

EDITORIAL BOARD MESSAGE

The APOCP/APJCP - Taking Stock and Planning for the Future

Hopefully our members will have noted that the cover page of the APJCP has recently undergone changes. Firstly, we are now trying to make better usage of the space available to promote the aims and objectives of the APOCP. Thus in the last issue we rearranged the layout to allow announcements regarding forthcoming conferences of direct relevance to cancer prevention, including the International Association of Cancer Registries annual meeting in Hawaii and AsiaTox III, as well as conferences and a symposium to be held under APOCP auspices. On the cover of the present issue, the focus is on two research challenges for which it is hoped that collaborative groups can be set up across Asia (Moore et al., 2003). The second change, from the present issue, is inclusion of the UICC logo, along with a statement that the APOCP is affiliated with the International Union Against Cancer and continues to be actively engaged in promoting its activities (see Aoki, 2000; 2001). As always, comments are welcome from all interested parties regarding both of these matters.

Another event occurring since publication of the last issue which we have great pleasure in reporting is the acceptance of the APJCP for indexing on PubMed. Especial thanks are due to all those who submitted papers to help in establishment of the journal before being assured of international access to their work. In Table 1 are listed the countries or Institutions of origin of the manuscripts published so far, according to the area of speciality. We have

already stressed the role that the APJCP is playing in providing a forum for publication of work from our region (Tajima and Moore, 2002b). Fortunately, the indexing has been back-dated to Volume 1 so that they all have now been added to the literature. The first steps have also been taken to apply for evaluation of our journal for possible coverage in the Web of Science (Science Citation Index). The editors sincerely hope that the unique role of the APJCP in covering, specifically for the Asian Pacific area of the world, research in the four main areas of cancer prevention (Education; Epidemiology; Screening and Intervention; and Toxicological Pathology) may be viewed positively. While not all of the aims to ameliorate alleged 'defects' of scientific journals which were listed in 2000 (Moore, 2000) have been met, we have nevertheless come a long way. The system of membership/subscription fees which is based on relative salary levels is also unique and we have now improved the APOCP website (www.apocp.org) to provide free access to pdf files for all of the research reports which have appeared in the journal. We ask you to assist our efforts by continuing to submit papers, without which we cannot ensure timely publication and maintenance of a solid reputation for scientific endeavour.

The APOCP is not solely the APJCP, however, and its contribution to arrangement of meetings in Asia is one of the reasons for the link with the UICC - the forthcoming APOCP Regional Conferences and the 2nd General

Table 1. Contributions to APJCP Publications

Fields	Editors		Iran	Kyrgystan	Bangladesh	Thailand	Philippines	Korea	New Zealand	IARC	Total (%)
	Turkey	Turkey	Pakistan	India	Myanmar	Viet Nam	China	Japan	USA		
Education											36 (23.1)
General	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	16 (10.3)
Specific	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5 (3.2)
Smoking	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	10	1	15 (9.6)
Epidemiology											53 (34.0)
Registration	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	12 (7.7)
Analytical	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	20	1	36 (23.1)
Pathology	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	5 (3.2)
Secondary Prevention											23 (14.7)
Screening	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	11 (7.1)
Intervention	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	9 (5.8)
Behaviour	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3 (1.9)
Toxicological Pathology											44 (28.2)
Carcinogenesis	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	13 (8.3)
Chemoprev	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	3	10	0	26 (16.7)
Risk Assess	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	5 (3.2)
	17	4	4	1	3	21	1	1	67	3	156 (100)

Assembly Conference will also be held under its joint auspices with the local organizing bodies. A coordination of efforts with the strategic leader for Building and Enhancing Capacity (see Tajima and Moore, 2002a), Dr Robert Burton, is in fact now planned to focus on primary prevention and screening for breast and cervical cancer in the Asian Pacific. Indeed, in the future, efforts will be made to obtain funding from international sources to support collaborative research into questions of high priority, like those posed in the present issue in a Commentary by a consortium of scientists across the region (Moore et al., 2003).

The ideal of an 'Asian Pacific International Agency for Research on Cancer' (Moore and Tajima, 2002a) is still worthy of our attention and congratulations have been sent on behalf of the APOCP to Dr Peter Boyle, the new Director-Designate for the IARC in the hope of cooperation to mutual benefit in the battle against cancer. The question of how we can best establish international contacts to nurture and develop research potential in our region and build on the Practical Prevention Program already started with financial support from Pfizer Ltd. (Tajima and Moore, 2001) remains to be clarified. However, the forthcoming Asian Pacific Cancer Congress, scheduled to be held in Bali in October, should allow further discussion of the possible relationships between the APOCP and the Asian Pacific Federation of Organizations for Cancer Control (APFOCC) initiated elsewhere (Moore, 2002; Moore and Tajima, 2002b).

Our aim is to now build a firm foundation to ensure that the APOCP/APJCP can continue into the future as a collective effort by scientists across the Asian Pacific. There is still a great deal to be done and your voice is needed to help determine the directions in which to go.

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