

# **Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN) President's Report**

## **June 2010**

The activities of the APSN over the past two years (2008-2010) are itemized as follows.

### **1. APSN Fellowship Schemes**

An important mission of the APSN is to increase the opportunities of nephrology training for young nephrologists in the Asian Pacific region. The APSN successfully launched two fellowship schemes over the past year.

#### **a. APSN-Roche Nephrology Fellowship**

The APSN is grateful to Roche for their support to this fellowship scheme, which enables successful applicants to receive training in a host institute for 2 to 6 months. The awardees in the 2009 exercise included Dr Ashok Pradhan Shrestha from the National Kidney Centre in Nepal, under Dr Rishi K Kafle, and Dr Yip-Boon Chong from the Renal Unit at the University Malaya Medical Center in Malaysia, under Professor Si-Yen Tan. Dr Shrestha will receive training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia for 6 months under Dr Kathy Nicholls and Dr Chong will train at the Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong for 4 months under Prof T M Chan.

#### **b. ISN-APSN Fellowship**

This fellowship scheme, first launched in January 2010, is a partnership between the APSN and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN). It enables successful applicants to receive training for up to 12 months in a host institute.

More details on these schemes are available from the following websites:

<http://www.apsneph.org>

[http://www.isn-online.org/isn/society/outreach/isn\\_20084.html](http://www.isn-online.org/isn/society/outreach/isn_20084.html)

### **2. 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN)**

President Prof Ho Yung LEE and his team have worked hard towards a successful 12<sup>th</sup> APCN, held from June 5 to 8, 2010, at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul, Korea. We also thank the Korean Society of Nephrology for its support.

To promote clinical and research excellence, and to encourage the participation of young clinicians and researchers, especially those from developing countries, a total of 10 Best Abstract Awards and 20 Travel Grants have been awarded.

### **3. APSN Awards 2010**

At the 12<sup>th</sup> APCN in Seoul, the APSN honors Prof Hideto Sakai, recipient of the Oshima Award, and Prof Kar Neng Lai, recipient of the Kincaid-Smith Award. Prof Lai is also giving the Ross Bailey Lecture at this congress. The APSN congratulates them for their outstanding achievements and thanks them for their contributions to nephrology in the Asian Pacific region. The APSN is grateful to

esteemed members of the independent Awards Committee, who have deliberated on the nominations from national or regional nephrology societies.

#### **4. World Congress of Nephrology 2013**

The APSN has come to an agreement with the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (HKSAN). The World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) in 2013 will be hosted by the HKSAN, in collaboration with APSN. The three societies will work closely together in the coming four years to ensure that the WCN in 2013 will be a great success.

#### **5. 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology**

Originally scheduled for 2015, the 14<sup>th</sup> APCN will be held in 2014, to avoid clashing with the schedule of the WCN. Bidding for hosting the congress started in late 2009, and the successful bidder will be announced at the 12<sup>th</sup> APCN in Seoul.

#### **6. NEPHROLOGY Journal**

*Nephrology* is growing steadily to become an important nephrology journal, not just in our region but worldwide. Despite the global economic downturn advertising has continued to increase and the Journal has become an important source of income for APSN. We are grateful to Prof David Harris, Editor-in-Chief, for his outstanding leadership. The success of our journal also owes much to the support of the subject editors, the editorial board, the authors, and the readers. Submissions to the journal have come from all corners of the world, and the yearly manuscript submissions have risen to over 500, prompting the need to increase the rejection rate to approximately 75% of submissions. This presents a dilemma because there has also been a steady increase in the quality of submitted manuscripts. A recent innovation has been the introduction of special series: two in 2009, on CKDMB and ANCA vasculitis; and another two this year, on clinical research methods and new advances in haemodialysis.

#### **7. Educational and Public Awareness Activities**

Continuous professional education is essential in promoting the science and practice of nephrology in the Asian Pacific region. Educational activities thus constitute an important element in APSN activities. The APSN has recently entered into a collaboration with ISN COMGAN in the organization of the Oceania and South-East Asia (OSEA) Nephrology Courses, under the leadership of Professor David Harris. Over the past two years our Society has also contributed to continuous medical education initiatives in nephrology in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, under the leadership of Professor Yasuhiko Tomino. The APSN President also participated in the World Kidney Day public awareness programmes held in Hong Kong in 2009 and 2010.

#### **8. Partnership with the AFCKDI**

The APSN maintains a close link with the Asian Forum of Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative (AFCKDI), which aims to promote the knowledge, prevention,

and intervention for chronic kidney diseases. The 3<sup>rd</sup> AFCKDI meeting was successfully held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The 4<sup>th</sup> AFCKDI meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010, in Seoul, immediately before the 12<sup>th</sup> APCN.

### **9. APSN Website**

The APSN website, at <http://www.apsneph.org>, was revamped in 2008. Thanks to the efforts of Professor Peter Kerr, the APSN website is being updated regularly. The APSN website contains Information on the Society, membership application, conferences, fellowship programmes, and new initiatives.

### **10. Membership**

Following the membership drive campaign that started in 2008, the number of members increased from 167 to the latest figure of 237.

### **11. Finance**

The financial status of the APSN remains very healthy. Please refer to the Honorary Treasurer's Report.

### **12. Note of Thanks**

I would like to thank:

- a. the APSN Council – without your support and advise the meaningful new initiatives over the past two years could not have been accomplished
- b. the APSN Executive Committee – the hardwork, time, and wisdom of members of the Executive Committee are most valuable in the day-to-day running of our Society
- c. our partners – notably the ISN, the AFCKDI, the national / regional nephrology or transplantation societies, and industry support
- d. our predecessors and esteemed prior leaders, who have laid down a solid and healthy foundation for our Society
- e. all APSN members – for your support and input to our Society

It is my sincere wish that the APSN will continue to grow in stature, and that everyone will continue to support APSN, under the leadership of the new President Professor Yasuhiko Tomino.

Tak Mao Daniel CHAN  
APSN President 2008-2010