



President's message



June 8, 2020

Dear all APSN Members and Supporters,

During the first half of this year, it was all about COVID-19. Many countries suffered from the pandemic.

As we recognized the importance of this issue early, we made a decision of tentative pending of CME activities on February 19 as these important activities require international travels by young nephrologists and speakers.

On February 22, we sent out the warning about COVID-19 to all the members of APSN.

On February 26, we got an important message from CSN President, Jing-hua Chen, regarding COVID-19. At that time, there were many patients in Wuhan, and the Chinese doctors had most knowledge and expertise about this disease, which was mostly unknown and mysterious at that time.

Shang-Jyh Hwang, Jianghua Chen, Vivek Jha, and their colleagues made up a summary of COVID-19 guidelines by Taiwan Society of Nephrology and Chinese Society of Nephrology. At the moment this was published as pre-proof of *Kidney International*, we distributed this information to the members of APSN on March 8.

The APSN was planning to hold the APCN 2020 with HKSAN on June 19-21 in Hong Kong (Sydney Tang: Congress chair, CC Szeto: Program chair, Yuk Lun Cheng: Chairman of HKSAN). However, the pandemic raised a serious

concern about holding international meetings, and we delivered the interim report about APCN 2020 on March 11. On March 20, we made a formal announcement that APCN 2020 cannot be proceeding as originally planned in June. On May 13, we announced that the 18th APCN will be rescheduled to 2 – 4 Oct 2020 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This is our flagship educational congress to advance knowledge in nephrology, and addition of a live online component will make this congress the first-ever hybrid APCN.

On May 18, under the leadership of Vivek Jha, president of the ISN, the APSN made a declaration, “The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to acquire dimensions of a humanitarian crisis as it spreads in the countries outside of Europe and the USA in the coming weeks and months” with other societies.

After the difficult time, many countries in the Asian Pacific region are winning the combat against COVID-19 for various reasons. We salute all the members of the APSN for their devotion in this combat against COVID-19. It is our responsibility as the societies in the Asian Pacific region, who overcame this pandemic, to be models for the coming “with Corona” and “post Corona” era.

Last but not least, we have two new members at the executive council. Chul-Woo Yang took over the position from Yon Su Kim as a new president of the Korean Society of Nephrology, and Shang-Jyh Hwang took over from Kuo-Cheng Lu as a new president of the Taiwan Society of Nephrology. We truly thank Yon Su Kim and Kuo-Cheng Lu for their huge contribution to our society, and we also welcome and look forward to working with Chul-Woo Yang and Chul-Woo Yang to achieve our mission.

The APSN will move on to cater for the needs of the Nephrology community throughout the region, and we treasure your views on how we should further advance nephrology in the Asia Pacific region. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me, any of the Executive and Council or through the Secretariat apsn@icc.com.hk.

Best wishes,

Masaomi Nangaku
President,

Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology

