forward to your continued interest in the APSR and working with you to place the stepping stones for the journey ahead, one by one, and lead the APSR to its future destination.

Chul-Gyu Yoo

Message from the Secretary General

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the APSR for their active efforts in the fields of respiratory diseases such as treatment, research, education, and social awareness in their respective regions. Although it may differ from region to region, the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have become an event of the past. Pandemics often target the respiratory system, and we need to reevaluate the COVID-19 pandemic and promote research for developing the diagnosis, treatment, and medical systems for the next pandemic.

I think that the pathophysiology of SARS-Cov2 pneumonia is very interesting. There are respiratory disease researches on cases, including those who develop pneumonia due to SARS-Cov2 infection and those who do not, pathological conditions similar to acute exacerbation of IPF, and cases who exhibit fibrosis after viral pneumonia and those who do not. Many themes for research are scattered like jewels. We believe that it is necessary to not let the COVID-19 pandemic become a thing of the past but to use it as energy for future

respiratory disease research in order to overcome future pandemics.

On the other hand, as society returns to normal life, the APSR is expected to be even more active in the fields of respiratory disease treatment, research, and education in countries of the Asia-Pacific region, as it has been. The APSR always wants to be together with patients and our members.

Yoshinori Hasegawa

Message from the Co-Editors in Chief of Respiriology

We'd like to start by introducing several new members who have joined the Editorial Board since the start of 2024. Jane Bourke (Australia), Rosa Faner (Spain) and Haruyuki Ishii (Japan) have been appointed as Associate Editors, and Don Vincendese (Australia) and Rachel Foong (Australia) have joined the Statistical Review Board. They are all highly regarded experts in their field, and we'd like to warmly welcome them to the team. They are following in the footsteps of Michael Abramson, Darryl Knight and Paul Thomas, who have stepped down after many years of outstanding contributions to the journal for which we are immensely grateful.

Our Editors have been kept very busy in 2023 with 19% more manuscripts submitted compared to the year before. Of the original articles that were approved for external peer review, 47% were accepted for publication. Authors whose manuscripts were not considered for external per review were notified within 8 days; and a first decision after external peer review took 66 days in 2023. The time from acceptance to publication has continued to improve and is now a short 3 weeks. The time in peer review is increasing, which is a trend seen by many journals, and caused by an increasing difficulty in finding available reviewers. We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many reviewers who have contributed in 2023, and a special mention goes to our top reviewers for 2023 Dr Shyamali Dharmage and Dr George Margaritopoulos. The full list of 2023 reviewers can be found on our [website](#) and we encourage all reviewers to opt in to the [Web of Science Reviewer Recognition Service](#) when reviewing for *Respirology* – this will automatically update a reviewer's Web of Science profile with a verified record of their review activities.

Two-thirds of submitted and accepted manuscripts in 2023 came from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as were 7 of the top 10 downloading countries. The number of article downloads increased by 10% and *Respirology* articles received above average views compared to other Respiratory Medicine journals published by Wiley. The list of most read papers includes several invited

reviews from the [Future of Asthma](#) series, which is available as a collection on the journal website. Among the highly downloaded 2023 research articles are the recipients of the *Fukuchi Awards for outstanding Respiratory article* ([Longitudinal effects of prenatal exposure to plastic-derived chemicals and their metabolites on asthma and lung function from childhood into adulthood](#) and [Severe asthma ILC2s demonstrate enhanced proliferation that is modified by biologics](#)) and the *APSR Clean Air Research Award* ([Long-term exposure to low concentrations of air pollution and decline in lung function in people with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: Evidence from Australia](#)) We congratulate all the authors of these papers on their achievement and we thank the panel members who helped to select the winning papers: Antonio Anzueto, Sanjay Chotirmall, Alexander Larcombe, Chin Kook Rhee, Kazuhiro Yatera. The Awards will be formally presented at the APSR 2024 Congress Congress in Hong Kong in November.

The *Future of Asthma* review articles, as well as the award-winning papers, are published open access and thus free to read and share. Publishing open access ensures that a publication can be accessed by a wider audience and increases exposure of the work. An increasing number of authors are opting to publish open access because many authors can now rely on their institutions to cover the cost of open access publication thanks to special agreements between these institutions and Wiley. To see whether your institution covers your open access fees to publish in *Respirology* please visit this webpage: <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/affiliation-policies-payments/institutional-funder-payments.html> We encourage anyone with questions about open access publication to contact the Editorial Office at respirology@resphealth.uwa.edu.au

The Editorial Office staff will also be available to answer your questions at the journal's booth at the APSR 2024 Congress in Hong Kong. We look forward to catching up with many of our Editors, Editorial Board members, reviewers, authors, and APSR members at the congress. The annual meeting will be an excellent opportunity to meet face-to-face and thank all our supporters including the APSR staff and leadership.

Philip Bardin
Paul Reynolds

Message from the Editor in Chief of Respirology Case Reports

I have just received from Wiley the 2023 annual publisher's report, and the Editorial Office is preparing our annual report for 2023 and I am pleased to see that *Respirology Case Reports* continue to grow and perform well.

The highlights for 2023 were receiving our first Clarivate Journal Impact factor of 0.8, the number of article downloads growing to over 500,000, with a readership that continues to be international and the submissions remaining stable and high.

I invite you to access the list of the articles that were most downloaded in the past 12 months under the “Most Read” tab of the [journal’s Wiley Online Library site](#). You can also find our most recent publication under the “Most Recent” tab.

Our journal is gathering a lot of followers on X/Twitter and I encourage you to follow us on that platform to keep updated on our latest publications: <https://twitter.com/RespirologyAPSR>

Following the success of the “Respirology Case Reports Best Poster Award” for the best case report presented at the APSR Congress in the previous year, the award was expanded in 2023 to include Gold, Silver and Bronze winners. The award provides an opportunity for each awardee to submit their case report manuscript to *Respirology Case Reports*, receive assistance from the Editorial Office to improve the manuscript, where needed, and to enhance its eligibility for peer review. If accepted for publication, the article processing charges for Open Access publication are waived. I am delighted that the Silver and Bronze winners for 2023 have already published their case reports in *Respirology Case Reports* and that the Gold winner’s manuscript has just been accepted and will be published shortly. I invite you to read the case reports for the 2023 winners as well as the previous year’s winners [here](#). Many excellent case reports were presented at last year’s APSR Congress in Singapore and we encourage the presenters to consider submitting their work to *Respirology Case Reports*.

The need to improve the clarity and transparency of reporting in clinical trials is driving the demand from authors to publish their clinical trial protocols so that they can be more readily read, cited and presented in a more usable format. As such, I am delighted to inform you that we now accept the submission of “Clinical Trial Protocols” in *Respirology Case Reports*. For more information on the author’s guidelines for this article type and to submit your manuscript, please visit the [clinical trial protocols](#) section of our author’s guidelines. APSR members benefit from the member’s 50% discount on this article type.

Our Editorial Office team will attend the APSR Congress in Hong Kong this year and will have a booth. If you are attending the congress and have any question about the journal, or publishing, please visit them at the booth.

With our journal’s continued growth, we have increased our Associate Editors team and since January, we welcomed Timothy Dempsey, Claude

Farah, Francesca Gonnelli, Spasoje Popevic, Jane A Shaw, Takahiro Takazono and Lauren Troy to our team of Associate Editors.

We are indebted to our team of Editors and our Advisory Board members (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 and support of our journal.

As you no doubt know, many journals are facing increasing issues with securing reviewers to help with the peer-review process and *Respirology Case Reports* are not immune to these challenges. If you would like to help our journal and our Associate Editors by either volunteering as a reviewer yourself or recommending junior doctors in your group to be invited as reviewers, please contact Christel Norman at the editorial office: respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members of the APSR, for your support of the journal since you continued to contribute a large portion of the articles that we published last year. Don’t forget that APSR members benefit from a 50% discount of the open access publication charge for case reports and case series. Make sure that you indicate that you are an APSR member upon submission. Please do not hesitate to contact the Editorial Office if you need any assistance with manuscript submission: respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au

Keiko Kan-o

Educational Webinars: APSR Grand Rounds for APSR members

The APSR offers a regular series of Grand Rounds for APSR members where three cases are presented on clinical problems in Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine. The emphasis is on teaching points which we hope the audience will find educational and useful. This webinar series is recognized as an accredited CME activity in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan.

For more information: [APSR Webinars](#)

Past webinars

• **1st Grand Rounds: Saturday 27 January 2024**
Theme: Cases from TSPCCM

Co-Chairpersons: Dr Grace Sin-Man Lam (Hong Kong), Dr Hao-Chien Wang (Taiwan)
Speakers: Dr Ching-Yao Yang (Taiwan), Dr Yung-Hsuan Chen (Taiwan), Dr Yi-Han Hsiao (Taiwan)

• **2nd Grand Rounds: Monday, 25 March 2024**

Theme: Interesting cases in Bronchoscopy
Co-Chairperson: Dr Philip Eng (Singapore)
Speaker and Co-Chairperson: Dr Phan Tien Nguyen (Australia)

Speakers: Dr Jung-Seop Eom (Republic of Korea),
Dr Melvin Tay Chee Kiang (Singapore)

• **3rd Grand Rounds; Saturday, 1 June 2024**

Theme: Cases from the Philippine College of Chest Physicians

Co-Chairperson: Dr Grace Sin-Man Lam (Hong Kong), Dr John Aranas (Philippines)

Speakers: Dr Jose J. Sarenas III (Philippines), Dr Marlo Bagano (Philippines)

Upcoming webinars

• **Education Webinar; 18:00 - 19:00 New Zealand time (UTC+12), Thursday, 25 July 2024**

Theme: How can we achieve the Tobacco endgame in the APSR region – lessons from the Aotearoa/New Zealand and Malaysian experience

Chairperson: Dr Henry Marshall (Australia)

Speakers: Dr Paul Dawkins (New Zealand), Dr Stuart Jones (New Zealand), Dr Janet Hoek (New Zealand), Dr Nurhayati Mohd Marzuki (Malaysia)

• **4th Grand Rounds; 11:30-12:30 Colombo, Sri Lanka time(UTC+5:30), Saturday, 28 September 2024**

Theme: Clinical Pearls in Pulmonology from SCLP

Co-Chairpersons: Dr Philip Eng (Singapore), Dr Amitha Fernando (Sri Lanka)

Speakers: Dr Sathiyamoorthy Sathiaruban (Sri Lanka), Dr Sudesh Viyanage (Sri Lanka), Dr Duminda Yasaratne (Sri Lanka)

Sponsored Webinars:

Past webinar

• **Educational webinars sponsored by Cepheid; Wednesday, 19 June 2024**

Theme: Role of Multiplexing and Diagnostic Stewardship in an Evolving Respiratory Landscape

Co-Chairpersons: Dr Chieh-Liang Wu (APSR), Dr Steven Badman (Cepheid)

Speaker 1: Dr Robert Booy (Australia) “Impact of Rapid Respiratory Multiplex testing in high-risk populations”

Speaker 2: Dr Clemens Kill (Germany) “Management of Respiratory Diseases in the Emergency Department”

Panelists: Dr Jonathan Chambers (Australia), Dr Tanu Singhal (India)

Panel discussion: “Management of Respiratory Infections – Unlocking clinical, operational, and economic efficiencies in an evolving respiratory landscape”

Upcoming webinar

• **Educational webinar sponsored by bioMérieux; 10:00 - 11:15 Singapore time (UTC+8), Friday 12 July 2024**

Theme: mPCR-guided Antimicrobial Stewardship in Cancer Patients with Suspected Respiratory Infections (upper and lower RTIs)

Chairperson: Dr Chieh-Liang Wu (APSR)

Speaker 1: Dr Rajesh Venkat (India)

Speaker 2: Dr Edward Septimus (USA)

Message from the 28th APSR Congress President



Dr Fanny Wai-San Ko



Dr James Chung-Man Ho

Dear colleagues,

We are excited to remind you of the coming 28th APSR Congress to be held in Hong Kong from 7-10 November 2024, which will be our third time hosting the Congress in the vibrant city of Hong Kong. On behalf of the Local Congress Committee, we would like to extend our warm welcome to you all in joining this coming highly educational and academic conference that allows invaluable learning opportunities about state-of-the-art knowledge and latest developments in Pulmonology in both adult and paediatric populations.

The theme of this year's APSR Congress is “Personalized Care in Respiriology”. The scientific programme is already well-established and includes three pre-congress workshops, namely on interventional bronchoscopy, paediatrics, and asthma/clinical allergy and immunology. Following the formal opening of the Congress, there will be two and a half days of fully packed scientific sessions on a great variety of topics in Respiratory Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, Paediatric Respiriology, as well as Molecular Medicine. There will be four keynote lectures given by the Presidents of the APSR and sister societies, two highly honoured memorial lectures, as well as the APSR-GOLD symposium. Parallel oral sessions will be arranged throughout the Congress to allow ample opportunities for academic exchanges among researchers in different fields from various countries/regions. Also, there will be a new session on “Diversity and Inclusion in Respiratory Medicine” in line with the adoption of the APSR





Policy on Diversity and Inclusion.

Apart from academic exchanges, the coming APSR Congress will serve as a golden opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues, and enjoy the beautiful scenery and world-famous night view of Hong Kong. The promotional activities for local tourism with different themes set by the Government of Hong Kong will bring a different level of experience to the participants during or after the Congress (www.brandhk.gov.hk)

With such a rich scientific programme and opportunities to enjoy yourself in the brand new social events in Hong Kong, we would strongly encourage you to register early for the Congress and further information is available on our website (www.apsr2024.hk)



Fanny Wai-San Ko
James Chung-Man Ho

Reports from APSR en bloc societies

Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS) Autumn Respiratory Seminar 2023

The Autumn Respiratory Seminar 2023, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Thoracic Society, CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau, and Hong Kong Lung Foundation, was successfully held on 12 November 2023. The Seminar received 317 registrations and 91.8% attendance. Local and world-renowned speakers updated the audience on the latest advances in asthma, COPD, respiratory infections and lung cancer. Colleagues from different hospitals presented their research projects in the Professor Wah-kit Lam Young Investigator Session. Home sleep apnoea tests and telemedicine

for oxygen therapy users were reviewed in the Symposium of Allied Health Professionals.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2024

The Annual Scientific Meeting 2024 was successfully held on 24 March 2024, which received 323 registrations and 93.5% attendance. Focus was put on airway diseases, critical care medicine for respiratory diseases, respiratory infections and vaccination. Dr Fanny Wai-San Ko shared her journey on airway disease research in the Donald Yu Lecture. New physiotherapy modalities in COPD rehabilitation and indwelling pleural catheters as an ambulatory option for pleural effusion were covered in the Symposium of Allied Health Professionals.

Clean Air for Schools and Beyond Forum

On 3 February 2024, Dr Fanny Ko of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation and Dr Jenny Ngai of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society attended the Forum “Clean Air for Schools and Beyond Forum: Making a Step Change in Indoor Environments for Health and Wellbeing” organized by the Clean Air Network.



Dr Jenny Ngai, President of HKTS (left), Dr Fanny Wai-San Ko, Chairperson of HKLF and APSR 2024 Congress President (right)

COSH: 14th “Quit to Win” Contest cum Smoke-free Community Campaign

On behalf of our three respiratory societies, Dr Fanny Ko, Dr Yeung Yiu-Cheong and Dr Macy Lui attended the prize presentation ceremony of the 14th “Quit to Win” Contest cum Smoke-free Community Campaign on 13 March 2024. This territory-wide anti-smoking Campaign was organized by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH). The Campaign attracted



more than 1,200 smokers to join the Contest and spread the smoke-free message to over 80,000 members of the public. Successful quitters shared their inspiring quit stories at the ceremony.

Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2023

On behalf of our three respiratory societies, Dr Yeung Yiu-Cheong and Dr Chan Yu-Hong attended the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2023 on 20 Mar 2024. This event was organized by COSH, and a plaque was presented to the three respiratory societies in recognition of their outstanding dedication to a smoke-free Hong Kong.



Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) MTS Annual Congress 2024

The MTS 2024 Annual Congress will be held at Persada Johor International Convention Centre, Johor Bahru, Johor from 29 August to 1 September 2024. Dr Liew Zheyi and Dr Lim Suat Yee have been appointed as Organising Chairpersons. Dr Arvindran Alaga heads the Adult Scientific Committee and Dr Su Siew Choo heads the Paediatrics Scientific Committee. An APSR Joint Symposium is planned for the first day of the main conference on 30 August 2024. This will be first time in our history that the MTS Annual Congress is being held in the state of Johor.

Webinars and virtual events

The virtual Paediatric Grand Ward Rounds were continued for a fourth consecutive year and have been well received since they commenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a virtual grand round was held on 26 April 2024 in conjunction with the Asian Paediatric Pulmonology Society. The MTS collaborated with the Indian Chest Society to organise a joint webinar on Severe Asthma which was telecast on 20 January 2024.

Updates on Respiratory Medicine

Many events on Respiratory medicine were organised by MTS members including the Paediatric Asthma Update on 8 March 2024 in Johor Bahru, Johor, the 3rd Chest Alor Setar - Pleural and Respiratory Update 2024 held on 8-9 March 2024 in Alor Setar, Kedah, a Lung Physiology Masterclass held on 19-20 April 2024 (hybrid event), the MThoR Thoracic Conference

2024 held on 20 April 2024 in Johor, and the Lung Cancer Symposium held on 26-28 April 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. Events being planned for the next few months include the Paediatric Respiratory Symposium to be held on 23 May 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, The 7th Penang Respiratory Summit to be held on 5-6 June 2024 in Penang, the National TB & Lung Diseases Conference 2024 to be held on 21-23 June 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, the Negeri Sembilan and Malacca Straits Respiratory Update 2024 to be held on 28-29 June 2024 in Melaka and the Sabah Respiratory Update 2024 to be held on 18-19 July 2024 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Workshops and Courses

The first MTS Inhaler Training and Education Certification Course was held on 25-26 November 2023 at the MTS Office Suite in Kuala Lumpur. Workshops and courses held in 2024 include the 6th UKM Hands-on Pleural Workshop held on 22-23 January 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, the Sarawak Pleural Workshop 2024 held on 27-28 April 2024 in Sibul, Sarawak, and the Tuberculosis in Children Workshop held on 12 May 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. Workshops and courses planned for the coming months include the Phase 1 and Phase 3 courses of the MTS Spirometry Certification Programme Course to be held on 18-19 May 2024 and 17-18 August 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, a Non-Intubated Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery Workshop to be held on 21 May 2024 in Kuala Lumpur and the Sleep Workshop 2024 to be held from 18-19 July 2024 in Kuala Lumpur.

The series of Clinical Research Workshops organised in collaboration with the Clinical Research Centre, Hospital Tunku Azizah Kuala Lumpur, which were started in 2023 continued into 2024. The workshop topics include Clinical Research Proposal Write-up, Statistical Analysis for Clinical Research, Statistical Analysis using SPSS, Critical Appraisal and Manuscript Write-up.

Prepared by Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh, Hon Secretary



From the Tuberculosis in Children Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, 12 May 2024

Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists (SLCP)

Executive Summary

This report highlights the significance of three key medical events organized by the newly appointed President and the Council of Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists and its collaborating partners. These events, namely the Academic Symposium for World Asthma Day 2024, the Joint Regional Symposium, and PulmoCritCare 2024, play a vital role in advancing medical knowledge, fostering collaboration, and addressing critical healthcare challenges in society.

Academic Symposium for World Asthma Day 2024

The Academic Symposium for World Asthma Day 2024 was jointly organized by the Indian Chest Society with two engaging symposiums featuring eight lectures by esteemed speakers in the field and served as a platform for discussing advancements in asthma management and research. Asthma is a prevalent chronic respiratory disease affecting millions worldwide, and events like these are crucial for disseminating the latest treatment modalities, enhancing clinical practice, and improving patient outcomes. The symposium



facilitated insightful discussions among medical professionals, leading to a better understanding of asthma and its management strategies. We were honoured to host over 130+ onsite participants along with a remarkable 250+ participants who joined us virtually from across the globe.

Monthly Clinical Meeting on Bronchiectasis

The Monthly Clinical Meeting on Bronchiectasis, which took place at the SLMA Auditorium, was another significant event enhancing the understanding and management of bronchiectasis. The meeting included detailed case presentations followed by a review lecture offering expert guidance. This format allowed for a thorough examination of clinical cases and the application of evidence-based management strategies.



Joint Regional Symposium

The Joint Regional Symposium was jointly organized with the Galoya Nimna Clinical Society

at Ampara, 300km away from Colombo in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and provided an opportunity to address common respiratory diseases, which pose significant public health challenges in the region and update the knowledge about the updates. By bringing together healthcare professionals from different specialities and regions, the symposium facilitated knowledge exchange, collaborative research initiatives, and the dissemination of best practices in respiratory care. Addressing regional healthcare needs through collaborative efforts is essential for improving healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. We were honoured to host over 130+ onsite participants for this event.

PulmoCritCare 2024

PulmoCritCare 2024 was jointly organized with the Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists held in Colombo. This event focused on respiratory critical care, a field critical for managing life-threatening respiratory conditions. In an era of evolving medical technologies and emerging respiratory pathogens, the importance of respiratory critical care cannot be overstated. This conference provided a platform for healthcare professionals to enhance their skills, stay updated on the latest advancements, and collaborate on strategies for improving critical care outcomes. By equipping healthcare providers with advanced knowledge and skills, events like PulmoCritCare 2024 contribute to enhancing patient care and reducing morbidity and mortality associated with respiratory emergencies.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the Academic Symposium for World Asthma Day 2024, the Joint Regional Symposium, and PulmoCritCare 2024 are essential events that address critical healthcare needs, foster collaboration, and contribute to advancing medical knowledge in respiratory medicine and critical care. These events play a pivotal role in improving patient outcomes, enhancing healthcare delivery, and ultimately, advancing the health and well-being of society.

Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP)

The PCCP leadership, after surviving the challenges of the pandemic, has gone full

swing in resuming its undertakings based on priorities established in the strategic planning at the end of year 2022. It has strengthened its advocacy activities by promoting awareness on respiratory diseases through media and social media appearances; for example, Tick Tock and infographics. We have maintained our alignment of our advocacy initiatives with that of the Department of Health and other specialty societies. Through these activities, we have been able to exert influence on health policies and regulations. One advocacy which stands out is our strong stand on Tobacco Control and Vaping. The following taglines were used to highlight these advocacies: “Say No to Tobacco and Vape Smoke” and “Beat the Vape, Ditch Toxicity and Breathe Freely”. These campaigns have been given the College recognition by the Department of Health Healthy Pilipinas Bronze Award on 27 October 2023. Likewise, the chapters were able to form a Memorandum of Understanding with local government units in the provinces of Quezon, Negros and Cebu, recognizing and adopting the No Vaping policy. To further reiterate our commitment to No Vaping we have joined forces with Chest Philippine Delegation on the inclusion of the ill effects of Vaping in the school curriculum and mount advocacy efforts targeting the youth by forming an alliance with the Department of Education and Department of Health. A repeat of the 2023 medical mission in Mindoro, a province in the Philippines, to evaluate and treat the ill effects of an oil spill from a ship which sank in February 2023 in the nearby towns was also conducted on 31 May 2024. It included medical examination, chest radiography and spirometry of 236 patients exposed to the oil spill.

Our ties with international communities have grown stronger, especially with the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, American Thoracic Society and European Society of Respiriology. Currently, preparations are underway for conducting the 2024 MECOR (Methods of Epidemiologic, Clinical, Operations Research) with the American Thoracic Society on 29 September - 5 October 2024 in Manila, Philippines. This is a 5-day intensive research workshop for aspiring and brilliant young doctors interested in honing their research skills and acuity. This is being offered to residents and fellows in training at the early stage of their careers with an expected output of research protocol in their field of interest. During the ATS International Conference on 20 May 2024, we discussed the 3 most salient diseases in the country namely, COPD, Smoking and Tuberculosis and what initiatives the College has taken in relation to these respiratory health concerns in the Respiratory Session of the International Participants Conference. This activity allowed us to collaborate with different countries and allowed us to benchmark with them.

We also held our regular annual convention on 5-8 March 2024 entitled “ENIGMAS: Emerging Technology, Novel Interventions, Ground Breaking Ideas and Multidisciplinary Approaches

in Pulmonary Medicine. This was attended by 1,730 participants. We invited 7 foreign and 75 local speakers to share their expertise. This activity served as a continuing medication education not only to our member colleagues but also to primary care physicians, trainees and paramedical health workers. The councils continue to be active in their ongoing registries by the Council on Occupational & Interstitial Lung Diseases and Lung Cancer Registry which are both in their Ethics approval stages to the different training hospitals. The College will continue with fostering research initiatives that would benefit the Filipino people.

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting lung health through its advocacy activities and forging international partnerships.

Singapore Thoracic Society (STS)

APSR Congress 2023

The 27th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR 2023) was successfully held at the Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre from 16-19 November 2023. We were honored to have nearly 2,000 attendees from 45 countries. The congress started with 9 pre-congress workshops followed by a comprehensive scientific programme which featured 8 plenary lectures and 44 assembly symposia. There were more than 700 oral and poster presentations which benefitted our attendees. Our gala dinner at the Raffles Hotel provided an entertaining and memorable evening. Overall, APSR 2023 provided a valuable platform for in-depth discussions on a wide range of respiratory issues, fostering collaboration among healthcare professionals in the Asia-Pacific region. We are grateful and thankful for the support from APSR and all the attendees.



STS-TARIPH Joint webinar on Severe Asthma
Singapore Thoracic Society (STS) and The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH) co-hosted two webinars in the past 12 months. We were honoured to have Prof Alvar Agusti, Prof Clause Vogelmeier and Prof Wisia Wedzicha to speak on the COPD GOLD 2023 guidelines in August 2023. In April 2024, we had a joint webinar on severe asthma whereby our speakers shared and discussed on high risk community treated asthma to severe asthma,

the local profile and patients' perspective. Both webinars were well received with more than 120 local and foreign registrants.

Supporting APSR Grand Rounds

STS endorsed and supported all the APSR grand rounds. We strongly believe the APSR grand rounds are of high quality with practical values. STS will continue to strongly support the APSR grand rounds in future.

STS Annual Scientific Meeting

STS is pleased to announce her annual scientific meeting which will be held in the fourth quarter of 2024. This one-day event will be a platform for respiratory specialists, scientists, doctors, and nurses working in the field of respiratory to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise. The program will feature both local and international speakers. We will also be celebrating the announcement of the STS Young Investigators Award winner during the event.

Reports from award winners who participated at the ATS International Conference



I am deeply grateful and honoured to have been selected for the APSR /ATS Travel Award for presenting my research at the ATS 2024 International Conference. The support from the APSR provided me with a valuable and unique opportunity to attend the ATS 2024

in San Diego and share the results of my work from the Republic of Korea at the International Colloquium with peers and attendees worldwide. I had a fantastic time sharing scientific insights and learning from others, and the whole colloquium was filled with inspiration. I also had the opportunity to share my work on the risk of lung cancer development and related mortality with the use of electronic cigarettes after conventional smoking cessation as an oral presentation at the Mini-Symposium "Lung Cancer Screening: One Size Does Not Fit All" in front of many colleagues with similar interest in the field of research on lung cancer reduction risk and screening. In particular, it was exciting and inspiring to discuss with our members of the Thoracic Oncology Assembly of the ATS, in which I am actively involved as an international member and also serving as a member of the planning committee. Receiving constructive feedback and building connections with esteemed researchers around the world was extremely beneficial. I am looking forward to future international collaborations and am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the

years to come.

I also had a wonderful time catching up with the people related to the APSR. Especially, it was such a privilege to receive my award from Dr Chul-Gyu Yoo, the current president of the APSR and also my long-time mentor when I was a medical student. I have always been a strong admirer of his outstanding accomplishments and leadership. I also want to thank Dr Satoshi Konno for the positive feedback and kind encouragement. Participating at the ATS and contributing to sessions and discussions with my work with the support from the APSR was truly a prestige experience which would continuously guide me through my career



Dr Yeon Wook Kim (left) and Dr Chul-Gyu Yoo (right)

as a physician/researcher. I am truly grateful to the APSR for giving me this huge opportunity. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my teammates and collaborators for doing such great work together and to my mentors who always give me unlimited inspiration and advice. Thank You.

Yeon Wook Kim (Republic of Korea)



To the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory International Network and Members,

Thank you sincerely for supporting my attendance and presentations at the recent American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference in San

Diego, USA, 2024. My presented abstract was titled "Fibrosis in precision cut lung slices from TGF- β 1 overexpressing mice". This abstract incorporated novel, unpublished research and was a critical opportunity to showcase our group's unique research capabilities and outputs under the supervision of A/Prof Jane Bourke at Monash University in Australia. In my presentation of our novel ex vivo precision cut lung slice (PCLS) model of fibrogenesis (the development and progression of fibrosis) we show that the application of a "fibrotic cocktail" made up of pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic stimulants allows for the investigation of mechanisms of lung fibrosis.

Firstly, I was delighted to present my abstract at the ATS International Scholarships Colloquium. I was surrounded by esteemed colleagues and proud to represent the APSR Network at this event. The International Colloquium was a fantastic

opportunity to present our team's novel transgenic mouse model, for the first time, and fostered collaborations with other researchers from around the world.

Presenting my work at the International Colloquium provided me with opportunities to network with senior leaders in the field, with prospective collaborators and with other early career researchers. I have included an image of the community I was a part of during this Colloquium. I am hiding in the back row, but if you look closely, you can see my ginger hair!



I had a second opportunity to present my abstract at a poster discussion session during ATS 2024. Here, I made connections with international researchers from China, The Netherlands and America, and with industry bodies, Avalyn Pharmaceuticals and WBX Pharma. Avalyn and WBX Pharmaceuticals are providing our team in Australia, with novel anti-fibrotic compounds and drugs which we will test in our presented unique transgenic mouse model.

I am incredibly grateful for the support from the APSR to travel to San Diego and attend ATS 2024. This travel grant facilitated my in-person attendance, allowing me to present twice at ATS 2024 and raised my professional profile after a long leave of absence (2021-2022; have not attended an international conference since 2017). Attending ATS 2024 empowered me, built my confidence as an ECR and helped me to feel like a valuable member of the international respiratory research community. I have built strong alliances with international researchers, industry and clinician-scientists which will foster future cross-disciplinary collaborations and research excellence. This community provided me with a strong ECR group to explore ATS 2024.

Lastly, I was able to capitalise on the mentor-mentee programme for ATS early career researchers and trainees. During these networking events, I made invaluable connections with fellow ECRs who also attended ATS. This was highly valuable and provided me with insights into working abroad and applying for NIH grants and other American funding opportunities in collaboration with American researchers.

In summary, I have undoubtedly made connections

with other researchers, industry partners and future leaders through my APSR-supported attendance at ATS 2024. I have been encouraged to participate in Assemblies at future ATS meetings through connections made at the International Colloquium. My future outputs from attending ATS 2024 include collaborations on original research papers with international groups from China and The Netherlands, as well as partnerships



Dr Chul-Gyu Yoo (left) and
Dr Paris Papagianis (right)

with industry, to test novel drugs that prevent the progression of lung fibrosis.

If the presented abstract is of interest to you, please reach out to myself and my team at Monash University, VIC, Australia.

Paris Papagianis (Australia)

Assembly Reports and Newsletters

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

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New APSR Website is coming soon!

Now, the APSR website renewal is ongoing and the new website will be released this summer.

- positive first impression
- user-friendly design
- readable and visually appealing content
- new user communication tool

Forthcoming Meetings

2024

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

KATRD International Conference 2024, The 138th Congress of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRDIC 2024)
23-25 October
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Email: info@katrdic.org
Website: www.katrdic.org

WCBIP 2024 In Conjunction With National Congress Indonesian Society of Respirology (ISR)
23-27 October
Bali, Indonesia
Email: sekjen_pdpi@gmail.com
Website: wcbip2024.com

28th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
7-10 November
Hong Kong




2025

8th International Conference on Lung Health, PULMOCON 2025
18-20 February
Dhaka, Bangladesh


The 65th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)
11-13 April
Tokyo, Japan
Email: 65jrs@jrs.or.jp
Website: jrs.or.jp/jrs65/en/index.html

29th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
13-16 November
Manila, Philippines



2026

30th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
19-22 November
Penang, Malaysia



Notice from the Secretariat

Invitation to bid for the 2027 Congress!

We invite en bloc societies to make a proposal to host the 31st Congress of the APSR in 2027. Bids will be considered at the next Executive Committee Meeting. You will be asked to present your society's plans for the arrangements, financial planning and infrastructure of the event (Local Congress Committee, etc.). Please contact the Secretariat in Tokyo for more information. (APSRinfo@theapsr.org)

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