

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

APOCP/APJCP Up-date and Projections for the Future

We are now three months into the fifth year of existence of the APOCP and publication of the APJCP, and once again it is time to make a report of accomplishments and what still needs to be achieved to guarantee a continued contribution to cancer prevention in the Asian Pacific area. To start on a positive note, the APJCP published, on time, four issues of the journal containing 376 pages of research communications, reviews, commentaries, editorials and meeting reports in 2003. A breakdown of the regions of origin of papers, in comparison with those for other international scientific journals concentrating attention on the different research areas within cancer prevention is shown in Table 1. In line with our earlier report (Tajima et al., 2002), a reasonable balance has been maintained, with significant contributions from all the areas within the region. Clearly the percentages of papers from outside of the developed world are much lower in the other journals, in line with the tough competition that is now prevailing for publication in prestigious outlets with high impact factors. We would like to stress the unique nature of the APJCP as a forum for research work conducted in the developing world which might otherwise be under-represented in the literature.

Table 1. Asian Pacific Regional Contributions to Publications in Cancer Prevention Journals

Region	APJCP	EJCP	IJC	CCC	CEBP
N-East Asia	45 (39)*	7 (4)	24 (12)	8 (3)	12 (5)
China	7	3	6	1	4
Japan	36	1	13	5	5
Korea	2	2	3	0	0
S-East Asia	23 (20)	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Thailand	19	0	0	0	0
Viet Nam	2	0	1	0	0
Australasia	2 (2)	0 (0)	6 (3)	5 (2)	3 (1)
South Asia	26 (22)	6 (4)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Bangladesh	2	0	0	0	0
India	21	6	1	1	0
Pakistan	3	0	0	0	0
West Asia	16 (14)	3 (2)	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Central	2	0	0	0	0
Iran	8	0	1	0	0
Turkey	6	1	0	0	0
Total	116	164	193	229	244

Data from the 2002/2003-2004 editions of : APJCP, Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention; EJCP, European Journal of Cancer Prevention; IJC, International Journal of Cancer (relevant papers in carcinogenesis, epidemiology and prevention); CCC, Cancer Causes and Control; CEBP, Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention. * Percentage values

It is of the essence that the APOCP does its utmost to encourage research in all countries which would benefit from cancer control programs (see Bhurgri, 2004, in this issue) and need more publications to contribute to international efforts and help persuade the responsible Ministries to give their whole-hearted support.

Looking at Table 1, there are clearly a number of countries in the Asian Pacific in which we are still weak, but it is to be hoped that we can increase the numbers of papers, for example from Australasia, Korea and the Arab world in particular, by undertaking appropriate measures to increase awareness. In order to promote the journal we are in fact making a number of changes.

First the number of specialist editors has been increased to reflect the endeavours of the individuals involved to promote the APJCP in their own spheres of expertise and create a better balance across the Asian Pacific. Secondly, changes have been made in the International Advisory Board for similar reasons. Thirdly, we will make a major effort in 2004 to ensure that the APJCP is present in as many of the medical school and other relevant libraries in the region as is humanly possible, given our financial restraints. For this purpose we are requesting that member scientists, especially in the developed countries, ensure that their institutions have a subscription to the journal, even if this is 'donated' from research allocations. Any funds that are thereby generated will be used to provide copies of the APJCP free to libraries in the developing countries.

Although the papers in the journal are all indexed on PubMed and can be freely downloaded as pdf files from our website - www.apocp.org - we are now trying to organize direct download through Medline itself. This should optimize the impact of the research documented in the journal. Unfortunately, our application for inclusion in the Science Citation Index in 2003 was unsuccessful, despite our proven publication record. The reason is that we are not being cited sufficiently frequently, reflecting our lack of penetration into the all important European and North American research world, and more importantly, the lack of a proactive policy to refer to papers published in the APJCP. If we wish to have a successful journal then we have to be very positive about making the worldwide research world very aware of its unique contribution. If we believe in the aims of the APOCP, it is up to ourselves to be proud of this collaborative effort by scientists across the Asian Pacific and cite work in the APJCP when submitting manuscripts to other journals. It is basically of question of whether one feels that a forum for cancer prevention research which is readily accessible to both developing and developed countries in Asia is worthy of special promotion.

To improve the quality of the service for handling and reviewing of submitted manuscripts it has been decided that a single editorial office be set up in Thailand, with one of the authors, Malcolm Moore, having full time responsibility for the meantime. He wishes to take this opportunity to gratefully thank the Foundation for Promotion of Research of Japan for support over the past two years which has allowed part-time involvement with the APOCO/APJCP. From April he will be able to devote his entire attention to the responsibilities as Coordination Director and Managing Editor. The eventual aim is to set up an official status for the APOCP which will allow greater activity in promoting practical measures for cancer prevention. One area which will be stressed is scientific language assistance to researchers who do not have English as their mother tongue. A start has already been made with publication of an APOCP Handbook (Moore and Tsuda, 2003). Lectures are being given to promote the publication, any revenues from which are donated to the APOCP, and there are plans to organize three day courses during which small numbers of scientists will have guidance in actually crafting manuscripts for publication (see the Publications/Courses section at www.apocp.org).

One area in which the APOCP has been relatively successful is in holding Regional Conferences with the support of local organizing committees. As depicted on the cover of the present issue, members had an opportunity to congregate to discuss 'New Strategies in Cancer Control' in Izmir, Turkey, in October of 2003, and again 'Customs, Environment and Cancer' in Khon Kaen, Thailand, in February of this year, under APOCP and UICC auspices. We would like to here express our great appreciation to the teams of Dr Gülsün Aydemir and Dr Sopit Wongkham for their efforts on behalf of the APOCP. Reports of these meetings will be presented at the 2nd APOCP General Assembly Conference which is scheduled for November 1st-3rd. **All APOCP members are cordially invited to attend.** In addition, thanks to the generosity of Saneigen FFI Foundation, a Satellite Symposium for the 7th Thai National Cancer Conference could be held in Bangkok, in November 2003, with the theme 'In Vivo Models for Assessment of Carcinogenicity and Chemopreventive Potential of Food Components'. In addition to the Seoul Conference, further Regional Conferences are scheduled in India and Iran, and it is hoped that it will be possible to organize a Regional Conference in China after discussion with members of the International Association of Cancer Registries, at their forthcoming yearly meeting in Beijing in September. Details of all of these conferences are available in the Events section at www.apocp.org.

To promote the APOCP/APJCP both of the authors will be visiting as many countries as possible across the region within the next six months. We would like to herewith propose a new system for membership as detailed in Table 2, so that all those who wish to be listed as members of the APOCP can do so at minimal cost. Since the papers published in the APJCP are all accessible through PubMed

Table 2. Proposed Member Categories and Fees (US\$)

Country	Personal		
	+APJCP	+APJCP	-APJCP
Japan			
Australasia	200	100	10
USA/Canada			
W Europe			
Korea			
Singapore	100	50	5
Saudi Arabia			
Rest of World	50	25	2.5

or our website and most of the costs incurred for the journal are for dispatch, we feel that scientists should be offered the possibility of membership without receiving their own personal copy of the APJCP. They would still be entitled to submit papers or be listed as authors in the APJCP and participate in any other APOCP activities, like attending conferences held under its auspices. For those wishing to be placed on the mailing list, monthly 'Tips for Scientific English' and quarterly 'Reviews of Published Cancer Prevention Research' pdf files will be sent out by email. For further details see the Membership section at www.apocp.org.

We may not yet be in a position to offer a prestigious journal with a steadily increasing SCI impact factor, but we can promise continue to do our utmost to make the APOCP/APJCP, nevertheless, a real force in cancer prevention research - with your active contributions! Our sincere thanks go out to all those who have already published in the journal, joined in the 1st APOCP General Assembly Conference and/or are present in the photographs on the cover page - to other interested scientists across the region we look forward to hearing from you in the future. See you in Seoul?

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