

# APAAACI perspectives

APAAACI perspectives March 2012

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## Message from the President editorial

**Professor Constance Katelaris**

Dear Colleagues,

2012 is under full swing with many of our members fully involved with their academic and clinical commitments. We look forward to another exciting year of growth and development for APAAACI and I use this opportunity to outline some of these plans for you.

2011 saw the commencement of a number of working parties and they have made good progress on a number of tasks. The Aerobiology Committee was chaired by Prof. AB Singh and we thank him for his continued commitment to the development of an aerobiology network in our region. Prof. Jae-Won Oh from Seoul, South Korea, has agreed to chair this committee in 2012. He will continue to develop the concept of a regional network of pollen calendars for a web-based data base. Both Profs. Singh and Oh are working with myself on the scientific organising committee for the International Congress of Aerobiology to be held in Sydney, Australia in September, 2014, so it is wonderful to see the development of this science in our region and hopefully we will have a significant profile at this forthcoming meeting.

The Education Committee was chaired by Prof. Fukuda in 2011 and we thank him and his fellow committee members for beginning work on a structured education policy for APAAACI. I am pleased to report that, despite his heavy involvement with APAAACI work already, Dr. Frank Thien, our Secretary-General, has agreed to chair this committee for the coming 12 months. We

**editorial** *(continued)*

look forward to written policies on postgraduate educational activities for our organisation and the development of our first initiatives.

Our first postgraduate course in Allergic Diseases in conjunction with a national society member will be held in Sri Lanka in June. Members of the Executive and Board will participate in this historical event and we hope that this initiative will pave the way for future meetings.

The next APAAACI Congress will be in Taiwan in 2013. I am pleased to report that the contract between APAAACI, Arinex, our secretariat, and the Taiwanese Allergy Society has now been finalised and the Taiwanese have appointed their local conference organiser. We thank Profs. Bor Luen and Jiu-Yao Wang for their initiative so far and we look forward to the exciting task of planning a first class scientific and social programme for this important event.

Our APAAACI publications continue to develop and flourish. I hope you all receive our excellent journal, APAllergy and that you are planning to submit articles this year. Please visit the journal website so you can see how you can contribute.

Enjoy reading our newsletter, the first for 2012. Dr. Frederick Lee has provided an excellent summary of what the local journals are publishing. This is your vehicle for communication between members so please consider sending in articles or items of interest. One initiative we think will be very useful is to use the Newsletter as a means of linking up with colleagues in the region for collaborative research initiatives. If you have a project or idea that you would like to share across the region please send us the information so we can disseminate it for you.

Happy reading!

**Connie Katelaris**

*President, APAAACI*

## Asia-Pacific Immunology Journal Watch

Currently reporting...

### Asia-Pacific Allergy

The Official Journal of APAAACI

Open Access

URL: <http://apallergy.org/>

Current issue: January 2012, Volume 2(1)

The current issue of APAAACI's official journal focuses upon allergic disease of the respiratory tract, particularly asthma. Compliance to therapy a major issue in asthma, a Swedish group reviews the available literature on educational interventions to improve adherence to asthma medications. There is also a literature review of the use of magnesium sulphate in acute asthma in adults.

### Asian Pacific Journal of Allergy & Immunology

Journal of the Thai Allergy Society

Open Access

URL: <http://apjai.digitaljournals.org/>

Current issue: December 2011, Volume 29(4)

A variety of immunological topics are covered here. Amongst them: a survey of Type I hereditary angioedema in Taiwan; the epidemiology of IgG subclass deficiency in Thai children; and a brief case series recounting the experience of a Thai unit using the anti-IgE therapy omalizumab in severe adult atopic eczema.

### Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Research

Journal of the Korean Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology

Open Access

URL: <http://e-aair.org/>

Current issue: March 2012, Volume 4(2)

This journal also carries a respiratory focus for the current issue - with an interesting article on the role of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection on the development of hypersensitivity in the lung. Also included is cross-sectional study of cephalosporin sensitisation in health care workers in one South Korean tertiary hospital.

### Japanese Journal of Allergology

Journal of the Japanese Society of Allergology

Subscription required

URL: [http://jja.jsaweb.jp/index\\_e.html](http://jja.jsaweb.jp/index_e.html)

Current issue: December 2011, Volume 60(12)

Features an update/review article on drug eruptions, and a description of the intriguing phenomenon of sensitisation to wheat proteins via hydrolysed wheat proteins in facial soaps, which was deemed responsible for wheat-dependent, exercise-induced anaphylaxis. (Articles in Japanese, abstracts available online in English)

## Professor Chua Kaw Yan

### 1954 - 2011



*Last November, the sad news of the very recent passing of Professor Chua Kaw Yan (Singapore) was marked by Prof. Katelaris in her editorial. In this issue of the newsletter, we mark her contribution to allergy in the Asia-Pacific region with a tribute. Much of this is taken from a eulogy delivered by Dr. Lee Bee Wah, her friend and colleague. We thank Dr. Lee Bee Wah for granting us permission to use her words:*

Professor Chua was a well-respected and well-liked senior member of our allergy fraternity. Her dedication and commitment to science provided a strong and lasting bond with her colleagues and graduate students in Singapore, where she held the position of Research Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS), and Taiwan, where she held a joint appointment at the Graduate Institute of Immunology, National Taiwan University.

Professor Chua completed her PhD in Microbiology in 1984 from the Massey University, New Zealand. She did her post-doctoral training at the Child Health Research Institute, Western Australia and initiated her own research group as an Associate Professor at the National Taiwan University in 1993. She joined the Department of Paediatrics in the National University of Singapore in 1997, first as a Senior Research Fellow; she rose to the position of Research Professor in 2004.

Over the years, she mentored many graduate students who themselves have become experts in their own fields. She often said *'my students are my family'*. Indeed her 'extended family' extended to clinicians and scientists all around Asia (including Australia), where she fulfilled her mission in teaching which was, and I quote, *'to train and nurture a young generation of scientists with integrity, passion and high self-esteem'*. She recognized the value of teamwork and appreciated the worth of each member of her team.

Professor Chua approached all her research projects with passion, commitment and intellectual rigor and honesty. As a strong advocate of sharing research knowledge, she published over a hundred journal articles and has 19 patents under her name. Professor Chua achieved several other research milestones for which the scientific community is indebted.

Professor Chua – mentor, researcher, colleague, friend - will be dearly missed, but her legacy will live on through her students and her work. Her generosity and warmth will continue live in the hearts of all her friends and colleagues. We extend our deepest sympathies to her husband, Mr Yap Foo Chee, her daughter, Chengxin, and her family, and share in their loss.

*(Originally published in the Asian Pacific Journal of Allergy and Immunology. Reproduced with permission)*

## Allergy & Clinical Immunology Society - Singapore (ACIS) featured society

The Allergy and Clinical Immunology Society Singapore (ACIS) was established in 2005. It had its roots earlier when the Singapore Society of Immunology and Rheumatology (SSIR), formed in 1976, took on the task of promoting the education of doctors in Singapore on allergic disorders with the return of Dr. Chng Hiok Hee from her training in the United States. In January 1990, the society was renamed the Singapore Society of Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology (SSIAR) to reflect this added role. With the increase in the number of Allergists and Immunologists in Singapore and a greater interest in allergy amongst related specialties such as Dermatology and Oto-rhinolaryngology, members of SSIAR agreed in 2004 that the time was ripe for the formation of a separate society for Allergy and Immunology and our society was formed in 2005 with Dr. Chng Hiok Hee as its inaugural President.

The society's objectives are to advance the knowledge and practice of medicine in the fields of allergy and clinical immunology, promote research in these areas and organize scientific discussions, workshops, symposia and conferences related to allergy and clinical immunology

We organize regular continuing medical education activities that cater to specialists, general practitioners and junior doctors. We invite experts in the field from all over the world to participate in these scientific symposia. We also hosted the highly successful 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APCAACI) 2010 which was attended by over 1,600 delegates.

The current President of our society is Dr Lee Bee Wah. More information can be obtained by emailing us at [allergyclinic@gmail.com](mailto:allergyclinic@gmail.com).

# Photo Gallery



*Frank Thien and Connie Katelaries meeting with Prof. Jiu Wao (Taiwan) for discussions ahead of the APAAACI 2013 Congress, to be held in Taipei*



*Delegates from the Philippines at EAACI 2011 - held during June in Istanbul, Turkey*

*Images from the World Allergy Congress, held in December 2011 in Cancún, Mexico*



## Upcoming Asia-Pacific Allergy/Immunology Events

### **MARCH 9 - 11, 2012**

13th Malaysian Congress & Exhibition on Allergy & Immunology  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
[www.allergysai.com](http://www.allergysai.com)

### **MARCH 25, 2012**

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society & American College of Chest Physicians  
Hong Kong & Macau Chapter  
Hong Kong SAR

### **APRIL 11 - 14, 2012**

EAACI DHM  
Munich, Germany  
[www.eaaci-dhm2012.com](http://www.eaaci-dhm2012.com)

### **MAY 12 - 13, 2012**

24th Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology  
Osaka, Japan  
[www.congre.co.jp/jsa2012/index.html](http://www.congre.co.jp/jsa2012/index.html)

### **MAY 25 - 27, 2012**

The Jakarta Allergy & Clinical Immunology Network Meeting  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
[www.jacinetwork.org](http://www.jacinetwork.org)

### **MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 2011**

Eastern Allergy Conference 2012 (EAC 2012)  
Palm Beach, FL, USA  
[easternallergyconference.org/home.php](http://easternallergyconference.org/home.php)

### **JUNE 7 - 8, 2012**

5th International Singapore Symposium of Immunology  
Singapore  
[www.sgsi2012.org](http://www.sgsi2012.org)

### **JUNE 16 - 20, 2012**

European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Congress (EAACI)  
Geneva, Switzerland  
[eaaci2012.com](http://eaaci2012.com)

### **AUGUST 18 - 21, 2012**

21st World Congress of Asthma (WCA 2012)  
Quebec, Canada  
[www.wca-2012.com](http://www.wca-2012.com)

### **SEPTEMBER 5 - 8, 2012**

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy (ASCIA) Annual Scientific Meeting  
[www.ascia2012.com](http://www.ascia2012.com)

*Member societies in the Asia-Pacific are invited to promote their local upcoming meetings via this newsletter. Contact the editorial staff (see below)*

## Future Issues contributions welcome!

This is the first issue for 2012.  
 Editorial questions may be sent to either:  
[president@apaaaci.org](mailto:president@apaaaci.org) (Prof. Katelaris)  
 or  
[secretary-general@apaaaci.org](mailto:secretary-general@apaaaci.org) (Prof. Thien)

Submissions may be forwarded to:  
[f.lee.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:f.lee.immunology@gmail.com)  
 where they will be considered by the editorial staff

Want to contact your local APAAACI representative? A list of member organisations and incumbent representatives can be found at:

<http://www.apaaaci.org/members.htm>

## Editorial Staff

### Editors

*Constance Katelaris  
 Francis Thien*

### Associate Editor/Contributions

*Frederick Lee*

## Seeking Research Collaborators?

The editorial staff would like to invite researchers in Allergy & Clinical Immunology within the Asia-Pacific region to seek collaborators by advertising their areas of interest in this newsletter.

It's an ideal opportunity to foster multi-centre collaborations across our region; contact the editors (see *next page*), and provide appropriate contact details (e-mail/telephone/facsimile) as well as a description of the area of your research interest.