

# Newsletter

Editor: Chul-Gyu Yoo

Associate Editors: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Yoshinori Hasegawa, Suga Konno

## Message from the President



Dear APSR Members,

Time truly flies—half of 2025 has already passed. I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits.

I am pleased to share that the APSR has been steadily implementing several new initiatives launched earlier this year, and they are progressing as planned. I would like to share several important updates on our Society's ongoing activities and initiatives.

Due to major renovations at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in preparation for the 2026 ASEAN Summit, we have had to adjust both the venue and dates of the APSR Congress. The Congress will now take place at the SMX Convention Center Manila, from Monday to Thursday, 10–13 November 2025 (instead of the originally scheduled 13–16 November at the PICC). While this change was unforeseen, the Local Congress Committee in Manila acted swiftly and efficiently to secure an excellent alternative venue. The SMX Convention Center Manila is a more modern facility and is conveniently located right beside Conrad Hotel, the headquarters for the Congress events. Despite this unexpected change, we are confident that the Manila Congress will be both successful and memorable. We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused to those who had already finalized their plans, and we kindly ask for your understanding.

I would also like to highlight two new funding opportunities launched by the APSR this year: The En Bloc Society Research Fund and the Young Investigator Research Fund. Recognizing the critical role of funding in fostering innovation—and despite our limited financial resources—we have introduced these initiatives to promote high-quality research and support the next generation of respiratory professionals. Beginning this year, a total of US\$60,000 has been allocated annually to these programmes, enabling member societies to strengthen their research capacity. However, we have received fewer applications than expected. As these are new initiatives, limited promotion and a lack of awareness may have contributed to the low participation. I encourage all eligible members to take full advantage of these valuable opportunities and help spread the word within your networks. The next call for applications will be announced in early 2026.

Elevating the standards of the APSR remains a top priority, and providing high-quality educational opportunities is a key part of achieving this goal. On a positive note, I'm delighted to report that our new monthly Assembly Webinar Series, launched in January 2025, has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. These webinars are tailored to the specific interests and needs of each Assembly, and the strong participation and engagement from members have exceeded our expectations. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the planning and delivery of these sessions.

As of June 2025, the APSR comprises 12 en bloc societies. For a long time, the APSR has had a policy of limiting en bloc membership to the sole respiratory society in each country. However, after extensive discussion and careful consideration, we have developed a reasonable solution that enables broader inclusion. This new approach, approved by the APSR Executive Committee, has opened the door to wider participation. Under this clarified framework, several respiratory societies are now actively considering joining the APSR as en bloc members.

We have 16 Assemblies, each categorized according to professional expertise and research interests. Each Assembly is led by a Head, Head-Elect, and Deputy Head. Recently, we held elections to appoint new Assembly leaders to fill the positions of those whose terms will come to an end at the conclusion of the APSR 2025 Manila Congress. As this Newsletter issue marks my final opportunity to write to you as President, I would like to take this occasion to express my heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing leaders for their dedicated service throughout my presidency. At the same time, I extend my warmest congratulations to the newly appointed leaders and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the APSR.

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering dedication to the APSR and to the advancement of respiratory health in our region. I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the upcoming Congress.

Chul-Gyu Yoo

## Message from the President-Elect

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your dedicated efforts in public health and the treatment of respiratory diseases. We, the members of the APSR, are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from respiratory diseases, but our ultimate goal is to create a world free from intractable respiratory diseases. To achieve this goal, disease prevention is an important issue.

As the COVID-19 pandemic comes to an end, I have noticed an increase in the number of smokers. During the pandemic, many people refrained from smoking due to fear of the risk of infection. However, with the end of the pandemic, the declining fear of infection and the emergence of smart electronic cigarettes or vaporizers (that is, less smoke and ash, and captivating fragrances) have had a synergistic effect, and I feel that the number of smokers is increasing, especially among the younger generation of both men and women.

The acute harm of tobacco is known, such as respiratory failure due to acute eosinophilic pneumonia that can occur early in young smokers. However, in general, the development of respiratory diseases such as COPD, lung cancer, and interstitial pneumonia is caused by long-term exposure, so young smokers are often not fully aware of these dangers, and we know that they often regret it as they get older.

As respiratory physicians, we want to reduce the number of patients suffering from intractable and devastating respiratory diseases due to tobacco smoke. A great deal of evidence has been reported about the risks of new types of tobacco, and even more unknown risks are predicted from new additives. The smoking rate in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to remain higher than in Europe and the United States. The APSR believes that it is necessary to stop smoking, regardless of whether it involves new types of cigarettes or traditional ones, and to work to prevent the onset of respiratory diseases, as well as to make efforts to eliminate the damage caused by unwanted passive smoking. (For World No Tobacco Day, on 31 May)

Looking ahead, the APSR is expected to play an increasingly active role in respiratory disease treatment, research and education across the Asia-Pacific region. The APSR always wants to stand together with patients and our members.

Yoshinori Hasegawa

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

This is our first joint newsletter message as co-Editors in Chief of *Respirology* since Professor Toshiaki Kikuchi took the role in December. Professor Kikuchi has settled into the role with great enthusiasm, and you can read his introductory [Editorial](#) in *Respirology*'s March issue.

We are delighted to be working together in this 30<sup>th</sup> year of the APSR's official publication, alongside an expert and dedicated [Editorial Board](#) and support team. Since the last Newsletter, we welcomed Naricha Chirakalwasan (Thailand), Cormac McCarthy (Ireland), Samuel Kemp (UK) and Takahiro Nakajima (Japan) to the Associate Editor team, while Jane Bourke (Australia), Haruyuki Ishii (Japan) and Vanessa McDonald (Australia) have stepped up to the Deputy Editor team to assist with pre-screening newly submitted manuscripts. We thank Safwan Badr, Richard Leigh and Jodie Simpson, who have stepped down from their Editorial Board roles. We also welcomed a new staff member at the Editorial Office - Isabella (Bella) Joubert joined the team in December and is providing support for both APSR journals, *Respirology* and *Respirology Case Reports*.

We also acknowledge the Reviewers who kindly volunteer their time and expertise to the journal. The full list of 2024 Reviewers has been published [online](#) and a special thank you goes to our top reviewer, Robert Lentz. We encourage anyone interested in reviewing for *Respirology* to contact the Editorial Office ([respirology@resphealth.uwa.edu.au](mailto:respirology@resphealth.uwa.edu.au)) to discuss how to join the reviewer pool that we rely on to assess the increasing number of submissions.

*Respirology* received 25% more original articles in 2024 compared to the year before. Of the original articles that were approved for external peer review, 45% were accepted for publication. Authors whose manuscripts were not considered for external peer review were notified within 9 days; and the first decision after external peer review took 74 days in 2024. The time manuscripts spend in peer review has been increasing slowly, largely due to the increasing manuscript load faced by reviewers and editors. On the other hand, the time from acceptance to publication continues to improve and is now less than 3 weeks.

*Respirology*'s community of authors and readers continues to strongly represent the Asia-Pacific region, with Australia, Japan and Hong Kong featuring in the top 5 author countries/regions, and China, Australia and India being among the top 5 reader countries/regions in 2024. In April, Professor Kikuchi represented *Respirology* at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS2025) in Tokyo, where he met with attending editorial board members, readers and

prospective authors. Professor Kikuchi will also be attending the 2025 APSR Congress in Manila in November and he looks forward to further interactions with the journal's editorial board members, authors and readership community.

The APSR Congress will also be an opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the winners of this year's [Fukuchi Awards](#) and the [APSR Clean Air Research Award](#) with their certificates to be presented at the Gala Dinner Award Ceremony:

- The Fukuchi Award for the Best Original Research Paper in Respiriology 1: [Computed tomography mucus plugs and airway tree structure in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Associations with airflow limitation, health-related independence and mortality](#)
- The Fukuchi Award for the Best Original Research Paper in Respiriology 2: [Association between perinatal and early life exposures and lung function in Australian Indigenous young adults: The Aboriginal Birth Cohort study](#)
- APSR Clean Air Research Award: [Efficacy and safety of cytosine versus nortriptyline for smoking cessation: A multicentre, randomized, double-blinded and placebo-controlled trial](#)

We congratulate all the authors of these papers on their achievement and thank the panel members who helped to select the winning papers: Antonio Anzueto, Sanjay Chotirmall, Alexander Larcombe, Chin Kook Rhee, and Kazuhiro Yatera.

The top 10 papers shortlisted for the Fukuchi Award for the best original research paper published in *Respirology* in 2024 are available as a collection [here](#). We also highly recommend the latest article [recommendations from our Medical Education Editor A/Professor Mark Lavercombe](#), our new series of [Letters from Leading Women in Respiratory Clinical Sciences](#), the review article on [Tuberculosis: An update for the clinician](#), and the latest [Editors' Choice](#) selections.

Finally, to help bring our latest publications to a wider audience, *Respirology* has recently joined LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/respirology/>) and Bluesky (@respirology.bsky.social). We encourage all APSR members on these platforms to follow the journal and engage with our content and fellow users.

We would like to thank the APSR leadership, the Editorial Board, our readers and authors, and the Editorial Office team for their continued strong support of *Respirology*. We hope to see many of you at the APSR Congress in Manila – don't forget to stop by the *Respirology* booth in the Exhibition space and meet our wonderful staff!

Toshiaki Kikuchi  
Paul Reynolds

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

We are currently finalising our 2024 annual report, which shows that *Respirology Case Reports* had a very successful year, with 50% more manuscripts in 2024 compared to 2023. We continue to receive a strong support from authors in the Asia-Pacific region and from APSR members, with over 75% of our submissions originating from the region. Our acceptance rate remains stable at 76%, and our turn-around time hasn't changed compared to the previous year. Our readership remains international and continues to grow.

I invite you to view 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.

The awardees of the "Respirology Case Reports Best Poster Awards" for the best case reports presented at the APSR Congress in 2024, have submitted their manuscripts, which are currently under peer-review. If accepted, they will be published and also available [here](#) with the previous years' winners. Many excellent case reports were presented at last year's APSR Congress in Hong Kong, and we encourage those presenters to consider submitting their work to *Respirology Case Reports*.

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

Since January, we have welcomed Simone Barry to our team of Associate Editors, and farewellled Young Ae Kang and Wei Shen Lim. We have also welcomed Kohei Fujita, Takashi Ishiguro, Yoshiyuki Ozawa and Motoko Tachihara as Advisory Board members. The Editorial Office has also welcomed a new member – Isabella (Bella) Joubert – who joined the team in December to assist with the smooth running of *Respirology Case Reports* as well as *Respirology*.

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.

We also recognize the many Reviewers who kindly donate their time and expertise to the journal. The full list of 2024 Reviewers has been published [online](#) and a special thank you goes to our top reviewer Kohei Fujita. We continue to encourage anyone who is interested in reviewing for the journal to contact the Editorial Office ([respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au](mailto:respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au)) as we expand its expert reviewer pool to help assess the increasing number of submissions.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members of the APSR, for your support of the journal, since you continue to contribute a large portion of the articles that we publish each year. Don't forget that APSR members benefit from a 50% discount on the open access publication charge for case reports, case series and clinical trial protocols. Please be sure to indicate that you are an APSR member upon submission. If you need any assistance with manuscript submission, do not hesitate to contact the Editorial Office: [respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au](mailto:respcasereports@resphealth.uwa.edu.au)

Keiko Kan-o

## APSR Webinars in 2025

### 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 and 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, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan.

For more information: [Webinars | Asian Pacific Society of Respirology](#)

### APSR Grand Rounds

#### *Past webinars*

- **1st Grand Rounds: Thursday 27 February 2025**  
Theme: Infection or not infection, that's the question  
Speakers: Dr Toyoshi Yanagihara (Japan), Dr Masaki Okamoto (Japan), Dr Ritsu Ibusuki (Japan)  
Co-Chairpersons: Dr Masaki Fujita (Japan), Dr Toyoshi Yanagihara (Japan)
- **2nd Grand Rounds: Wednesday 30 April 2025**  
Theme: Critical Care Medicine  
Speakers: Dr Wen-Lin Su (Taiwan), Dr Wei-Chih Chen (Taiwan), Dr Wen-Kuang Yu (Taiwan)  
Co-Chairpersons: Dr Grace Lam (Hong Kong), Dr Kuang-Yao Yang (Taiwan)

#### *Upcoming webinar*

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Rounds; 16:00-17:00 Jakarta time (UTC+7) Tuesday 22 July 2025**  
Theme: Drug resistant tuberculosis  
Speakers: Dr Heidi Agustin (Indonesia), Dr Irawaty Djaharuddin (Indonesia), Dr Fathiyah Isbaniah (Indonesia)  
Co-Chairpersons: Dr Grace Lam (Hong Kong), Dr Ni Luh Putu Eka Arisanti (Indonesia)

### Sponsored Webinars

#### *Past webinars*

- **Educational webinars sponsored by Cepheid; Wednesday 7 May 2025**  
Theme: Management of Respiratory Infections: Exploring the clinical and economic implications in an evolving landscape  
Speakers: Dr Megan Rees (Australia), Dr Belinda

Hengel (Australia)

Panelists: Dr Dominic Dwyer (Australia), Dr Jordan Chase (USA)

Moderators: Dr Masaki Fujita (Japan), Dr Steve Badman (Australia)

Closing remarks: Dr Yoshinori Hasegawa (Japan)

• **Educational webinars sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim; Friday 13 June 2025**

Theme: New data and fresh perspectives in ILD: FIBRONEER trials

Speakers: Dr Daniel Chambers (Australia), Dr Felicia Teo (Singapore)

Chairperson: Dr Jin Woo Song (Republic of Korea)

### APSR Educational Assembly Webinars

#### *Past webinars*

- **Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly: Saturday 25 January 2025**

Theme: Recent Advances in Molecular Oncology

Speakers: Dr Ichidai Tanaka (Japan), Dr Hsing-Chen Tsai (Taiwan)

Co-Chairpersons: Dr Chul-Gyu Yoo (Republic of Korea), Dr Mitsuo Sato (Japan)

- **Tuberculosis Assembly: Tuesday 25 March 2025**

Theme: The Last Mile for TB Elimination: Updates on TB Vaccines

Speakers: Dr Erlina Burhan (Indonesia), Dr Charles Yu (Philippines)

Chairperson: Dr Yi-Wen Huang (Taiwan), Moderator: Dr Lalaine Mortera (Philippines)

- **Clinical Respiratory Medicine Assembly: Saturday 26 April 2025**

Theme: Digital Health Webinar

Speakers: Dr Shirley Ngai (Hong Kong), Dr Dushantha Madegedara (Sri Lanka)

Co-Chairpersons: Dr Julie Wang (Hong Kong), Dr Kay Choong See (Singapore)

- **Tobacco Control Section: Wednesday 28 May 2025**

Theme: Managing patients who vape – an update for clinicians

Speakers: Dr Agus Susanto (Indonesia), Dr Moya Vandeleur (Australia)

Chairperson: Dr Henry Marshall (Australia)

#### *Upcoming webinar*

- **Paediatric Lung Disease Assembly: 18:00-19:00 Singapore Time (UTC+8) Tuesday 26 August 2025**  
Details will be announced on [Webinars | Asian Pacific Society of Respirology](#)

## Message from the 29th APSR Congress President

Mabuhay! There are exactly 130 days to go until the 29th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), taking place from 10-13 November 2025 at the SMX Convention Center, Manila, Philippines. It has been 15 years since the memorable Manila APSR Congress in 2010.

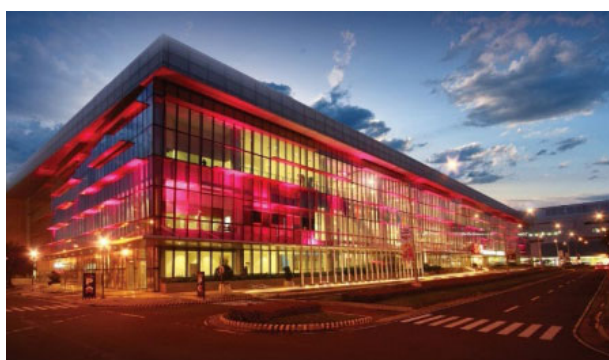
At the APSR scientific meeting, medical professionals unite in our mission to champion lung





health across borders. Committed to advancing respiratory care, we pledge solidarity to foster a healthier future. We will rally around the Congress' theme of "SOLIDARITY IN LUNG HEALTH!".

This gathering allows for the exchange of insights, knowledge, and collaborations that transcend geographical boundaries, promoting innovation in respiratory medicine. United by a common purpose, we aim to elevate pulmonary care standards and improve patient outcomes while being cognisant of the variety of our sociocultural and economic milieu.



In the face of evolving respiratory challenges, we health stewards stand together, driven by a shared passion for excellence, illuminating a path towards a future where lung health is universally prioritized. Our collective efforts today will shape a healthier tomorrow for all.

Join world-class speakers with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region, and actively participate in the hundreds of research presentations being disseminated from across the region and beyond. Partake of the world-renowned Filipino hospitality and its unique culture, which blends East and West. The organizing committee has lined up an excellent programme, as well as a cultural smorgasbord of Filipino cuisine and entertainment. Try to venture into the Philippines famous beaches which have consistently been voted among the world's best. Renew and forge camaraderie among colleagues and fellow pulmonary specialists. We guarantee you



an event that feeds the mind, nourishes the soul and more.

We invite you to join us in our commitment to stand united for Lung Health in the Asia-Pacific region! See you in Manila.

Charles Y. Yu

## Reports from APSR en bloc societies

### *Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (TSPCCM)*

#### **Asia Pacific Respiratory Congress 2024**

The 9th Asia Pacific Region Conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), in collaboration with the Summer Meeting of the TSPCCM, was successfully held from 26 to 29 April 2024, at the prestigious Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taipei, Taiwan. The joint conference served as a significant platform for regional and global experts to share insights on tuberculosis and lung health.

#### **Youth Summer Workshop 2024**

The Pulmonary and Critical Care Summer Youth Conference was successfully held from 10–11 August 2024, at the International Conference Center (BI), Chiayi Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.

#### **TSPCCM Annual Congress 2024**

The Annual Congress of the Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine was successfully held from 7-8 December 2024, at the Tainan Convention and Exhibition Center, Tainan, Taiwan.

This year's scientific programme featured a special keynote lecture by Dr Alex Adjei. The congress covered the latest medical advances across a wide range of topics, including respiratory diseases, pulmonary oncology, pulmonary infections and tuberculosis, critical care medicine, interstitial lung diseases and rare disorders, interventional bronchoscopy, respiratory therapy, pulmonary vascular diseases and pulmonary hypertension, environmental and occupational lung diseases, thoracic surgery and sleep medicine.

The event attracted approximately 1,300 participants and received 120 abstract submissions,



reflecting the strong academic enthusiasm and engagement within the pulmonary and critical care community. Through a diverse and dynamic agenda, the annual congress provided members with up-to-date knowledge in thoracic medicine, fostered understanding of future developments, and promoted meaningful professional exchange.

### **Asian Pacific Congress on Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology 2025 and Summer Workshop 2025**

The 10th Asian Pacific Congress on Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology and Summer Workshop were held from 20-22 June 2025, at the International Convention Center of National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan.

The 10th Asian Pacific Congress on Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology shone a spotlight on key advancements in interventional pulmonology, including diagnostics and treatment of peripheral pulmonary lesions, EBUS-TBNA applications, airway obstruction management, navigational bronchoscopy and paediatric bronchoscopy. Held in conjunction with the Summer Workshop of TSPCCM, the congress also explored the latest developments in respiratory diseases, thoracic oncology, pulmonary infections, critical care and sleep medicine.

This event not only fostered international collaboration among thoracic medicine experts, but also encouraged the exchange of the latest scientific insights and clinical advances.

### ***Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS)***

#### **MTS Annual Congress 2025**

The MTS Annual Congress will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 14-17 August 2025. Dr Wan Jen Lye has been appointed as Organising Chairman. Dr Syazatul Syakirin Sirol Aflah heads the Adult Scientific Committee and Dr N. Fafwati Faridatul Akmar Mohammad heads the Paediatric Scientific Committee. An APSR Joint Symposium on Thoracic Oncology is planned for the first day of the main conference on 15 August 2025.

#### **Updates on Respiratory Medicine**

Many events on Respiratory medicine were organised by MTS members including a Non-Invasive Ventilation Masterclass held from 24-25 February 2025 at Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah UiTM Puncak Alam, Selangor, the Negeri Sembilan and Malacca 2nd Straits Respiratory Update held from 18-19 April 2025 at Senawang, Negeri Sembilan, a Thoracic Imaging Symposium held on 19 April 2025 in Johor Bahru, Johor, the Lung Cancer Symposium held from 25-27 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, the 6th HCTM Respiratory Update held in Hospital Canselor Tunku Mukhriz, Kuala Lumpur and the Sabah Respiratory Update 2025 held on 11 May 2025 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Thoracic Imaging Symposium held on 17 May 2025 in Kuching, Sarawak, the 2nd Malaysia National

Asthma COPD Preceptorship Conference 2025 held from 23-24 May 2025 in Kuala Lumpur and the 1st Southern Malaysia Adult and Children Respiratory Conference held on 14 June 2025 in Johor Bahru, Johor.



From the 2nd Straits Respiratory Update held from 18-19 April 2025 in Negeri Sembilan

### **Workshops and Courses**

Workshops and courses held in 2025 include the 7th UKM Hands on Pleural Workshop held from 20-21 February 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, the KIDZ Asthma Educator Programme Workshop held from 12-13 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, the Tuberculosis in Children for Treatment Centre Workshop held from 17-18 April in Kuala Lumpur, the MTS Spirometry Certification Programme Phase 1 Workshop held from 19-20 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, the Tuberculosis in Children for Treatment Centre Workshop to be held from 27-28 May 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, the Sarawak Asthma COPD Workshop held on 14 June 2025 in Sibu, Sarawak.



From the Tuberculosis in Children for Treatment Centre Workshop held from 17-18 April in Kuala Lumpur

Workshops and courses planned for the coming months include Phase 3 course of the MTS Spirometry Certification Programme Course to be held from 2-3 August 2025 in Kuala Lumpur.

The series of Clinical Research Workshops organised in collaboration with Clinical Research Centre, Hospital Tunku Azizah Kuala Lumpur, which were started in 2023 continued into 2025. The workshop topics include Statistical Analysis using Microsoft Excel, Statistical Analysis using SPSS and Basic Statistical Analysis for Clinical Research.



## Paediatric Grand Ward Rounds

The virtual Paediatric Grand Ward Rounds were continued for a fifth consecutive year and have been well received.

Prepared by Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh, Hon Secretary

## Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF)

### Advancing Lung Health for All: 2024–2025 Highlights

The Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF) continued its mission of promoting lung health across the country through a dynamic calendar of scientific, public health and community outreach initiatives, in 2024 and 2025.

### Major Workshops and Continuing Medical Education (CME) seminars

Throughout 2024-2025, BLF conducted numerous hands-on workshops and CME seminars across the country, including:

#### Workshops:

- Hands-on-training on Mechanical Ventilation (Dhaka)
- Hands-on training on Basic Bronchoscopy (BIRDEM)
- TB Diagnosis by Chest Radiography (Cox's Bazar, Rajshahi, Rangamati, Barisal) in collaboration with ICDDR, B and NTP, funded by USAID
- Spirometry workshop and Asthma Education (World Asthma Day)

#### CME seminars:

- Recent Advances in TB Management
- Updates in Pulmonology
- Bacterial Lysates in RTI Prevention
- Anti-inflammatory Reliever Therapy

### National and International Engagement

- BLF played an active role in the Planetary Health Academia Global Summit 2024, leading the respiratory health session.
- Round-table discussions were held on Influenza Prevention and Tobacco Control, involving national stakeholders.
- A Scientific Seminar and a day-long event were organized to mark World Lung Day 2024, focusing on “Clean Air and Healthy Lungs for All.”
- Post-TB lung disease (PTLD) Project: A collaborative initiative with the Damien Foundation to screen post-TB lung disease (PTLD) and support pulmonary rehabilitation in primary care centers.

### Annual General Meeting

BLF's Annual General Meeting took place in Cox's Bazar, followed by a CME event on Airway Diseases held at Cox Bazar Medical College for local healthcare professionals.

### 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Lung Health – PULMOCON 2025

BLF's flagship event, PULMOCON 2025, from 18-21 February 2025 in Dhaka brought together about 1,200 registered participants and 30 foreign faculty

representing 22 countries. Seven pre-congress Workshops were organized. There were 72 oral presentations on topics covering the whole gamut of respiratory medicine spread over 21 sessions.

Special awards were distributed for young researchers for excellent theses and Posters. Lifetime Achievement Awards were handed over to outstanding individuals who have made exceptional contribution to advancement of Lung Health. The Premiere conclave was dedicated to the successful anti-autocracy movement in August 2024. It was attended by social celebrities who are involved in activism regarding Lung Health as Goodwill Ambassadors and Airway Friends of BLF. A post Conference Community advocacy campaign on Lung Health was held on 21 February, which is observed globally as the International Mother Language Day. Bangladeshis take special pride in commemorating this day since it originated in 1952 from the Bangla language movement in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Website: [pulmoconbd.com](http://pulmoconbd.com), [bdlungfoundation.com](http://bdlungfoundation.com)



### Social and Community Outreach

The BLF combined lung health advocacy with humanitarian support for the underprivileged section of society. This included:

- Eid gift distribution to homes of orphans and elderly
- An Eid Bazar that exchanged groceries for plastic waste to promote sustainability
- Heatwave relief efforts with cold water distribution (Chuadanga)
- Flood relief and medical assistance during the 2024 floods
- Support for anti-discrimination movement victims



### Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS)

### Sleep and Breathing Course cum Annual Scientific Meeting 2025

The Sleep and Breathing Course cum Annual

Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2025 was successfully held from 21-23 March 2025, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Sleep and Breathing Course, which had been held twice before (in 2017 and 2019) to overwhelmingly positive feedback, was unfortunately discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging from the shadow of the pandemic, we were delighted to once again welcome world-renowned experts from Australia, who delivered comprehensive lectures and workshops on sleep medicine and respiratory failure, covering topics from fundamentals to the latest advancements, and from theory to hands-on practice. The course attracted 119 participants, with an attendance rate of 98.3%. The ASM also received 285 registrations with 97.5% attendance.



HKTS Council at Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2025

### Mega Event on Health Exhibition 2025

The three respiratory societies (Hong Kong Lung Foundation, Hong Kong Thoracic Society, and Chest Delegation Hong Kong & Macau) jointly organized the Health Carnival from 8-9 March 2025 at City Walk 2 in Tsuen Wan, attracting a diverse audience and fostering public education on respiratory diseases, including lung cancer, asthma, COPD, obstructive sleep apnea and pneumonia. On behalf of our three respiratory societies, the following attended the opening ceremony: Dr Fanny KO, Dr Jenny NGAI, Dr Yiu-cheong YEUNG, and the guests of honour, Dr Ronald LAM (Director of Health, Department of Health), Mr Henry FAN (Chairman, Hospital Authority), Dr Cissy CHOI (Chief Manager, Integrated Clinical Services, Hospital Authority), Professor David HUI (Council Member, Hong Kong Thoracic Society; Chairman, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong).

### COSH: 15<sup>th</sup> “Quit to Win” Contest cum Smoke-free Community Campaign

The territory-wide 15<sup>th</sup> “Quit to Win” Contest cum Smoke-free Community Campaign organized by Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) has been successfully completed. More than 1,300 smokers joined the contest and about 80,000 members of public received smoke-free message through the Campaign. On behalf of the three societies, Dr Wai-lam LAW (President of HKTS), Dr Ida WONG (President of Chest Delegation HK & Macau) and Dr Chun-kong NG (Treasurer of HKLF), attended the prize presentation ceremony on 24 March 2025.

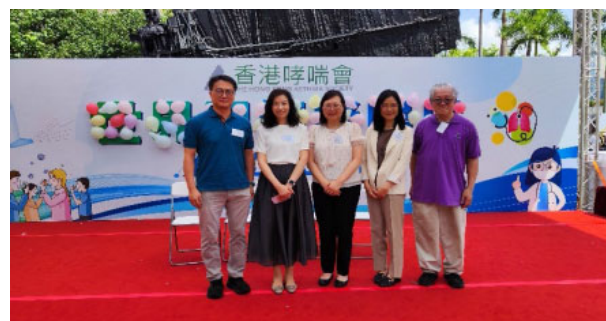
Successful quitters also shared their inspiring quit stories at the ceremony.



Dr Wai-lam LAW, President of HKTS (right), Dr Chun-kong NG, Treasurer of HKLF (middle) and Dr Ida WONG, President of Chest Delegation HK & Macau (left)

### World Asthma Week 2025

On behalf of the three respiratory societies, Dr Wai-lam LAW (President of HKTS), Dr Ida WONG (President of Chest Delegation HK & Macau) and Dr Fanny KO (Immediate Past Chairman of HKLF), attended the kick off ceremony and carnival of 2025 World Asthma Week held on 4 May 2025 at Open Gallery of Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui. The whole event was organized by the Hong Kong Asthma Society, aiming for public education by delivering relevant talks to kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.



Dr Wai-lam LAW, President of HKTS (left), Dr Fanny KO, Immediate Past Chairman of HKLF (second left) and Dr Ida WONG, President of Chest Delegation HK & Macau (middle)

Prepared by Dr Wai-lam LAW, President of HKTS

### *Singapore Thoracic Society (STS)*

#### STS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2024

Our flagship event was attended on 26 October 2024 by 125 participants including respiratory specialists and allied health professions from Singapore and the region, which was held at PARKROYAL on Beach Road, Singapore.

The ASM featured expert speakers from the United Kingdom, India, China, Republic of Korea and Malaysia, featuring Professor Byung Woo Jhun, Professor Raja Dhar, Professor Nawar Bakerly, Dr Huiying Xu, Dr Siew Teck Tie, Dr Gin Tsen Chai and Professor Yuan Lin Song.



Our local and international experts delivered updates on asthma, COPD, ILD, peripheral lung nodules and vaccinations for respiratory viral infections through symposium sessions and case discussions. We would like to thank the leadership of A/Professor Albert Lim for putting together the successful event with the ASM 2024 organising team.



We continued to encourage research and publication in *Respiratory Medicine* with our STS Young Investigators Award 2024:

- **Winner:** Diagnostic Test Accuracy of Artificial Intelligence-based imaging for Lung cancer screening: A systematic review and meta-analysis  
*Submitting Authors: Thong Lay Teng and Jocelyn Chew, National University of Singapore*

- **1st Runner Up:** Characteristics of Singapore Lung Cancer Patients Who Miss Out on Lung Cancer Screening Recommendations  
*Submitting Authors: Dr Chew Wui Mei and Dr Pearly Koh, Changi General Hospital*

- **2nd Runner Up:** High Flow Oxygen Therapy Compared with Conventional Oxygen Therapy in Hospitalized Patients with Respiratory illness: a systematic review and meta-analysis  
*Submitting Author: Dr Daniel Seow, Sengkang General Hospital*

#### Supporting CME events

STS continues to support Continuing Medical Education (CME) events with the following details:

- TTSH Inaugural Spirometry Training Course 2025 on 8 February 2025
- Beyond The Horizon: New Frontiers in COPD Treatment on 26 March 2025
- Transforming Severe Asthma Care: New Perspectives on IL5 and Beyond on 28 March 2025
- Personalising Asthma Management on 10 April 2025

#### STS Annual Scientific Meeting 2025

The upcoming STS Annual Scientific Meeting 2025 will be held from 26-27 July 2025 at PARKROYAL on Beach Road. This will serve as the main local scientific meeting for the respiratory community in Singapore.

This is made possible by the momentum gained from the successful organization of the Asian Pacific Society Respiriology Congress 2023, through collective efforts of the STS and APSR Central Congress Committee, and the successful

organization of the STS Annual Scientific Meeting 2024.

We welcome the participation and attendance of local as well as international respiratory healthcare professionals including doctors, researchers, nurses and allied health professionals, from the public and private sectors.

It is an excellent opportunity to meet in person to stay up to date with the latest developments, to educate and provide further understanding of the complex care for our shared respiratory patients.

Further details are available on our webpage [thoracic.sg](http://thoracic.sg) and our social media pages on Facebook and LinkedIn.

#### *Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR)*

**Advancing Respiratory Health: Activities of the Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR)**

The Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR), known locally as Perhimpunan Dokter Paru Indonesia (PDPI), is the cornerstone of pulmonary medicine development in Indonesia. Committed to improving respiratory health nationwide, the ISR undertakes a wide range of activities, spanning scientific advancement, professional development, public education and policy advocacy.

#### **Celebrating Innovation and Collaboration: Highlights from the National Congress of the Indonesian Society of Respiriology 2024**

The ISR/PDPI proudly hosted its highly anticipated 17th National Congress 2024 from 26-27 October 2024 at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC), bringing together pulmonologists, researchers, educators and health professionals from across the country in a celebration of scientific excellence and professional unity. Held under the serene skies of Nusa Dua, the two-day event became a vibrant platform for advancing respiratory care in Indonesia, reflecting the ISR's continuous commitment to education, innovation and collaboration.



17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Indonesia Society of Respiriology, 26-27 October 2024, Bali. This congress was not only a scientific celebration but also a symbol of our collective spirit to improve the respiratory health of our nation.

The scientific programme of the National Congress featured plenary sessions and symposia, hands-on workshops and a scientific competition. Expert

speakers from Indonesia and abroad enriched these sessions, fostering knowledge exchange on global best practices and the latest research.

Understanding the value of camaraderie and well-being among its members, the National Congress also featured non-scientific competitions, such as art and photography exhibitions, social and networking events, a choir competition and an asthma gymnastic competition. These activities strengthened bonds among ISR members and offered a refreshing balance to the intensive scientific discussions.

The 2024 National Congress also served as a strategic gathering to align the society's future goals. ISR leadership emphasized the importance of strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, expanding access to pulmonary care across Indonesia, and nurturing the next generation of respiratory specialists.

With its blend of high-level scientific discourse and inclusive community spirit, the National Congress of ISR 2024 was a resounding success. It reaffirmed the society's dedication to continuous learning, clinical excellence, and nationwide collaboration in advancing lung health.

### **World Congress for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WCBIP 2024)**

Hosted in collaboration between the ISR and Perhimpunan Bronkoscopi dan Intervensi Pulmonologi Indonesia (Perbronki), WCBIP 2024 marked the first time this prestigious global congress was held in Indonesia. The event attracted international pulmonologists, interventionalists and researchers from more than 30 countries. This event was held with the theme "A Magical Blend of Learning: Science, Culture and Nature" from 23-27 October 2024, at Nusa Dua, Bali, in conjunction with the ISR National Congress.



World Congress for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WCBIP 2024), 23-25 October 2024

The congress featured advanced symposia and live workshops on rigid bronchoscopy, EBUS, cryotherapy, airway stenting and thoracoscopy; live demonstrations and simulation labs, showcasing the latest interventional techniques and technologies; multidisciplinary case discussions, and panels on complex airway and thoracic oncology

management.

The back-to-back congresses brought together a magical blend of science, culture and nature - a unique reflection of Indonesia's identity and spirit. Delegates left not only with enhanced clinical knowledge but also with renewed inspiration to improve respiratory health care in their communities. This landmark event elevated Indonesia's role on the global stage of interventional pulmonology and fostered deep international collaboration.

The success of these events stands as a testament to the dedication of the ISR, Perbronki, and the entire Indonesian respiratory community in shaping the future of pulmonary and interventional care.

### **POTI/INASTO hosted the Lung Cancer Forum 2025 in Bandung to strengthen national collaboration in thoracic oncology**

The Indonesian Thoracic Oncology Society (POTI/INASTO), a part of the ISR, successfully held the Lung Cancer Forum 2025 from 17-18 January in the vibrant city of Bandung, bringing together pulmonologists, oncologists, thoracic surgeons, radiologists, pathologists and other key stakeholders from across Indonesia. The forum served as a critical platform for strengthening the national response to lung cancer, which remains the leading cause of cancer-related death in the country.



1st Lung Cancer Forum, 17-18 January 2025

With the theme "Enhancing Thoracic Oncology Care: Innovation and Progress", the Lung Cancer Forum 2025 focused on real-world clinical challenges and cutting-edge solutions. Key sessions included updates on thoracic oncology, multidisciplinary case discussions, targeted and immunotherapy, screening and early detection, palliative care and mediastinal tumours.

The success of Lung Cancer Forum 2025 reflects POTI's continued leadership in shaping the future of thoracic oncology in Indonesia. By building a strong professional network, advocating improved access to diagnostics and treatments, and fostering innovation, POTI reaffirms its mission to improve outcomes for lung cancer patients nationwide.

## National Awareness Efforts for World TB Day and World Asthma Day 2025

In 2025, the Indonesian Society of Respiriology (ISR/PDPI) once again demonstrated its commitment to respiratory health advocacy through a series of impactful activities commemorating World Tuberculosis (TB) Day and World Asthma Day. These nationwide efforts emphasized awareness, education and public engagement, aligned with ISR's mission to improve lung health across Indonesia.

On 24 March 2025, the ISR led a multi-pronged campaign to highlight the urgency of TB elimination in Indonesia, which remains one of the world's highest TB-burden countries. Key activities included educational webinars for healthcare professionals on updated TB diagnostic tools, drug resistance management, and integration of TB services at the primary care level; Media outreach and press releases, calling for continued government and public support to meet the WHO End TB Strategy targets by 2030; Social media campaigns using infographics and patient stories to combat stigma and encourage early detection and treatment adherence.

On 6 May 2025, ISR conducted a nationwide effort to empower patients and families living with asthma, aiming to reduce preventable hospitalizations and improve long-term disease control. Highlights included educational materials distributed in hospitals, clinics and online, focusing on asthma myths, medication safety, and when to seek specialist care. Press release campaigns were organised to address asthma underdiagnosis and access to essential medications, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The ISR's continued commitment to nationwide awareness campaigns reflects a deeper mission: to build a healthier Indonesia through science, service and sustained advocacy. As respiratory challenges evolve, the ISR remains steadfast in guiding public understanding and policy action.

Prepared by Dr Ida Ayu Jasminarti Dwi  
Kusumawardani

## Reports from award winners who participated at the ATS International Conference

I was very privileged to have been awarded the APSR Travel Award to the ATS International Conference 2025, which gave me the opportunity to present my abstract entitled, "A Baseline HRCT Deep Textural Analysis Fibrosis Score of  $\geq 10\%$  in RA-ILD Is Associated with an Increased Risk of All-Cause Mortality", at the recent 2025 ATS International Conference in San Francisco, which was held from 16-21 May 2025.

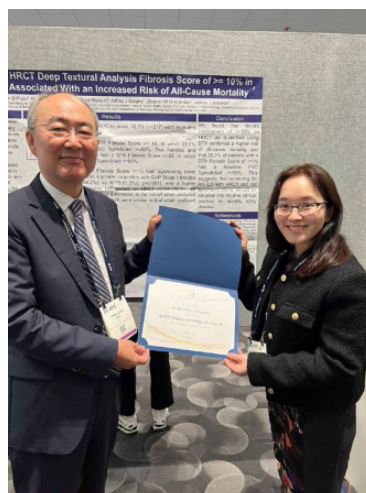


In addition to attending the conference, the award gave me the opportunity to attend the International Scholars Colloquium where I met young researchers from across the world with diverse interests which ranged from pulmonary physiology to tuberculosis and

sarcoidosis, and spanned across basic science research to translational research, and public health research and clinical trials. I was also greatly honoured to meet APSR President, Professor Chul-Gyu Yoo, who personally attended the Colloquium and presented me with the award certificate.

As with previous meetings, the conference programme had extensive breadth and depth across the fields of pulmonology, sleep medicine and critical care; with sessions that catered to all attendees, from trainees early in their careers to well-established key opinion leaders in their respective fields. The panels and speakers were multidisciplinary and diverse in their representation, which allowed for insightful discussions and comments from different perspectives. Some of the sessions which are perennial favourites, such as the Clinical Year in Review, Clinical Trials Results and latest publications from NEJM, JAMA and AJRCCM, were well-attended and enlightening, as with previous years.

This year's ATS was particularly exciting for me, as there were many new developments in the field of Interstitial Lung Disease, which is my area of interest. In addition to the release of the first ATS Clinical Statement on the evaluation and management of interstitial lung abnormalities; the much-awaited results of the FIBRONEER-IPF and FIBRONEER-ILD trials were announced at the conference. Both trials were a significant milestone for the ILD community, as this marked the first positive Phase 3 ILD trials in more than a decade.



Receiving my award certificate from the APSR President, Professor Chul-Gyu Yoo at the International Scholars Colloquium



Besides the robust scientific programme, the conference provided many networking opportunities such as the ATS President's Reception, the International Medical Group Session, and the Rare Lung Diseases Consortium Reception. It was a wonderful experience to not only meet clinicians and researchers from across the world, but also patient advocates, who provided their invaluable perspective on their lived experience with the disease.

The highlight for me was having the opportunity to give an oral presentation of my abstract, which was work done during my subspecialty fellowship year at National Jewish Health. It was very exciting to be presenting in the same session as many internationally recognised experts in the field, who expressed interest and were supportive of my presented work. It was also wonderful to meet my mentors who had been very generous in sharing their expertise with me and were very supportive throughout and even after I had completed my fellowship.

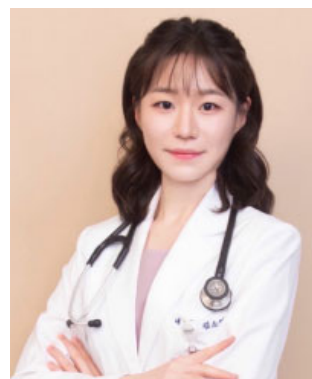
The ATS International Conference 2025 was a wonderful opportunity to learn and network. I would like to thank the APSR for the generous sponsorship and opportunity, my mentors and co-fellows at National Jewish Health, and my colleagues at Singapore General Hospital for their support.



Flanked by Associate Professor Joshua Solomon and Professor Jeff Swigris, my mentors from National Jewish Health, after my oral presentation

Michelle Kam (Singapore)

My name is So Yeon Kim, a pulmonologist and assistant professor at Seoul National University. I was recently honoured to be selected for the APSR Young Investigator Travel Award to the ATS International Conference 2025, through which I had the privilege of presenting my abstract titled "Growth and Clinical Outcomes of Screen-Detected Pulmonary Subsolid Nodules Beyond 5 Years of Stability".



I first attended the ATS conference in 2023 as a second-year clinical fellow, and that experience truly marked a turning point in my career. Being in an environment where leading experts in lung cancer gathered to present their latest findings on critical health issues, engage

in dynamic discussions and exchange ideas, inspired me deeply. It was then that I decided I wanted to become an active member of this society and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of our field.

Thanks to the wonderful connections, I made during that first experience, I've been steadily building my research career. I am especially grateful to have received support from the APSR, which allowed me to return to ATS 2025 with a full heart and a clear focus on learning and sharing.



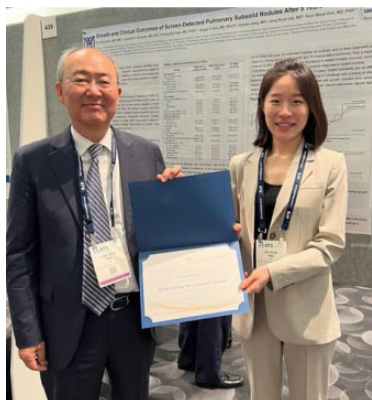
My abstract this year focuses on subsolid nodules (SSNs)—lesions that are increasingly being detected, yet for which clinical guidelines regarding long-term outcomes and management remain limited. While these lesions are often histologically malignant, they tend to follow a more indolent course compared to lung cancers in those who have smoked. The gap between their pathological potential and clinical behaviour makes it essential to better understand their long-term trajectory. Our team conducted one of the largest cohort studies to date on SSNs, investigating not only the growth rate of lesions stable for 5 years but also the clinical significance of growth and predictors of progression.

Thanks to the APSR, I was able to present this research on two international stages, which gave me a valuable opportunity to share my work and connect with researchers around the world who share similar interests.

As a young investigator, I am deeply grateful for the effort the APSR puts into supporting early-career researchers by offering opportunities to

participate in global meetings and explore new ideas. These experiences are not only motivating but also instrumental in shaping our growth as clinicians and scientists. I will continue to pursue my research and clinical work with dedication to improve outcomes for patients in this field.

Thanks once again to the APSR for their generous support and for empowering young investigators to grow and thrive on the international stage.



So Yeon (Lydia) Kim (Republic of Korea)

## Assembly Reports and Newsletters

Assembly reports are available via [Annual Reports Archive](#) (members-only access)

## Councillor Reports

Council reports are available via [Annual Reports Archive](#) (members-only access).

## APSR Website renewed!

The APSR website was launched last year ([apsr.org](#)) The new website features

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

## How to register to access APSR members-only pages

To register, see [Login help](#)

## Why you should register

Register for members-only access to use your benefits!

- join our [Assemblies](#) and [Sections](#)
- challenge the APSR Teaching Library \*Let's try [one](#) of the cases Now!
- access the latest [publications](#)

• access members-only webinars  
and so on.

## Forthcoming Meetings

### 2025

ERS 2025 (European Respiratory Society International Congress)  
27 September - 1 October  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

The 140th Congress of the Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRDIC 2025)  
29-31 October  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Email: [info@katrdic.org](mailto:info@katrdic.org)  
Website: [katrdic.org](http://katrdic.org)

29th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of  
Respirology  
10-13 November  
Manila, Philippines

### 2026

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)  
17-19 April  
Kobe, Japan  
Email: [66jrs@jrs.or.jp](mailto:66jrs@jrs.or.jp)  
Website: [jrs.or.jp/jrs66/en/](http://jrs.or.jp/jrs66/en/)

ATS 2026 (American Thoracic Society International Conference)  
15-20 May  
Orlando, USA

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

### 2027

The 67th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS)  
16-18 April  
Tokyo, Japan

31st Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of  
Respirology  
9-12 November  
Bali, Indonesia

### **Notice from the Secretariat**

#### ***Invitation to bid for the 2028 Congress!***

We invite en bloc societies to make a proposal to host the 32nd Congress of the APSR in 2028. 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. ([info@apsr.org](mailto:info@apsr.org))

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