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## EDITORIAL

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# The Contribution of Asian Countries to the International Cancer Prevention Effort - Reflections from a Glance at the Literature

In this first issue of the APJCP in 2002, there are three features that the Editors would like to draw particular attention to: one, a major change in the Editorial line-up, two a change in the location of the Editorial Office, and, three, the range of countries represented in the included papers. In line with the necessity for Japan to play a central role in ensuring the future success of this Asian-Pacific journal, Hiroyuki Tsuda is taking over from Malcolm Moore, who is now resigning from any official capacity except for making his help available as a language editor when required. We therefore presently have two Chief Editors, Kazuo Tajima and Hiroyuki Tsuda, providing an important balance between epidemiology and toxicological pathology, the two main arms of primary prevention. Papers can be submitted by Email to our new address, apocp2000@yahoo.com, or to the two Japanese scientists, respectively in Aichi Cancer Center and the National Cancer Center. In addition, Tim Threlfall is welcomed as a representative of the International

Association for Cancer Registries (IACR), the APJCP, along with the European Journal of Cancer Prevention, now being an official journal of the IACR. Malcolm Moore, who is intending to return to Europe when his present responsibilities are fulfilled, is very grateful for the support of all those that have joined the APOCP and participated in its activities since 1999 and hopes that you will continue to contribute to its success in the future.

The third point can best be illustrated with reference to the relative weights of different countries in publishing papers in the various international journals specializing in the field of cancer prevention. As is only to be expected from the relative stages of economic and infrastructure development, the vast majority of papers are authored by scientists from the USA, Western Europe and Japan. The relative proportions clearly reflect the base of operations, but in However, other countries of Asia are now increasingly active in research, like China and India in particular. As is

**Table. Regional Contributions to Publications in Cancer Prevention Journals.**

Region	APJCP	EJCP	IJC	CCC	CEBP	CDP	NC	C
North-East Asia	48 (48)*	7 (3)	24 (16)	13 (6)	13 (5)	24 (20)	25 (18)	98 (17)
South-East Asia	15 (15)	3 (1)	1 (1)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	4 (1)
Australasia	2 (2)	0 (0)	7 (5)	8 (4)	3 (1)	4 (3)	3 (2)	1 (0)
Southern Asia	17 (17)	7 (3)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (0)
Western/Central Asia	7 (7)	0 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)	5 (4)	5 (4)	2 (0)
Eastern Europe	0 (0)	14 (6)	1 (1)	3 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (2)	3 (1)
Western Europe	0 (0)	198 (79)	69 (47)	82 (37)	61 (23)	57 (47)	31 (22)	180 (31)
Africa	0 (0)	3 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
North America	1 (1)	15 (6)	31 (21)	104 (46)	179 (68)	44 (36)	63 (46)	269 (46)
Latin America	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (2)	2 (1)	1 (0)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (1)
IARC	0 (0)	1 (0)	6 (4)	8 (4)	5 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (1)
Total	100	250	147	224	265	121	138	582

Data from the 2000- editions of : APJCP, Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention; EJCP, European Journal of Cancer Prevention; IJC, International Journal of Cancer (fields of carcinogenesis, epidemiology and prevention); CCC, Cancer Causes and Control; CEBP, Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention; CDP, Cancer Detection and Prevention; NC, Nutrition and Cancer (editions accessible to the authors); C, Carcinogenesis (\*) Percentage values

evident from the data in the Table, the APJCP has an important role to play in offering a forum for publication by scientists in the smaller countries of Asia. For example, in the last three issues of 2001, there were no less than four papers from Vietnam and in the present issue two publications from Kyrgistan and two from Iran provide evidence of research activity within Islamic countries in Central- and South-Asia, otherwise lacking from the literature. Since the level of sophistication naturally depends to a large extent on the financial resources available, the aim of the APJCP is to provide a comprehensive coverage of ongoing research in the four areas encompassed by cancer prevention, education, epidemiology, screening and intervention, and toxicological pathology, by attracting papers from both the developed and developing world. The problem which must now be overcome is to persuade the various citation indices to list the APJCP so that authors publishing in the journal receive the recognition necessary for their continued research effort.

This brings us to another important point, the role to be played by international organizations in offering training assistance to young researchers in the developing world so that their ability to craft papers of an internationally acceptable standard is enhanced. Two major players in this regard are the Union International Contre le Cancer (UICC), whose history and activities were earlier reviewed in the APJCP (Aoki, 2000), and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Clearly, their provision of training courses needs to be coordinated with efforts of individual countries, like Japan in East Asia, to promote research activity and alleviate the massive bias that is evident

in the Table. For a truly international cooperation to fight cancer can we afford to leave behind any section of the world community?

## Reference

Aoki K (2000). Contributions to Cancer Prevention of Non-Governmental Organizations 1. Establishment of the UICC and its Activities. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev*, **1**, 181-93.

### Kazuo Tajima

Division of Epidemiology and Prevention,  
Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute,  
1-1 Kanokoden, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 467-8681, Japan  
Tel +81-52-764-2986, Fax +81-52-763-5233  
Email: apocp2000@yahoo.com

### Malcolm A Moore

Division of Experimental Pathology and Chemotherapy  
Research Institute, National Cancer Center  
Tsukiji 5-1-1, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan  
Tel 3-3547-5246, Fax 03-3542-3586  
Email: apocp2000@yahoo.com

### Hiroyuki Tsuda

Division of Experimental Pathology and Chemotherapy  
Research Institute, National Cancer Center  
Tsukiji 5-1-1, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan  
Tel 3-3547-5246, Fax 03-3542-3586  
Email: apocp2000@yahoo.com



Participants at the inaugural meeting of the Asian Pacific Organization of Cancer Prevention, from left to right, Kazuo Tajima and Hiroyuki Tsuda, present Chief Editors of the APJCP, along with Malcolm Moore, Managing Editor in 2000-2001, and Hiroshi Ohshima, Head of the Unit of Endogenous Risk Factors, the International Agency for Cancer Research.