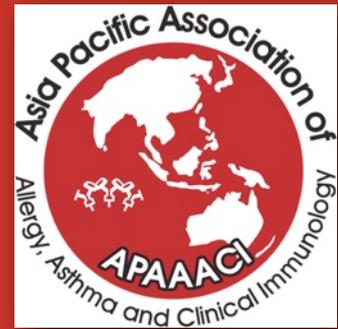


APAAACI perspectives

This Issue:

- Editorial - From the President
- Asia-Pacific Immunology - Regional Journal Watch
- Feature: Immunology Training in Taiwan - a Trainee's Description
- Upcoming Allergy/Immunology Events: 2013 - 2014



Message from the President editorial

Professor Constance Katelaris

Dear Friends,

As I write this, 2013 is well underway and all New Year celebrations are over. The major task for APAAACI members this year is to ensure that we have a most successful regional meeting in Taipei in November. This is truly *our* meeting and we must all feel the importance of participation to ensure its success. There are many ways in which you may contribute. Importantly, plan to attend and encourage your colleagues, junior staff and nurses to attend as well. Junior staff benefit enormously from feeling the "buzz" and excitement around senior colleagues who practise in a growing and challenging specialty, hopefully encouraging more of them to train in Immunology/Allergy.

Secondly, consider submitting an abstract for a poster or oral presentation. If you have any good ideas for speakers and topics you would like covered, now is the time to communicate this to the organising committee. Thirdly, please advertise the meeting widely, particularly through your national society networks. Announce it at your annual scientific meetings and at any smaller meetings you may attend in your own country.

editorial *(continued)*

Finally, plan to be an active participant. You will have access to some of the most eminent specialists in our field for four days so ask the difficult questions and engage in debate about issues that excite you. I hope you enjoy this first APAAACI Newsletter for 2013. Remember, your contributions to it are always welcome. They can be sent to our hardworking Editor, Dr. Fred Lee, who I thank once again for his excellent effort in delivering this newsletter to you all.

With my best wishes for a successful year and looking forward to seeing you in Taiwan,

Connie Katelaris

President, APAAACI

Save the Date...



TAIPEI 2013

APCAACI

Allergy in The Emerging World

2013 Asia Pacific Congress of Allergy,
Asthma and Clinical Immunology

Taipei, November 14-17, 2013

www.apcaaci2013.org

Host organization  

TAIPEI 2013 2013 TAAACI

Asia-Pacific Immunology Journal Watch

Currently reporting...

Asia-Pacific Allergy

The Official Journal of APAAACI

Open Access

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

Current issue: January 2013, Volume 3(1)

This issue examines food allergy in Asia, with reviews of its prevalence in two countries, as well as a comparison of the published literature in Asian as compared to western populations. There is a study on the shift in anaphylaxis triggers in Singaporean children, highlighting an increase in peanut allergy compared to a decade ago.

Asian Pacific Journal of Allergy & Immunology

Journal of the Thai Allergy Society

Open Access

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

Current issue: March 2013, Volume 31(1)

A study demonstrates higher IL-6 expression in patients with nasopharyngeal polyposis, suggesting that atopy has direct effects on the IL-6 pathway. A Turkish study of Behcet's disease found that patients with active Behcet's disease (ulcers, arthritis) had lower mean serum eosinophil cationic protein levels. Both studies were cross-sectional, but provide a basis for further prospective study.

Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Research

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

Open Access

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

Current issue: March 2013, Volume 5(2)

The editors ponder the question of how best to classify allergic rhinitis in Korea. A retrospective analysis of children in Egypt with primary immunodeficiencies assesses the presence of certain key clinical features, suggesting that screening scores do not aid in the early diagnosis of primary immunodeficiencies.

Japanese Journal of Allergology

Journal of the Japanese Society of Allergology

Subscription required (Japanese language articles only; abstracts available in English)

URL: http://jja.jsaweb.jp/index_e.html

Current issue: November 2012, Volume 61(11)

This issue has an "Allergology Course for Allergy Specialists", highlighting allergy management issues, including the critical link between primary care and specialist physicians. The role of the World Wide Web is also discussed. Two review articles and three original articles make up the rest of this issue.

Immunology training at a centre in Taiwan - a Trainee's description feature

Dr. Pei-Ying Lee
Division of Paediatric Allergy, Asthma & Rheumatology
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
Taoyuan, Taiwan

Clinical service & Experience

The core values of the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital are 'Service, Education & Research'.

Every year, there are over 60,000 outpatient visits to the Division of Paediatric Allergy, Asthma & Rheumatology, as well as a comprehensive inpatient service.

Many uncommon conditions & critically-ill patients are transferred to our departments. Fellows see rare diseases that they may only have heard of in textbooks. General paediatric diseases are also common. The outpatient department provides opportunities to approach new patients without a definite diagnosis. Fellows gain experience in managing many conditions - allergic rhinitis, chronic urticaria, juvenile idiopathic arthritis & juvenile dermatomyositis. The Division is well-equipped to make referrals for further sub-specialty assessment. The inpatient service provides experience in the resuscitation & treatment of critical patients, as well as the management of any complications. Fellows are also in charge of consultations referred from other subspecialties within the hospital. It provides the Fellows the opportunity to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide better medical services for patients.

Patients without a definite diagnosis or patients newly-diagnosed with an immunological or rheumatological disorder will be discussed in a sub-specialty morning meeting each week. Fellows present these cases & are required to comment about possible diagnoses & the current treatment plan. After a brainstorming session, Fellows are left with a more clarified diagnosis.

Clinical skills acquired include conducting pulmonary function & skin-prick tests, nail-fold capillaroscopy, joint aspiration/injection, & wet-dressing therapy. Through constant exposure to patients & these procedures, the Fellows gain expertise & also acquire experience in communication with the patients & their families. Such valuable skills simply cannot be learned from books. In this way, Fellows gradually learn to practice independently.

At a regional case conference meeting covering hospitals/medical centres in the Greater Taipei area, Fellows present a case of special interest. This joint meeting is held every 2 months, & is an important part of continuing education.

Educational responsibilities

The Fellows are responsible for supervising the junior residents, interns & medical students who are involved in the care of our inpatients. Daily teaching ward rounds will be held to discuss diagnostic techniques, treatment strategies, & other clinical & basic knowledge.

feature *(continued)*

Our team also participates in the corporate social responsibility of the Formosa Plastics Group & participates in community education, beyond the hospital. We organise asthma education programs for the general public & school teachers/nurses throughout Taiwan. Fellows participate actively in this. From these activities, the Fellows learn the skill & importance of public health education, & communicating with patients & their parents/care-givers. Several activities such as summer camps & carnivals for asthmatic children have been run for the past several years. Fellows organise the programs & manage the activities. Knowledge & treatment about asthma is conveyed by group games.

Research activities

Under the supervision of the Chang Gung Children’s Hospital, the Division has initiated many projects for research activities in the areas of Immunology & Molecular Biology. Some of these are multi-disciplinary, co-operative efforts with other divisions to provide better training for Fellows in basic clinical science & research.

Fellows are assigned a research project during their 2-year training period. In co-operation with faculty from the Chang Gung University Research Institute, Fellows present their progress as well as any obstacles encountered in scheduled seminars. Attending physicians & scientists will help Fellows to complete their projects. Fellows are encouraged to attend at both domestic & international conferences & present their results, as well as publish their work in peer-reviewed journals.

Journal meetings are held weekly to discuss & update recent publications in paediatric Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology. In addition, a journal reading is held with the adult Allergy/Rheumatology department every other week. Fellows take turns in presenting at these meetings.

14th

Final Announcement

Malaysian Congress and Exhibition on Allergy and Immunology

• 29th - 31st March 2013 • InterContinental Hotel Kuala Lumpur •

MSAI-ACIS Joint Allergy Congress 2013

organised by
Malaysian Society of Allergy and Immunology (MSAI)
Allergy and Clinical Immunology (Singapore) (ACIS)

Photo Gallery



Photos from the 17th National Conference of the Indian Aerobiological Society, held at MIT Pune, India: December 13-15, 2012.

Photos courtesy of Dr. A. B. Singh

Upcoming Asia-Pacific Allergy/Immunology Events

MARCH 29 - 31, 2013

14th Malaysian Congress and Exhibition on Allergy and Immunology
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
www.allergymsai.org

MAY 11 - 12, 2013

The 25th Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology
www.jsaweb.jp/modules/en/index.php?content_id=10

JUNE 5 - 6, 2013

6th International Singapore Symposium of Immunology
Biopolis, Singapore
www.sgsi2013.org

JUNE 22 - 26, 2013

EAACI-WAO World Allergy and Asthma Congress
Milan, Italy
www.eaaci-wao2013.com

SEPTEMBER 10 - 14, 2013

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Annual Scientific Meeting
Perth Convention Centre, Australia
www.allergy.org.au

NOVEMBER 28 - 30, 2013

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology
Tokyo, Japan
www.jsaweb.jp/modules/en/index.php?content_id=10

MAY 28 - 30, 2014

The 26th Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology
Kyoto, Japan
www.jsaweb.jp/modules/en/index.php?content_id=10

SEPTEMBER 2014

International Congress of Aerobiology
Sydney, Australia

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!

Editorial questions may be sent to either:
president@apaaaci.org (Prof. Katelaris)
 or
secretary-general@apaaaci.org (Prof. Thien)

Submissions may be forwarded to:
f.lee.immunology@gmail.com
 where they will be considered by the editorial staff. We would particularly invite submissions from junior doctors currently training in Immunology/ Allergy.

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.