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 EDITORIAL
 

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## Publishing the APJCP - Open Access and Who Should Pay? An Aside to the Financial Report for the 2nd APOCP General Assembly Conference

In this last issue of Volume 5 of the APJCP, as we will see below, it is exceedingly appropriate to consider the international situation with regard to financing academic journals and the issue of free web access to papers. In the 9th September issue of Nature the leading editorial article 'Experiments in publishing' (Editor, 2004) discussed recent recommendations that funding bodies require scientists to make their articles openly accessible by publishing free copies on their institutions websites. This was the conclusion of a British House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, after an inquiry into journal pricing. It appears that the US National Institutes of Health now also plans to ask researchers to copy final versions of their manuscripts, or the published version if the publisher agrees, onto the US National Library of Medicine freely accessible PubMed Central repository, six months after publication (some individuals are arguing for no time lag) (Brumfiel, 2004; Kaiser, 2004). This is of course something that the APJCP does on the APOCP website as a matter of course immediately on publication. However, the impact of such plans on viability of journals and non-profit learned societies may be serious and the web forum at [www.nature.com/nature/focus/accessdebate](http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/accessdebate) has pointed to the necessity of publishers and societies to remain financially healthy if they to be able to maintain the quality of information and innovate electronically.

The present system of 'reader pays' has resulted in rising journal costs that many libraries can no longer afford. In fact, even in wealthy Japan all medical school libraries are under great pressure to reduce their subscription burden and it has not been possible for the APJCP, despite being relatively inexpensive, to build up an Institution Subscriber List (presently at almost zero in Asia) and thus become financially independent and guarantee an appropriate service.

So far relying until very recently on volunteer work by Kazuo Tajima and Malcolm Moore, as Chief Editor and Managing Editor, respectively, both with many other responsibilities, it has been possible to persevere for the last five years, with regular publication of a quarterly journal indexed on PubMed. All of the articles are downloadable in full as pdf files from our website [www.apocp.org](http://www.apocp.org) without cost. We hope to set up the necessary link with PubMed to allow direct access in the near future. The philosophy behind the APOCP and the APJCP precludes making the charges which other scientific journals covering the same area do

levy. However, a firm financial base is nevertheless absolutely necessary if the journal is to continue, make the improvements which are urgently necessary and establish a presence in contributing to the world literature.

The difficulty in finding individual scientists in each of the member countries with the free time and motivation, as well as the institutional support, to take on responsibility for collecting the very low subscription charges for a hard copy of the journal over most of Asia (25\$ for a personal subscription in 2004) means that we are effectively almost totally dependent on Japanese sources of finance (see Table 1 for a financial report for 2003 and 2004 since the 1st General Assembly Conference in October, 2002).

The APOCP has been fortunate in having Kazuo Tajima working overtime on a 7 day-week basis and the salary support given to Malcolm Moore by the **Foundation for**

**Table 1. Financial Report (2003-2004)**

	Income (in 10,000 yen)		Outlay
<b>Start 2003</b>	<b>-8</b>		
Japanese Members	127	APJCP Print	101
Japanese Donations	15	Postage	62
IACR Members	9	Secretary	94
UICC Geneva	116	Rent + Equipment	9
Reprints + Colour	34	Web-site	13
	<u>301</u>	Flights/Meetings	<u>48</u>
			<u>327</u>
<b>Start 2004</b>	<b>-32</b>		
APOCP Members		APJCP Print	63
Japanese	132	Postage	59
Others	?	Book Publication	110
Industry Members	?	Web-site + Videos	17
Present	20	Secretary	88
Advert + Sales	17	Rent + Equipment	39
Japanese Donations	21	Managing Editor	
UICC Geneva	110	(9x20)	180
UICC Japan	100	Flights/Meetings	96
64th Japanese Cancer Association Meeting	200		<u>652</u>
	<u>600</u>		
<b>Present Balance</b>	<b>- 84</b>		

**Table 1. Contributions to APJCP Papers**

Fields	Turkey	Iran	Kyrgystan	Indonesia	China	Japan	IARC	Editors	Total (%)		
	Saudi Arabia	Pakistan	India	Thailand	Korea	Australia	USA				
Education	5	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	1	<b>18 (14.5)</b>	
Epidemiology	0	0	9	4	2	11	1	9	6	1	<b>65 (52.5)</b>
Secondary Prevention	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	<b>14 (11.3)</b>
Toxicological Pathology	2	1	0	0	0	12	0	4	0	0	<b>27 (21.7)</b>

**Promotion of Cancer Research, Program for Invitation of Foreign Researchers** through 2003 until the end of March, 2004. It should be noted that a token monthly payment to the APOCP Coordination Director/APJCP Managing Editor has been budgeted since that time. It has also been fortuitous that Dr S Tominaga, as President of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association, and Dr T Kitagawa, as Chairman of the UICC National Committee, were able to provide some support for 2004. We also thank UICC Geneva for their contribution in 2003 at the request of Dr Kitagawa and their promise to continue to supplying funding for specific projects in the immediate future. However, it cannot be guaranteed that such sources will be available in the future. That means that we can not guarantee even the minimum sum of US\$50,000 a year to run an office and pay one professional and one secretary to publish the APJCP and have its papers accessible to the scientific community.

Any member wishing further details regarding individual items in the budget, please send your query to apocp2000@yahoo.com, and Malcolm Moore would be happy to respond. Most are self-explanatory. The flights/meetings for the 2003/2004 period cover 26 entries/departures into Thailand, 21 into Japan, 3 into Korea, 2 each into India and Turkey, and 1 each into Iran, Indonesia and Malaysia, for a total of over 180,000 miles travelled to publish the journal/handbooks and attend 17 international/Japanese conferences/workshops. That is solely for the APOCP Coordination Director. The Editors can only apologise for not yet visiting other countries and participating in those other conferences to which we would have liked to contribute but could not because of time restraints or for financial reasons.

The obvious question is whether the APOCP/APJCP has a meaningful role to play? Judging by attendance at the General Assembly and Regional Conferences organized thus far (Nagoya and Seoul; Izmir, Khon Kaen and next Rasht) there is interest on the part of active scientists. The journal is catering to a demand and providing what we hope is a useful forum for publications from both developed and developing countries (see Table 2), although it would be preferable if we could achieve a better balance among the four areas covered. There are many who might not have been in total agreement with the editorial policy in the past, or with some of the views expressed in the journal pages but the Editors stand by them - they are what we perceive is for the benefit of cancer prevention in the Asian Pacific. We

welcome criticisms and the journal has always been open to publish any alternative views that are received as letters from interested parties.

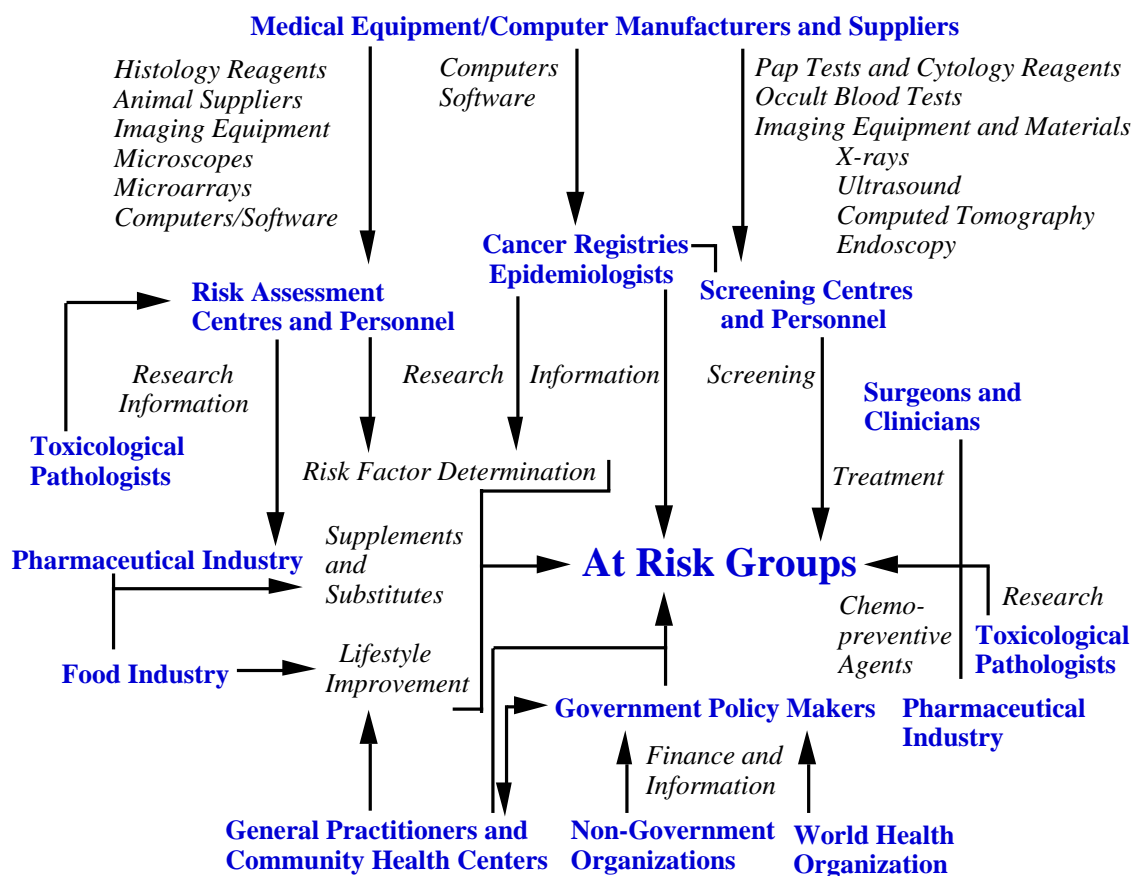
The direction that the APOCP takes must be determined by its members and the International Advisory Board. There is much more that could be achieved (Moore and Tajima, 2004) and it is to be hoped that this will be debated at the 2nd General Assembly Conference, in the capable hands of the Korean Local Organizing Committee to whom we would here like to express our thanks. Our appreciation of the efforts of the organizers of the Regional Conferences should also be stressed. We would further like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have provided the financial wherewithal to allow us to come this far.

One open question is whether it should be official policy of the APOCP to initiate new projects and aim in the long term to establish an Asian Pacific Institute for Cancer Prevention for training and organizing collaborative research. Provision of educational videos on CD is one area which is already being explored and copies of two examples are now available, one entitled 'A Practical Guide to the Use of Scientific English' and the other 'Introduction to Cancer Prevention in Asia 2004 - Tables and Figures'. A number of three day courses are planned for the near future on 'Writing Scientific Papers'. It is hoped our good relations with the International Association for Cancer Registries and UICC will continue in the future. The APOCP/APJCP aims to be able to support Asian region efforts to expand and develop cancer registration, primarily by making the pages of the journal open to publication of research results of registry staff and IACR reports, as well as by publicising meetings. At the Seoul General Assembly Conference one theme is 'Cancer Networking for Asia'. With the UICC, joint

**Table 3. Target Budget for 2005**

	Income	(in 10,000 yen)	Outlay
APOCP Members	250	APJCP 6x Print	120
Donations	50	Handbooks/Videos	60
Industry Members	100	Postage	130
UICC Geneva	110	Secretary	72
UICC Japan	100	Managing Editor*	240
Advertising	60	Rent + Equipment	72
Institute Subscriptions	?	Web-site	30
Grants	?	Tickets/Meetings	60
	<b>670</b>		<b>784</b>

\* Part-time



**Figure 1. Target Members, Means and Objectives for the APOCP/APJCP**

production of Handbooks is planned, as discussed in detail at a recent workshop in Mumbai, India.

Finally, we must return to the question posed in the title of this editorial message. Who should pay for the APJCP, with its policy of open access and provision of free copies where necessary? The aims of the APOCP are stated inside the front cover of the journal and clearly displayed in the website. The target members remain the same as when the Founding Conference was held in Pattaya in 2000. After five years it is time to decide the most effective means to ensure this is really going to be a successful collaborative effort on the part of scientists across the Asian Pacific, with commensurate financial support not only from a few individuals in Japan. Whether we try to emulate UICC and encourage Institute Membership with appropriate services offered, or whether we should follow some other route, remains to be decided. One possibility is involvement of a commercial publisher in a better position to market the journal and we may in fact receive a proposal from Elsevier Press to publish the journal, but if this indeed the case we would need to carefully consider all of the implications and conditions that might apply. On the back cover of Vol 5 No 3 an advertisement from Hitachi Medical Corporation was illustrated. Whether we should in the future strive to build up contacts with industry to develop an advertising base is another question for discussion. In this context we would

like to thank Hiroyuki Tsuda and Hajime Ohigashi in particular for their efforts to persuade industrial concerns to subscribe to the APJCP.

In Table 3 a projected budget for 2005 has been drawn up. We clearly need a more effective organizational structure if we are to achieve the set goals for the next year. In order to improve the reputation of the journal it is essential that there be an effective central Editorial Office in place. It is therefore proposed that Malcolm Moore take over from Kazuo Tajima as Chief Editor and ensure that all papers submitted to the APJCP be assigned to one of the four categories, Education, Epidemiology, Screening and Toxicological Pathology, and then sent out to both Subject Editors for the relevant field, who will then either review the paper themselves or commission one of the APOCP members to take responsibility for this task. We have published Volume 5 Issues 3 and 4 earlier than scheduled this year in order to start off 2005 with bimonthly publication and make a concerted effort to have the APJCP worthy of inclusion in the Science Citation Index. This can only be achieved with the help of active scientists across the Asian Pacific continuing to submit quality papers for consideration of publication. We thank those who have used the APJCP in the past to add their findings to the literature and look forward to receiving submissions from an even wider base of researchers in the future.



**Figure 2. The Start - Where We Go in the Future is in Your Hands**

In this, as in all the endeavours of the APOCP, the contributions of the individual members are of paramount importance (see Figure 1). It is up to ourselves in the different regions of the Asian Pacific to work together in a positive spirit for the success of cancer prevention in our countries in the future.

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