

## EDITORIAL

# New Developments to Report for the APJCP and the APOCP

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### APJCP- Introduction of a Nominal Publication Charge and Automated Electronic Submission

As always, in the first issue of the year we would like to thank all of the authors who have submitted papers to the APJCP and the scientists who participated in its scientific meetings for their support. We hope you will continue to help us in this cooperative effort for cancer control in the Asian-Pacific area.

There are a number of changes that we would like to bring to your attention. Firstly, there is a new editorial office housed in the National Cancer Center of Korea, which is generously employing a full time Managing Editor, Hyun-Jong Oh, for the APJCP. In addition, a new email address specifically to deal with the journal affairs, [apjcpcontrol@yahoo.com](mailto:apjcpcontrol@yahoo.com), has been established which we would ask you to use in the future.

With sponsorship from the NCC, there is also a new website, [www.apocpcontrol.org](http://www.apocpcontrol.org) which is comprehensive and has a link to PubMed so that all of the pdf files for papers published in the journal can now be directly downloaded through Medline as well as from the website itself. It also offers the possibility of electronic submission. Eventually there will be a streamlined system but for the moment please go to [www.apocpcontrol.org/member/login.kin](http://www.apocpcontrol.org/member/login.kin), then register and you can upload your submissions. If you encounter any problem please contact Malcolm Moore or one of the Regional Sub-Editors for assistance. The original [www.apocp.org](http://www.apocp.org) website will now be closed down.

Perhaps because of the PubMed link the journal is attracting increasing interest in terms of visits to the website and also submissions. This is very heartening, given the objective of serving the cancer control research community, but it has less welcome financial consequences. Under pressure of the almost 60 papers accepted per month, the APJCP unfortunately will now have to introduce a basic fee of 50 US\$ for formatting and PubMed connecting each manuscript, starting immediately. This is a majority decision of the Chief, Deputy-Chief and Regional Editors, considered infinitely preferable to the only feasible alternative of raising the rejection rate to above 70%. We wish to stress that there continues to be no charge for processing – payment will only be required if the paper is accepted. We greatly regret the necessity of this change but offering a totally free service is no longer feasible with the resources at our command.

When the APOCP/APJCP project was initiated in

1999, a core of primarily Japanese but also some Korean scientists made publication of the journal possible by paying yearly membership fees. At that time the Japanese each paid 100 US\$ and the Koreans 50 US\$. The rate for the rest of the world was set at 25 US\$ but this proved impossible to collect. With the help of donations, almost entirely by Japanese individuals or organizations, the subscriptions were sufficient to support publication of hard copies of the APJCP for distribution across the region. Part time secretarial support was available and I was able to act as a volunteer because the workload was relatively small.

This functioned reasonably well for the first 7 years publication, with total yearly paper numbers of 56, 55, 64, 75, 79, 118 and 144 to the end of 2006. The journal was quarterly, but with increases to 139 in 2007 and 160 in 2008, it was decided to publish bi-monthly with totals of 242 in 2009 and 366 in 2010. Support for a secretary and myself was made available from the UICC Asian Regional Office. However, we could no longer afford to print and distribute hard copies so the APJCP became an all-electronic journal. In the first month of 2011, over 60 manuscripts were accepted so that it was decided to publish monthly. With our present funding, however, we can only continue to format papers for three months and therefore we could not put off this difficult choice any longer.

We would like to again emphasize that there is no processing fee. The charge is only for accepted papers to cover actual costs incurred. We will give details as to methods for payment in due course.

### Appeal for Reviewers and Help in Improving Quality of Manuscripts and the APJCP Profile

We have been fortunate in being able to be indexed on PubMed from early in our history so that all of the published papers are actually accessible within the international literature. Moreover, the more recent inclusion in Science Citation Index Expanded, now with an Impact Factor of 1.1, means that the APJCP is relatively well known and has achieved a certain reputation. We must now redouble our efforts to maintain and hopefully improve this reputation and the impact of the journal in the most general sense. There are a number of measures that we are considering to achieve these aims.

First of all, we would like to make a general appeal to all of the members of the APOCP (anyone who publishes a paper in the APJCP is automatically an individual

member), to do their utmost to:

a) Maximise the quality of their submissions and follow the instructions to authors in detail - please also make use of the Guide to Scientific English which will be posted on the website;

b) Refer to as many relevant papers as possible published in the APJCP whenever writing a manuscript for submission to any journal - we need to do our best to raise the Impact Factor by a sensible positive attitude;

c) Agree to act as a reviewer if you are a more senior scientist and also help our younger colleagues if possible by giving them the benefit of your experience in writing effective papers - our policy will continue to be improve rather than reject.

The APJCP is not only the official journal of the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention, but also of the UICC-Asian Regional Office, which continues to provide essential financial support. It is also an official journal of the International Association of Cancer Registries and aims to act in the same role for the new Asian Network for Cancer Registries which is being set up. If you are a member of any other organization involved in cancer control research that might like to consider making use of the APJCP as an official forum, please contact one of us, so that we can explore cooperative action.

As one new endeavour, an APOCP Newsletter is planned which will give essential details as to the papers published in the APJCP and any news of interest. Comments and suggestions as to how to make it generally attractive would be very welcome. It is intended that space will be made available for information on forthcoming meetings as well as advertisements, so that if you contacts with possible clients do let us know. There will generally be no limitation on the types of companies which can advertise, with the exception of the tobacco industry. Any funds generated in this way will be used to run practical training courses in how to plan and conduct research and write effective scientific papers, as well as to support attendance of scientists from the less industrialized world at APOCP conferences.

## **APOCP - Continuing to Hold Research Meetings and Set a Firm Financial Base**

We would like to bring to your attention two APOCP conferences, one Regional in the National Cancer Center in Korea and the other the 6th General Assembly Conference of the APOCP which is scheduled for next April in exotic Kuching in Sarawak.

The Regional Conference will be held on the 2nd of November and will extend to the morning of the 3rd, in conjunction with the 4th International Cancer Control Congress with an APOCP Satellite Asian Report session. The ICC-4 itself will cover:

1) Social determinants of health in relation to the

control of cancer and NCDs; 2) Public and population health alignment with medical practice; 3) Oncology specialty care & medical health practice in the management & care of cancer patients; 4) Science to service, practice to policy - implementation and evaluation. Hopefully, it will offer an opportunity for very many of those actively involved in cancer control to gather together.

The APOCP may also be able to use the occasion to establish the groundwork for a firm financial base for the organization so that it can contribute much more to cancer control efforts in the region. We will be canvassing the membership for their views on different types of donation members and possibly institution and industrial sponsors.

Hopefully this will then allow a very successful 6th APOCP GA where we will also be able to say hello to our distant cousins the orangutan while enjoying the delights of North Borneo at the Pullman Hotel. The theme is 'Clinical Epidemiology and Practical Interventions - the Future of Cancer Control in the Asian Pacific Region' and there will be pre-congress workshops on Medical Writing and Clinical Epidemiology Research. Please watch out for updates and we certainly hope to see you there!

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