

EDITORIAL

The APJCP After Ten Years

The Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (APOCP) was launched at the end of 1999 as a non-political and non-profit organization of researchers. To complement its staging of scientific meetings to exchange information, it was decided to also establish a journal to facilitate publication of research papers by Asian scientists. In fact, the lack of any Asian counterpart to the European Journal of Cancer Prevention and Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention/Cancer Detection and Prevention/Cancer Causes and Control was a major stimulus to action on the part of myself, an Englishman with long experience in Japan, to persuade colleagues to get on board the idea. The Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention (APJCP) has thus been a major activity of the APOCP and over the years it has taken on a life of its own, becoming more and more demanding of attention as time has gone by. From around 50 papers in four issues in 2000, it has grown to approximately 250 in 6 issues in 2009, far in excess of what one human being is capable of handling, while also travelling the globe and playing other roles in international cancer prevention research and organization of meetings. It is no excuse, but nevertheless this is the only reason I can offer for the longer and longer delays in uploading the papers published onto PubMed and our website - www.apocp.org.

Table 1. Geographical and Category Contributions to APJCP Accepted Papers, 2007-2009

Fields	Turkey Arabia	Iran	Pakistan	Central* India	Thailand Malaysia	Indonesia Vietnam	China Korea	Japan Australia	West** Editors	Total (%)									
Education/Smoking	13	2	2	4	0	12	3M1	5	0	1	1	2	6	0	9	5	66 (13)		
Epidemiology	3	3	42	20	3	34	N1	11	11	1	6	9	4	16	5	13	4	186 (35)	
Secondary Prevention	7	2	10	1	1	6	S1	40	4	0	0	2	0	1	1	4	0	80 (15)	
Toxicological Pathology	0	2	2	1	0	19	11	2	0	B1	0	2	0	19	2	1	0	62 (12)	
Clinical	18	4	14	14	0	11	N1	48	14	0	B1	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	133 (25)
Total	41(8)	13(2)	70(13)	40(8)	4(1)	85(16)	114(22)	36(7)	3(1)	7(1)	19(4)	6(1)	44(8)	8(2)	28(5)	9(2)	527 (100)		

*Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia; **Western World, USA and Europe, South America; B, Brunei; M, Myanmar; N, Nepal; S, Sri Lanka

We have however been fortunate in that the APJCP was accepted relatively rapidly for indexing on Medline and later Science Citation Index (Expanded) and this has ensured a regular supply of papers to publish from most of the countries of Asia. While the journal was overly dependent upon Japanese colleagues in its first few years, the present status is a lucky one of widespread interest from most of the countries of Asia, with a sprinkling of papers from Asian scientists based in North America. One or two groups in Australia have also been very supportive and now submissions are additionally arriving from Africa and even South America (see Table 1 for geographical sources of accepted papers subdivided into subject categories). I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each and every contributor for selecting the APJCP for publication of their work, especially in the early days and despite the lack of any official 'impact factor'. I must apologise particularly for the delay in publication of the present volume, but as a 'silver lining' it gives me great pleasure to now announce that one has now been awarded. At 1.1 for 2009 it is far higher than I had expected and may hopefully facilitate increase in the real impact of the journal as an accessible forum for publication of research findings by Asian scientists. While there will be no immediate change in the very positive editorial policy which I have tried to maintain with a low rejection rate (for which I have been perhaps deservedly richly criticised), the idea is that we should now build on the success achieved by helping each other produce high quality research papers while continuing to focus on practical findings of direct benefit to our communities. The help of all of you in positively citing as many APJCP papers as possible in the future, independent of where you choose to submit your own manuscripts, is greatly appreciated in trying to achieve our target of over 2.0 in 2010.

As Chief/Managing Editor I have been very fortunate in having great support from the very start from a large number of Japanese colleagues, but particularly Shinkan Tokudome and Kazuo Tajima, and the financial backing provided by the National Cancer Center of Japan over three periods, extending over 4 years and 8 months, which largely allowed my acting as a volunteer for the first six years of existence of the APJCP. As Chairman of the Japanese National Committee of the UICC, Tomoyuki Kitagawa has also been an essential source of both moral and funding support. It is only through his actions that our journal (I say our because it belongs to everyone who is a member of the APOCP!) became the official journal of the International Union of Cancer Asian Regional Office (UICC-ARO), which he and the committee established in late 2006 and which it is my honour to head. Max Parkin deserves the credit for our serving as one of the two official journals of the International Association of Cancer Registries. You can rest assured that I will also be arguing very strongly for inclusion of the APJCP as at least one of the official journals of the Asian Network for Cancer Registries which it is hoped will become a reality at the Yokohama registry meeting in October. Again, the continued support of all of you who are actively involved in cancer registration research is greatly appreciated.

Largely through the efforts of Keun-Young Yoo, Secretary-General of the APOCP, and Eun-Cheol Park, Director of the National Cancer Control Research Institute in Korea, we are now in the process of establishing a second APJCP Editorial Office, in the

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National Cancer Center in Goyang, which will be responsible for most of the editorial functions in the future. Staff are kindly being made available for this purpose and Eun Cheol Park is now the Deputy Chief Editor. One of the hopes is that we will soon be able to organize direct downloading of pdf files through PubMed for the papers appearing in the journal, as well as maintaining the same facility at our website.

The move should also facilitate setting up a more effective review system for submitted papers. Of course, this will also depend on the willingness of scientists across Asia to participate in **'rapidly'** reviewing manuscripts, with the emphasis on advice as to how to make improvements rather than simple rejection of work which is not cutting edge. As long as I am involved, the role of the APJCP should be to offer the possibility of reasonable access to international readers, not a competitor for established high impact factor journals in the Western world. I would be very thankful if any wishing to contribute as a reviewer in this effort would contact me personally, with information as to which areas you might like to cover.

As you will soon see from our old website, and also a new www.apocpcontrol.org which is now under construction, Cheng-Har Yip of the University of Malaya took over as President of the APOCP in April and will be responsible for organizing the 6th General Assembly Conference in spring of 2012, with Kuching, Sarawak, as the most likely venue. Many thanks are due to exPresident Murat Tuncer and Nejat Özgül, Congress Secretary, for the massive success of the 5th APOCP General Assembly Conference, held in Istanbul in April of this year. I am sure that everyone who attended will all agree that it was a very enjoyable and stimulating experience. We look forward to seeing even more of you, hopefully, in Malaysia. We have also made changes in the editorial staff by appointing Sub-Editors for geographical areas within Asia, instead of the specialist fields which was the focus up till the present. It would be appreciated if papers could be sent to these individuals as well as to myself at the time of submission. A complete list will be made available in due course. Their names, and the scientists willing to act as reviewers, will be given in the inside pages of the Mini-Abstract booklets that we have produced for volumes 9 and 10. These will continue to be provided as pdf files for each issue and hopefully you will download and print out hard copies for people to peruse in libraries and laboratories across the region.

It has been a fascinating last 10 years with the APJCP, but it is time that some new blood was introduced into the equation. I therefore hope to be able to phase out my own activities, first as Managing Editor and eventually as Chief Editor, so as to better concentrate on other aspects of cancer control. I hope you will agree that being a member of the APOCP (automatic for all who publish in the APJCP) means more than simply making use of the facility of the journal. The editorial board certainly feel that it entails a commitment to the entire community of cancer control researchers in Asia and our cooperation so that we can offer the best evidence base possible for our governments, essential for development of effective cancer control policies. Ours is a shared effort.

Once again, thank you.

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