
POLICY AND PRACTICE

APOCP/APJCP Questionnaire Points for Discussion at the First APOCP General Conference - Is an Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Control Warranted?

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Introduction

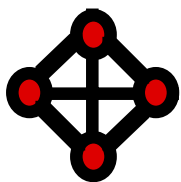
With almost three years of experience behind the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention, there is a great deal which needs to be discussed at the First APOCP General Conference to be held in Nagoya, Central Japan, in October of this year. The program, as can be seen from the Meetings section of the present issue, includes time for decisions to be made regarding the future of the APOCP and how to ensure that the journal continues to provide a service to the Asian Pacific research community, assuming this is still the wish of the members. The present explanation/questionnaire will hopefully facilitate this purpose while canvassing for the ideas of scientists active in cancer control regarding setting up a sister organization and journal, the APOCT/APJCT, with the T standing for Treatment.. One possibility is that this should be established under the auspices of the Asian Pacific Federation of Organizations for Cancer Control (APFOCC). Your cooperation in providing answers to the questions listed in the included questionnaire is essential for success.

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Aims and Scope of the APOCP/APJCP-Is an APOCT/APJCT also Necessary?

The APOCP/APJCP was established in 1999 with the aim of promoting increased awareness in all areas of cancer prevention and to stimulate practical intervention approaches. The scope is wide-ranging, including descriptive, analytical and molecular epidemiology, experimental and clinical histopathology/biology of preneoplasias and early neoplasias, assessment of risk and beneficial factors, experimental and clinical trials of primary preventive measures/agents, screening and secondary prevention, and all aspects of cancer prevention education.

In line with these aims the APOCP welcomes the decision of the International Association of Cancer Registries to appoint the APJCP as one of its official journals, as is now



prominently displayed on the front cover of the journal, with its green globe emblem. For balance, a provisional symbol for the APOCP is now featured, as illustrated on the left below. The four spheres represent the four main areas within cancer

prevention, Education - Epidemiology - Screening and Intervention - Toxicological Pathology, while the connecting bars reflect the necessity for scientists working in these specialised fields to coordinate their efforts for success. Whether this will become the official logo is only one of the points to be decided at the forthcoming General Conference. Others concern the journal itself and the way that the APOCP is organized, financed and managed. How to ensure maximal participation by interested parties is of the essence.

Dr Kazuo Tajima, the Chairman of the APOCP is also now acting as Secretary-General for APFOCC, set up in 1966. Its major activity is to hold the biennial Asian Pacific Cancer Congress, the next being scheduled for 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. He is also Programme Chairman for Epidemiology for the Union International Contra Cancrum (UICC) which is making great efforts towards cancer control on behalf of the international community at the world level. However, the fact that their office is located in Europe and the obvious limitations in terms of financial and physical constraints means that their activities in the Asian Pacific area can not reflect the scope of the problem.

Therefore it is to be hoped that APFOCC may be able to pick up more of the burden and become more involved in practical measures focused specifically on the problems faced within our particular region. This was indeed the rationale for establishing the APOCP Training Center in Bangkok, with responsibility for producing the APJCP. It could be argued that a similar establishment would also have benefits in providing a forum for discussion and publication of research in the broad area of cancer treatment. In terms of practical ergonomics and economy, an office analogous to UICC Geneva might best be envisaged, publishing both the APJCP and a sister APJCT, while arranging courses directed specifically at the needs of the Asian Pacific focusing on both prevention and treatment.

Whether this is a practical possibility under the umbrella of APFOCC can only be decided by the Cancer/Oncology Societies and Institutes of the countries in the region, with input from all of the scientific community participating in cancer control efforts. Your assistance in responding to this request is essential to decision-making and would therefore be greatly appreciated.

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Questionnaire: Please Fax Return to +81-3-3542-3586 or +66-2-251-8882

Name: Position: Fax No: Email address:

Contact address:

a) APOCP Membership

- i) The APOCP plays a useful role Y N
 ii) Are you an APOCP member? Y N
 If N, would you like to join? Y N

If Y, which is preferable? Personal Institutional

If N, circle as appropriate

- No interest in the aims of the APOCP
 The APOCP organization structure is inappropriate
 The APJCP is superfluous
 Membership is too onerous
 Other:

- iii) Are the Membership Fees appropriate?
 Economic scaling system Y N
 Personal (100/50/25\$) Y N
 Institutional (200/100/50\$) Y N
 If N please state why:

- iv) Do you intend to participate in the APOCP Conference?
 Y N (please circle) Busy No interest No Funding
 If Y please state area of main interest:

b) The APOCP Training Center

- i) Is it? Essential Good Idea Superfluous
 ii) Should it provide courses in (rate in order of importance):
 Scientific English Language Y N
 Specialist Research Areas Y N
 Screening Methodology Y N
 Other:

c) The APOCP Website: www.apocp.org

- i) Is it? Acceptable Y N
 Appropriate Y N
 ii) Suggestions:

d) The APJCP

- i) What is your experience of reading the APJCP?
 Since: Launch 2000 2001 Now
 ii) Overall rating:
 Publication Quality Poor Moderate Good
 Layout Poor Moderate Good
 Quality of Papers Poor Moderate Good
 Quality of English Poor Moderate Good
 iii) Suggestions for improvement:

- iii) Application for Medline indexing in process
 Please list appropriate indexing in order of importance

- iv) Are you willing to act as a referee?
 If Yes which area? Education
 Epidemiology
 Toxicological Pathology
 Screening /Intervention

- v) Proposed Logo acceptable? Y N
 If N please make suggestion:

- vi) APJCP should be: Quarterly Bimonthly Monthly

- vii) Should the APJCP be (circle):
 Hard Copy Only Hard +Electronic Electronic Only

- viii) How should the APJCP be financed (circle)?
 Membership: Personal Institutional National
 Advertising: Y N

e) APOCT/APJCT

- i) Is it? Essential Good Idea Superfluous
 ii) If established would:
 You join? Y N
 You wish to be an editor? Y N
 Scientists in your institution be interested in joining?
 Y N
 Please name if wish to be Editors:

Your institute/institution be interested in joining?
 Y N

- Rate area of interest (1-4)
 a) Cancer Imaging ()
 b) Cancer Pathology/Surgery ()
 c) Cancer Therapy ()
 d) Cancer Palliative Care ()

Suggestions for Editors please list with area (a-d)

- iii) Should there be?:
 A joint APOCP/APOCT Training Center
 Y N
 If Y what should be its responsibilities: