
EDITORIAL MESSAGE

The APJCP as the Official Journal of the UICC-Asian Regional Office for Cancer Control and the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention and Control

As Chief Editor of the APJCP I would like to draw your attention to two pieces of news. First, I have received a letter from the Director of Publisher Relations, Thomson Scientific, advising us that the APJCP has been selected for coverage in the following Thomson Reuters products and customer information services, beginning from Volume 8 No 1, 2007:

Science Citation Index Expanded
(also known as SciSearch®)

Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition

The second is that for financial reasons and also in awareness of the ecological costs of printing and dispatching the journal across Asia (and in some cases across the globe) it has been decided that the APJCP should go all electronic. In order that interested scientists can be kept up-to-date as to the papers published within its 'electronic' pages, regular Mini-Abstract booklets will be prepared and pdf files will be sent out by email to all those who wish receive the documents. They can then be freely circulated so that prints can be made at their own discretion by whomsoever would like a hard-copy to display. At the same time pdf files of the full papers will be obtainable from the first authors or from the APOCPC website

Clearly this will mean that our overheads for printing and postage will disappear. As long as the UICC-Asian Regional Office for Cancer Control is providing a salary for myself as Chief/Managing Editor I can continue to 'publish' the APJCP in this fashion. As a further safeguard for the future, it is hoped that an Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention and Control can be established as a legal entity to allow activities above and beyond the journal.

The reason why we could launch the APJCP/APOCPC in 1999 is that seed money was supplied by Dr Nobuyuki Ito and a number of interested scientists in Japan. The initial contribution of Dr Kunio Aoki was also crucial, and Dr Shinkan Tokudome deserves especial thanks for providing the office space to house the fledgling journal. The only reason why we have been able to actually continue to publish the APJCP on a quarterly basis for the past eight years is that we once had a Japanese membership of approximately 150 scientists each paying a yearly membership fee of approximately 100 US\$ and some 30 Korean members, less regularly, contributing 50US\$. Furthermore, a number of Japanese food companies each

paid 500US\$ as industrial members for some of the period. It has proved impossible to consistently collect dues of 25 US\$ from any of the other countries of Asia but that was to be expected given the difficulties in overseas transfer. Naturally the total sum of around 18,000 US\$ has never been sufficient to cover the office, secretarial, printing and postage costs of more than \$30,000 a year (not counting my own flight costs) and we have relied on donations from individual Japanese, the Japanese National UICC Committee, the Japanese Cancer Association and the Japanese Chemotherapy Association to cover running costs. I have been able to act as a volunteer over most of the period due to generous employment by the National Cancer Center in Tokyo. I trust that you will join me in thanking all of the above for their financial support. Particular thanks are due to Ms Yamauchi who has for many years acted as unpaid Secretary of the Japanese APOCPC with Dr Kazuo Tajima as its Head, and as Chairman of the Japanese National UICC Committee, Dr Tomoyuki Kitagawa of the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research (JFCR) Cancer Institute in Tokyo, who has been unfailing in his efforts to provide funding.

It is also thanks to Dr Kitagawa that I am now in a position to continue as Chief Editor while receiving a salary as the Head of the UICC-ARO.

I had once hoped that the costs of the APJCP might be more equitably borne by Medical University and Research Institute libraries purchasing the journal but this proved impossible to achieve. Indeed, for the ecological reasons mentioned above, I hope that all of the members will agree that the production of freely available Mini-Abstract booklets will allow the journal to be seen on library shelves while offering the most viable approach for the long-term.

Again with thanks to all those scientists who paid dues in the past, full membership of the organization behind the APJCP will now be free to any bona-fide scientist within Asia, as well as to any interested parties elsewhere as associate members. There will be no costs whatsoever of membership and all members will be circulated all of the pdf files which are produced and will be eligible to vote at future General Assemblies.

Since we have shifted the coverage of the journal to include clinical areas, Dr Keun-Young Yoo as Secretary-General, Dr You-Lin Qiao as President of the next APOCPC General Assembly Conference, and Malcolm Moore as Coordinator are proposing that we change the name to the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention and Control, while retaining www.apocpc.org as our website

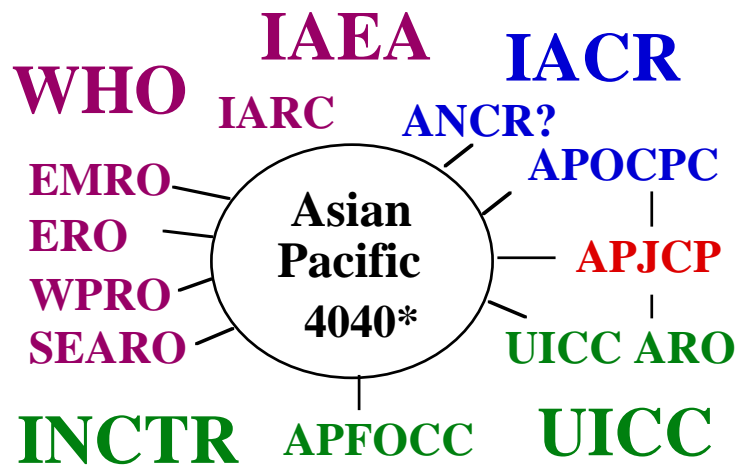


Figure 1. Cooperating Organizations Active in Cancer Prevention and Control in Asia with its 4 Billion Population.

International Governmental (purple): WHO, World Health Organization; EMRO, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office; ERO, European Regional Office; WPRO, Western Pacific Regional Office; SEARO, South-East Asian Regional Office; IARC; International Agency for Research on Cancer; IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency - **Non-Governmental (green):** UICC, Union International Against Cancer; UICC-ARO, UICC Asian Regional Office for Cancer Control; APFOCC, ASian pacific Federation of Organizations for Cancer Control; INCTR, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research - **Research Associations (blue):** IACR, International Association of Cancer Registries; APOCPC, Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention and Control; ANCR, Asian Network for Cancer Registration *Population of Asia in Millions

and APJCP as the journal name. If there are people who are in disagreement, they can make their views known to any to the individuals listed with email addresses inside the front cover of the Mini-Abstract booklets or in person at the forthcoming General Assmbeby Conference in Beijing (October 10-13th).

It is envisaged that the UICC-Asian Regional Office for Cancer Control will no longer be housed in premises in Thailand, but rather maintain its activities in offices under the umbrella of the JFCR Cancer Institute in Tokyo. The website address has been changed to apocpcontrol@yahoo.com for reasons of Malcolm Moore's own gullibility, for which he apologises to all who were inconvenienced by bogus requests for emergency funding.

It is to be hoped that the UICC-ARO and the APOCPC will be able to cooperate with the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the various Regional Offices of the World Health Organization in achieving common objectives. Congratulations are due to Dr Chris Wild (perhaps a touch ruefully from myself, Malcolm Moore, as one of the failed candidates) who will take over as Director of the IARC from January of next year. Naturally the closest relations will be maintained with UICC Head Office in Geneva, and the cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research which was started in imPACT (Program of Action for Cancer Therapy) visits to the Yemen and Sri Lanka will hopefully be built upon.

One project of particular importance is setting up an Asian Network for Cancer Registration and over the next few months there will be a number of opportunities for people to meet and discuss this prospect: the World Cancer Congress in Geneva (August 27-30th); the Korean National Cancer Center/IARC Workshop in Korea (September 22-26th); the APOCP General Assembly

Conference in Beijing (October 11-13th); the Japanese Cancer Association Meeting in Nagoya (October 27-29th); the IACR Annual Meeting in Sydney (November 18-20th); and the Thai International Cancer Registration Workshop in Khon Kaen (November, to be decided). Clearly there will be important roles for IACR and IARC but the people actually running the Asian Cancer Registries will have to take the lead in deciding how it should be constituted and where its offices should be located. Hopefully the UICC-ARO/APOCPC can be active, for example in providing literature updates (see the paper by the APOCPC/UICC-ARO Cancer Registration Consortium, 2008, in the present issue)

The APJCP is now the official journal of the UICC-ARO as well as the APOCPC. It is envisaged that the lead in publication, provision of training and organization of meetings will be the main responsibility of the UICC-ARO, while trying to expand the membership of the UICC in Asia. The APOCPC will concentrate more attention on collaboration for research purposes, especially in the area of clinical cancer epidemiology, and drawing together consortia of individual scientists and research institutions for this purpose.

With a journal which is now indexed in SCI as well as PubMed and a large body of interacting scientists across the globe as members, we are in a position to make a major contribution to cancer prevention and control. On behalf of all those active in the APJCP, APOCPC and UICC-ARO please accept our thanks for all your help in the past and your continued cooperation in the future.

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Kazuo Tajima

Ex-Chief Editor, APJCP, Ex-Chairman, UICC-ARO