



Asian Pacific Association
of Gastroenterology

APDNews



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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF APAGE

Dear colleagues,



It is with my great pleasure to announce that the APAGE Newsletter starts to publish from now on. I take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Kwong-Ming Fock, the Editor-in-Chief for his great contributions in editing our Association's Newsletter.

It is well known that the First APDW was held in Sydney in September 2001, since then APDW is held each year in

different cities of Asian Pacific Region. So far there are 3 digestive disease week meetings held every year, these are DDW in US, UEGW in Europe and APDW in Asian Pacific region. APAGE Newsletter will serve as a tool to communicate the messages and news from different societies of gastroenterology and from APDW as well. I am confident that APAGE Newsletter will be warmly welcomed by the readers in Asian Pacific region.

Shu-Dong Xiao MD, FRCP
President, APAGE



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear APAGE Colleagues,



It gives me a great pleasure to pen a few words for this newsletter which has been revived after WCOG2002. It has been eight years since Asia Pacific Digestive News was last published. The APDN has been a very useful tool for connecting members of the APAGE family through bringing news, information, and

activities in the Asia Pacific region. It has helped to foster a family spirit amongst APAGE members.

In the last eight years, APAGE has progressed. APAGE has been active in developing consensus and practice guidelines on diseases that are common in Asia. There were guidelines on management of GERD H. Pylori infection and prevention of gastric cancer. The latest consensus guideline that will be published soon is management of inflammatory bowel disease. These guidelines have been well received and we do hope that the recommendations will be translated into evidence based patient management practice and improved outcome for patients.

One common feature of all these clinical practice guidelines is that we have attempted to put the Asian perspective in the guidelines as we believe differences in

epidemiology, culture, resource and expertise will lead to different approach to the same disease in different parts of the world.

APAGE has collaborated JGH Trust in supporting several young Clinician Gastroenterologists to go for further training through a travelling financial grant.

The two recent recipients who have been supported are Dr Byung Hoon Min of South Korea who trained in Tokyo (2007) and Dr Rajesh Kumar Paramasivam of Malaysia (Melbourne, 2008).

We do hope that these young trainee Gastroenterologists will benefit from their training and on their return will be able to bring Gastroenterologist to practice to higher level in their home country.

Mighty things have a humble beginning. This electronic version of APD News is a modest effort which hopefully will grow with time to become an important tool of communication for Gastroenterologists in Asia Pacific Region.

We do hope that you will send in your comments, suggestions and volunteer your services so that this venture will bloom and grow.

Professor Kwong-Ming Fock
Editor-in-chief



UPDATE FROM JAPANESE SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Inaugural Note

Dear APAGE Colleagues,



The council of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) has been renewed as of 2009, and I was appointed as the new president of the JSGE, succeeding former president Professor Yutaka Atomi.

JSGE is one of the largest societies of gastroenterology in the world with 30,000 members in Japan. The activities of our society include holding an annual general assembly and JDDW, providing post-graduate educational courses, and publication of three journals; *J. Gastroenterology* with the impact factor scoring 3.117 (2008); *Clinical Journal of Gastroenterology* (an on-line journal dedicated to case reports); the *Japanese Journal of Gastroenterology*, a domestic journal in Japanese. We also award

subspecialty accreditation through annual examinations, organize outreach programs for citizens (lectures, free publications on health information, 180,000 copies annually), sponsoring international scholarship programs (JSGE fellowship award for 3 to 4 young gastroenterologists from countries affiliated with APAGE), and JSGE scientific grants (5 research projects, total 15 million yen).

As a member society of APAGE, for which I am serving as secretary general, JSGE will seek the possibility to further strengthen the ties with APAGE. For instance, it is possible to hold a session in English at our general assembly and provide travel grants enabling young doctors from APAGE to attend. It is also possible to plan a single topic conference with APAGE colleagues featuring problems unique to this region, as we have been doing with AGA.

We welcome any proposals to us from colleagues of APAGE for promoting mutual relations.

Kentaro Sugano MD
Jichi Medical University
President, JSGE



WORKING REPORT from the CHINESE SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY (CSGE)

The current committee (the 8th Committee) of the Chinese Society of Gastroenterology (CSGE) was established at Changchun City, Jilin Province in July 2006. Professor Dai-ming Fan was elected as the President of CSGE. Since the first plenary meeting of the committee, a number of reforms have taken place in the society.

Firstly, a decision was made on holding national conferences that each year only one annual conference should be organized by CSGE through bidding by candidate cities. In 2007, the annual conference of gastroenterology was held in Jinan, Shandong Province with over 2300 participants and the papers/abstracts over 2400. And in 2008, it was in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province with over 2200 delegates. The annual conference of gastroenterology of 2009 will be held in Guangzhou in December with an estimated number of delegates over 3000. These large scale and highly centralized meetings guaranteed efficient academic exchange and knowledge spreading in gastroenterology in China.

Secondly, to improve the quality of clinical research in gastroenterology in China, a Chinese Gastrointestinal Research Fund was established in 2007 by raising certain amount of financial support from the community. Nine

submitted proposals were thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by experts, and three of the grants were finally approved by voting among the members of standing committee of the CSGE. These multi-centered clinical studies include 1. Clinical and genetic features of inflammatory bowel disease in China; 2. Diagnosis and treatment of gastro-esophageal reflux disease in China; 3. New regimens for eradication of *H. pylori*. These projects are all in good progress.

Thirdly, a nation-wide continued medical education (CME) program in gastroenterology was carried out by setting up Chinese College of Gastroenterology, which is a non-profit organization responsible for planning courses of gastroenterology in each province throughout China. Fifty-two professors from China and abroad have been invited as faculty of the Chinese College of Gastroenterology. Among the 31 provinces or autonomous regions all over China, 28 have experienced CME courses in their capital cities with total number of audience around 100,000. The topics of the CME courses cover all areas of gastroenterology and hepatology. There is a plan of finishing the CME program in the rest of three provinces in China by the end of 2009.

Finally, this Chinese Society of Gastroenterology has successfully organized the bidding for APDW/WCOG 2013 to be held in Shanghai, China.

Prof. Kaichun Wu
Secretary-General, CSGE



APAGE RETREAT XIAMEN 2008

Report on the Strategic Planning Meeting held on 7th December 2008 in Xiamen, Fujian Province, China

The office bearers of APAGE held a business meeting on 7th December 2008 in Xiamen, China. The aim of this meeting was to draw up a strategic plan for APAGE.

The meeting was attended by:

Professor Shu-Dong Xiao, *President*
 Professor Khean-Lee Goh, *Vice President*
 Professor Shiu-Kum Lam, *Past President*
 Professor Kwong-Ming Fock, *Immediate Past President*

Professor Kentaro Sugano, *Secretary-General*
 Associate Professor Choon-Jin Ooi, *Treasurer*
 Professor Dai-Ming Fan, *Chairman, International Liaison Committee*
 Professor Kai-Chun Wu, *Chairman, Awards Committee*
 Professor Peter Gibson, *Chairman, Education & Research Committee*

The following extended their apologies:

Professor Jae-Bock Chung, *Chairman, Programme Advisory Committee*
 Professor Jin-Ho Kim, *Chairman, Ethics Committee*
 Professor Geoffrey Farrell, *Representative JGH Foundation*



Background Information

The meeting started with Professor Khean-Lee Goh giving some background information on the formation of APAGE. The formation of an Asian Association of Gastroenterology (AAG) was mooted in Tokyo, Japan in 1961 and conceptualized in 1964. The first meeting was held in 1972. The name of the AAG was changed and restructured to Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology in 2000 and the APDW was first held in 2001. With the democratization of the APAGE, the APDW Presidency was delinked from the Congress Presidency. APAGE was incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance on 15th June 2001.

Vision and Mission

Professor Shiu-Kum Lam then addressed the meeting. He spoke of the vision and mission for gastroenterology in Asia and asked APAGE to plan and carry out its role in terms of education, research and as a leading professional body.

Incorporation of APAGE

Professor Kwong-Ming Fock added that the move to incorporate APAGE was started in 2000 and it was officially registered on 15th June 2001 under the Companies Ordinance. It is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The objects of APAGE are laid down in the Memorandum and Articles of the Association. The mission statement is to make the Asian Pacific region excels in education and research in all aspects of gastroenterology, thereby bringing to the region the highest quality of healthcare in this field of medicine. The stakeholders are the member societies, the public as well as the public authorities. The APAGE has developed guidelines which are called Asia Pacific guidelines on Helicobacter pylori, GERD and Gastric Cancer and he proposed that these be named as APAGE guidelines.

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Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

The meeting discussed about the Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology and its relation to APAGE, the support from the JGH Trust for activities of the APAGE such as the Young Investigators' Award, APAGE/JGH Training Fellowship and some Asia Pacific Guidelines. The JGH contributes a sum of USD10,000 (with an equal contribution from APAGE) for the APAGE/JGH Travelling Fellowship.

Representation of National Societies

Professor Kentaro Sugano highlighted that the APAGE could learn from the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology which is well organized and run in terms of publication, supporting research and fellowship programme, etc. APAGE has 19 national societies and only 15 of these are fairly active. It was suggested that informal discussions could be held with gastroenterologists in the countries which have yet to join APAGE to find out their views and whether they would be interested in joining APAGE.

Role of APAGE in APDW

The meeting noted that the APAGE used to be the principal organizer of the APDW but its role has been diminished with the setting up of the APDW Steering Committee. The Committee now plays a major role in

advising the organization and the running of the APDWs. Each of the four component societies nominates three representatives to the Committee.

Organisation of Monothematic Meetings

Council discussed at length the possibility of the APAGE organizing monothematic meetings possibly with the national societies apart from the holding of the APDW. Some office bearers felt that it might be difficult to organise if there are too many meetings. The meeting noted that some of the meetings held in the Asia Pacific region are not and do not necessarily come under the auspices of APAGE. Also APAGE might have to provide financial assistance. It was suggested that a business model be developed whereby if the APAGE were to provide the seed money for the meeting, then the APAGE should have a share in the event of a surplus. If the APAGE is just involved in the organization of the meeting, then the APAGE does not want to take a share of the profit. Another suggestion was to split these meetings into focus meetings. The important aim would be how to make the APAGE relevant and how to engage the stake holders in holding these meetings.

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APAGE Website

The meeting decided to revamp and rebrand the website to make it more interactive and the APAGE more relevant to the national societies. If the website is popular, it could generate revenue from advertisers.

(Postscript: A new website master has been commissioned and the website has been revamped. Members are requested to visit the website (www.apage.org) to give their feedback and comments).

Consensus Groups and Consensus Development

A suggestion was made that some of the Asia Pacific Consensus could come under the auspices of the APAGE and be rebranded as APAGE Consensus. This could be done by notifying and obtaining the agreement of the expert group who were involved in developing the consensus. The meeting discussed the incentives which the APAGE could provide to the convenors which could be as follows:

1. APAGE would provide a forum for the development of the consensus and to provide the expert group with the platform to publish in the JGH
2. Financial support – it was suggested that APAGE could provide an amount of up to USD15,000 per consensus with an equal amount from the JGH Trust.

The meeting also discussed the financial possibilities of how the consensus development could be funded. One possibility is to ask the biomedical industry to provide unconditional grants to APAGE and APAGE would undertake to finance the development of the consensus.

Conclusion

This strategic planning business meeting was held over one whole day. It was a beneficial and useful meeting with many issues discussed and debated on. The Councillors would have to act and carry out the plans and courses of action which were proposed.

MASTERS OF WGO

At the Gastro 2009 held on 21-25 November 2009 in London, UK, Professor Eamonn Quigley, the President of World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), announced and conferred 10 doctors, who have made significant contributions to gastroenterology on a global scale, the highest award that the WGO bestows: the title of Masters of the World Gastroenterology Organisation, honoured with a diploma of certification. Professor Shu-Dong Xiao from China and Professor Rakesh Tandon from India are two of the 10 Masters of the WGO from Asian countries.



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