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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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### Comments on the Future of the Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention (and Control) and the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (and Control)

**Malcolm A Moore**

#### Abstract

In response to the request for comments and suggestions from interested individuals and institutions as to how the APJCP, and by extension the APOCP, should be organized and financed, we have received a number of emails. I would like to personally thank the individuals involved and hope to make a coordinated response in the future.

*Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev*, **10**, 181-182

#### Dear Sir

This has reference to your editorial comment appeared in APJCP, vol.10, 2009. In this regard we wish to make the following suggestions for continuation of APJCP publication and its other activities. The APJCP should continue its publication as a quarterly electronic journal as is being done presently. It is quite delighted to note that APJCP is accessible on both PubMed and carries Science Citation Index. It is all due to the great wisdom and extremely hard efforts put up by the present Chief/Managing Editor. However, it is quite alarming to note that its future after its tenth birthday remains uncertain, as there is no infrastructure in place to ensure continuation after retirement of the present Chief/Managing Editor. For its continuation as well as to meet the expenditure for its publication and other activities, we strongly feel that individual life-membership fee of 25 USD/50 USD from the members could be collected. Besides this, it is also suggested that Institutional membership fee of 300 USD (one time) from the Regional Cancer Centres/ Cancer Registries located in Asian countries could be collected. These issues could be put-up before the 5th APOCP General Assembly conference to be held in Istanbul in April 2010 and should be implemented. The members/ Institutions should have facility to free download of all the complete manuscripts from the website. It is also suggested that effective system of peer review to be set up by requesting researchers who are involved in cancer control/ cancer epidemiology/ cancer registry freely. The articles published in the journal should be subjected to peer review including statistical review as the journal articles are a mix up of low and high quality articles. As a result of mixing up, the value of high quality articles is likely to get lowered. The suggestions of holding meetings, promoting collaboration in cancer registration, cancer epidemiology including training are worthwhile.

**Aleyamma Mathew**, Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, & **NS Murthy**, MSRMC, Bangalore, India

#### Dear Sir

This has reference to your editorial comment appeared in APJCP, vol.10, 2009. I really appreciate your and your team efforts. I have read the report file. A few humble suggestions by me are;

1. To contact WHO and other agencies for financial help.
2. To attract some advertisements by different companies and equipment companies etc to be pasted on the online copy of journal
3. To impose some printing charges if article is accepted for publication

For your information and necessary action

**Shahid Jamal**, Army Medical College, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

*UICC Asian Regional Office, apocpcontrol@yahoo.com*

**Dear Sir**

This has reference to your editorial comment appeared in APJCP, vol.10, 2009. I have no hesitation to say that APJCP should in no way be stopped.

Fund raising is a problem but the membership fee could be enhanced, and marketing for the journal should be attempted. Before this the secretariat should be strengthened drawing funds from Asia Pacific Governments and Cancer Societies. The annual meeting is a good source for fund raising along with inviting a few good companies to advertise their products in the journal.

I must admit that this is certainly the leading cancer journal in Asia Pacific Region which helps the younger scientists by publishing their scientific work. Do you think an appeal to WHO or other international bodies like UICC, IARC etc would help? If so a joint request may be attempted. Another suggestion is to see whether publication can be economically cheaper by printing magazines in other countries where printing may be cheaper.

In any event I would be very happy to learn that the publication and the organisation continues and is a solid support for research workers in cancer in this region.

Wishing all the best. Yours sincerely,

**P. Gangadharan**, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Center, Kochin, Kerala, India

**Dear Sir**

This has reference to your editorial comment appeared in APJCP, vol.10, 2009. As to your editorial, I do agree with all you have said. I attended a meeting in Taipei where we also discussed the fate of the Asian J of Surgery which is under the Asian Surgical Association, another big organisation which is more established than APOCP but still have problems trying to maintain the journal. It is currently under the Dept of Surgery in HK University and they were trying to find interested parties to take over the journal. It was getting too much for them, and the subscriptions were not enough to pay for the cost.

I can imagine it is worse for the APJCP as you are a one-man show. My suggestion would be to hand it over the Elsevier or one of those publishers to handle it, but it will cost a lot of money. Perhaps the NCI in Japan can take it over and get it done. My faculty runs the AP Journal of Public Health - I asked the editor how she managed to run it, and she says that they give it to Elsevier (or some other publisher) to run it. It is funded by subscriptions from the public health organisations in Asia.

I can see that you are running it on a very tight budget. But it is an important journal and a good platform for cancer experts in Asia who find it hard to get their articles published in western journals. So I do think it should continue, but the problem is where to park it next. But we have to do a lot of research to see if the university will be able to fund it if it loses money (which it is - the HKU Dept of Surgery was paying for the loss and they do not want to do it anymore).

Yours sincerely,

**Cheng Har Yip**, Department of Surgery, University of Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Dear Sir**

This is in response to "what is the future for the APJCP and APOCP?" With all the information provided in the editorial comment it seems that APJC is now a burden for the organizing people. I think the burden can be shared with the sub-regional entities without losing its achievements and standards. For example, in our region, with the potentials and resources available and the fact that a sizable part of the papers has come from the west and middle of Asia, I would suggest to leave part of the responsibility with the scientists in the region. Off course, there need to be or develop some practical formula on have to share these responsibilities and make sure to keep the APJCP/APOCP' merits, standard and continuity. With the help of internet technology and its availability, orientation in the all sub-region of the Asia, I think sharing the AOCB burden can easily be achieved with an acceptable outcome. In regard to this suggestion, we are glad to work out more detailed plan of action and even put such plans on a field test.

**Alireza Mosavi-Jarrahi** and Colleagues, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences & The Cancer Institute Reseach Center, Tehran, Iran

Thanks are also due to Dr Abdulbari Bener, Dept.of Medical Statistics & Epidemiology, Hamad Medical Corporation, Hamad General Hospital, Qatar, Dr Nor Hayati Othman of the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan, Malaysia and Dr Yasmin Bhugri, Karachi Cancer Registry, Karachi, Pakistan, for their kind comments. Such is the chaotic state of the APJCP Editorial Office that I can no longer find where I stored your files. With great apologies.

Malcolm Moore