



APACPH

Newsletter June 2005

President's Welcome



Welcome to the new-look APACPH newsletter. These newsletters will give you some information on current APACPH activities and ways in which you can participate.

The year started in tragedy with the Region reeling in the aftermath of the Tsunami Disaster. Response from APACPH member institutions was swift and support for affected areas has helped to ease some of the suffering. APACPH as an organisation has responded by making the main theme for the 2005 conference in Taipei, Disaster Management. Another APACPH initiative, headed up by staff at the University of Southern California looks at the long term consequences of such a disaster on the population of affected areas. APACPH is investigating a number of other initiatives and will inform members when information becomes available.

This is a very exciting time for APACPH with the Board voting at the Brisbane meeting in favour of registering the organisation as a not-for-profit company in Australia. We are in the final stages of this process which will allow APACPH to be much more competitive for grants and collaborations with international agencies working in the Region. Many members will also notice a change in their subscription payments which will now be based on country Gross Domestic Product. A letter explaining the changes, which will result in a substantial reduction for many members, will be included with your 2005 invoices.

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In this newsletter you will find many calls to get involved. Particular support is requested for:

- Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health at the University of Malaya
- The 2005 Conference in Taipei
- The Cyber University at Yonsei
- The Virtual Library at University of New South Wales

Only by greater involvement of all members will APACPH activities truly reflect the membership. Please disseminate information widely to faculty and staff at your institution and ensure that as many people benefit from your membership as possible. The newsletter is also a way for you to distribute information that will be of interest to APACPH members and others in the Region. For example, events and courses, regional activities being conducted at your institution, requests for research partners and faculty exchange programs could be included. Please send information on any relevant activities by email to sonja@apacph.org

Communication is the key to the success of an organisation such as APACPH, and in this regard I would urge you to complete the APACPH MEMBER UPDATE FORM that is distributed with this newsletter. Completing the form will not only ensure that up to date contact details are maintained, but that information regarding your institution can be accessed via the APACPH website (www.apacph.org). The APACPH website will be undergoing some improvements in the coming months and this updating of membership pages is just one of the changes you will notice.

Enjoy this newsletter, look for ways to get more involved in APACPH activities and I look forward to seeing you in Taipei in November for the 37th APACPH Conference.

Prof Anuar Zaini
President, APACPH

Executive Board Look to the Future of APACPH

The Executive Board (as it will be known under the new structure) met in Kuala Lumpur on 3rd and 4th May 2005. It was a lively meeting that explored many issues concerning APACPH's future structure and activities.

Final arrangements for registration of APACPH as a not-for-profit organisation were discussed and consent forms for the new Directors were tabled. As APACPH moves into an exciting new era, it is recognised that greater transparency and accountability will enhance the standing of APACPH in the international community.

APACPH's response to the Tsunami was a major issue on the agenda, including how to include quality presentations on this topic at the 2005 conference in Taipei. The Executive noted that APACPH is committed to playing its part in the post tsunami recovery period consistent with its mission and objectives. The result of an investigative team visit to Sri Lanka directly after the Executive Meeting can be found in this newsletter and on the APACPH website.

Other major items for discussion were the APACPH Journal, the 2005 Conference, collaborations with international partners and the development of APACPH projects. APACPH members will be kept informed of developments and given the opportunity to become involved as plans progress.

The Executive Board was extremely positive about APACPH's future as a leading public health consortium. With active member participation in the developments proposed, APACPH can look forward to an exciting and rewarding future.

Draft Minutes of the Meeting, including an Executive Summary with Action points can be found on the Member-Only section of the APACPH website (www.apacph.org)

APACPH Delegation Visit Tsunami-Struck Sri Lanka

APACPH Secretary-General Walter Patrick led an APACPH delegation to Tsunami-hit Sri Lanka in May 2005 to assess the devastated area first hand. Among the observations made was the significant resilience of the people of that country when confronted with such an overwhelming disaster. Despite this resilience there was significant stress amongst a population that had lost family and possessions, had inadequate health facilities and a shortfall in healthcare staff in many areas and a massive reconstruction effort is still needed.

National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, India



Left to Right : Drs. Palmer, Johnson, K.R.Thankappan (Achutha Menon Centre, Trivandrum), M. Murhekar and M.D. Gupte (National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai)

Included in the delegation were staff from APACPH new member institution, the University of Southern California (USC) who were there to meet potential research partners for a longitudinal population survey into the effects of the Tsunami Disaster. Prof Andy Johnson and Dr Paula Palmer (USC) also visited an affected area in India for this purpose.

Prof Andy Johnson met with enthusiastic support for his proposal which will look into the mid to long-term affects of the Tsunami Disaster on youth and families. Prof Johnson and Dr Palmer met with victims, community and recovery leaders, and university and institute researchers in both south India and east Sri Lanka.

Butterfly Peace Garden –Batticaloa, Sri Lanka



From Left to Right: Driver, Drs Paula Palmer, Andy Johnson, Father Paul, Carolyn Rouse, Drs Walter Patrick, Ian Rouse, Tomiko Hokama

Preliminary data from the sites will help with the development of the study and researchers and relevant community leaders in both countries are poised to assist the process.

A full report on the feasibility study for the longitudinal survey and updates can be found under 'APACPH Activities' on the APACPH website www.apacph.org

A report on the overall trip including recommendations by Prof Walter Patrick and pictures from the trip can also be accessed through the website.

37th APACPH Conference to Focus on Disaster Management



Plans for the 37th APACPH Conference in Taipei are progressing well with the dates set for 20th - 23rd November 2005. The conference, which is open to APACPH members and non-members alike, will be run in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Health Forum which will facilitate important networking between academics and policy makers. The venue has been set for the Grand Hotel in Taipei, the premier hotel in Taiwan which combines historical architecture with first class conference facilities.

The conference program will encompass a number of public health topics, but the main focus will be on disaster management with particular attention to lessons learnt from the recent Tsunami Disaster.

- * APACPH Executive Board Meeting - Saturday 19th November
- * APACPH General Assembly Meeting - Sunday 20th November
- * Research Paper Writing Workshop (Prof Colin Binns) - Sunday 20th November
- * Conference Program - Monday 21st November - Wednesday 23rd November

APACPH members are strongly encouraged to attend both the business meeting and the conference which promises to provoke lively discussions on the public

health challenges of the region. The Second Announcement, which will include Call for Abstracts and Registration procedures, will be available shortly. Visit the conference website at www.apacph2005.org for updates or send an email to the Conference Secretariat - service@apacph2005.org

Cyber University Encourages Greater APACPH Enrolment

Following the successful completion of the spring semester courses in which 163 students registered, ICUH (International Cyber University for Health) is looking for even greater enrolment from APACPH institution members for its fall semester.

The eight spring semester courses, which were donated by APACPH members, ran from March 7 to May 31, 2005. Student statistics are as follows:

- Bio-statistics (Prof. TR Lee/ Prof. YM Chae/ Prof. CM Nam)	44
- Occupational Health (Prof. Jung Der Wang)	26
- Injury prevention (Prof. We Ta Chiu)	25
- Public Health Nutrition (Prof. Colin Binns)	25
- International Child Health (Prof. Tomiko Hokama)	19
- Consumer Health Informatics (Prof. Jeong Eun Kim)	18
- Systems Analysis and Design in Healthcare (Prof. Young Moon Chae)	29
- Health research methods (Prof. Ian Rouse/ Prof. Helman Alfonso)	56

"These are quality courses and the ICUH are offering them to APACPH institution members for free. I would call on APACPH members to promote the courses within their institution as a way of upgrading skills and expertise in the public health field. I would also encourage APACPH members to donate courses to ICUH to ensure its continuing success," said ICUH Management Committee Chair, Prof Young Moon Chae.

ICUH plans to run the following courses for its fall semester from September 1 to November 30:

- Infectious Disease Management (Shiu Hung Lee, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong)
- Introduction to Health Administration (Ian Rouse, Curtin Univ.)
- Health Informatics (Young Moon Chae, Yonsei Univ.)
- Comparative Health Systems in Asia (Phua, National Univ. of Singapore)
- Healthy City and Healthy School (Albert Lee, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong)
- Introduction to Public Health Nursing (John Casken, Univ. of Hawaii, Jeongeun Kim, Seoul National Univ.)
- Genetic Epidemiology (Sun Ha Ji, Yonsei Univ.)
- Introduction to Health Ethics (HJ Suh, Case Western Univ.)

Any APACPH members who wish to donate courses to the ICUH should contact Prof Young Moon Chae (ymchae@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr). Please visit the ICUH website at <http://icuh.yonsei.ac.kr/> for more information on the fall program.

APACPH President Calls for Greater Promotion of the Journal



The Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health has been published at the University of Malaya for ten years, having come to the Health Research Development Unit (HeRDU) in the Faculty of Medicine in 1995. In that time staff have taken the Journal to new heights, encouraging submissions and nurturing authors from lesser-developed countries and including articles on a whole range of public health issues from across the Region. The Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health is peer-reviewed and is the only English language journal devoted to public health issues of our region. Articles published in APJPH are cited in Index Medicus, NLM Medline, PsycINFO and CINAHL.

Despite the success of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, the environment of heightened competition has made it increasingly difficult to maintain a good flow of articles and this is preventing the Journal from becoming as widely recognised as it deserves. APACPH President and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, Prof Anuar Zaini believes part of the responsibility lies with APACPH members to promote the Journal more widely to their Faculty.

"It should be a basic requirement of APACPH membership that they promote the Journal to their Faculty members. This will include promoting to colleagues who do not have an active association with APACPH, but who wish to publish their research in a Journal that reaches the region as a whole. Only through increased awareness of the Journal and its unique characteristics will we receive enough articles to publish four times a year, which I believe should be our target." Prof Anuar Zaini commented.

The Journal welcomes submission of original articles from within the Region, particularly from developing countries. The editorial board hope that a special pre-conference workshop run by Prof Colin Binns in Taipei in November will encourage these submissions.

The latest edition of the Journal is Volume 17 (1) and has a particular focus on Maternal Care and Malignancies. Volume 17 (2) will be published later in 2005 and will focus on nutritional status and mental health status of children.

Those wishing to submit articles should read the Instructions for Authors carefully (found on the APJPH website: www.apjph.org.my) and send their submission to:

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Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur
Fax: +60-3-7967-5769
Enquiries can be made to apjph@ummc.edu.my or Tel: 60-3-7967-5748

New APACPH Initiatives for 2005

Curriculum Development Network

Following on from the success of the curriculum development symposium and roundtable at last year's Brisbane conference, APACPH is setting up a working group to discuss the issues further. The Working Group will be made up of some of the more prominent contributors to these sessions and from these preliminary discussions it is proposed that an undergraduate Curriculum Development Network be established. Objectives of the Working Group and the Network will likely include the collection of data on the current status of undergraduate education in the region, defining of competencies for undergraduate curricula in public health and providing support for those institutions wishing to offer undergraduate curricula in the future. The progress of this working group will be reported at the Taipei Conference in November.

Early Career Network

The Asia Pacific Early Career Network in Public Health (APECNPH) is currently being created to represent individuals in the Asia Pacific Region who are in the early stages of their Public Health training and at all levels of study (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, post-doctoral, etc) and early career development. APECNPH will promote interaction between APACPH faculty members and these trainees, and will serve to bring awareness to global public health issues while also enhancing and supplementing the educational and mentoring experience of professionals and early trainees in the public health field. APACPH members will be contacted shortly to become involved.

Mahidol Runs Successful Regional Meeting

The APACPH Regional Office at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, held its regional meeting of the South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutes Network (SEAPHEIN) in April 2005. There was representation from Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam, with APACPH members and non-members attending.

The meeting was a good opportunity to update on APACPH activities, including the current courses offered by the Cyber University and APACPH website developments. It was also the chance to highlight the benefits of APACPH membership to those non-members present. Among the regional activities suggested by the network was collaborative research into Avian Flu, Accidents and Injury Prevention and Environmental Health. Short-term faculty exchange for teaching and conducting workshops was also suggested amongst the SEAPHEIN network.

Feedback on how APACPH could best concentrate its efforts indicated that disadvantaged people, disaster relief and information, equity in health care and emerging and reemerging diseases should be a focus. It was believed that APACPH should support joint collaboration and short courses on a regional level.

Mahidol University's activities as a Regional Office of APACPH were recognised by a US\$5,000 grant from APACPH earlier this year.

Virtual Library at UNSW Requests Regional Information

As announced at the APACPH Conference in December, the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) is now hosting a Virtual Public Health Library and aims to make it the leading site for public health information.

The School is now collaborating with UNSW Library, through its specialist Biomedical Library on the further development of the Virtual PH library. The site will undergo a number of changes over the next few months as it is made more user-friendly and an external advisory group is established.

However to enable the PH Library to develop a strong regional focus, UNSW would like to encourage the APACPH member institutions to share country specific resources on a regular basis and to recommend sites generally.

Members who are to help in this way are asked to nominate one or two staff members (preferably an academic and librarian) to be the contact people and to take responsibility for advising on resources. Please send details of nominated representatives to Deborah Raphael D.Raphael@unsw.edu.au.

Members are also encouraged to link their own universities with the Virtual Public Health Library by emailing the administrator at vph@unsw.edu.au

The Library can be visited at <http://vph.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au>

Global Links

The development of global networks is widely recognised as an important step in the process of understanding and addressing public health issues as they affect populations across the globe. APACPH has much to learn from other parts of the world but it can also contribute significantly to the education and research activities carried out in other regions.

With this in mind APACPH has developed a close working relationship with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). Executive Officer, Colin McInnes, visited the ASPHER offices and attended their annual conference and meetings in 2003 and ASPHER reciprocated by presenting at the APACPH Brisbane conference in 2004. The organisations have both participated in on-going discussions on how best they might work more closely together, in the interests of public health education across both regions.

Arising from this developing relationship is a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies. The MOU was approved by the APACPH Executive Board in Kuala Lumpur in May 2005 and the draft has been forwarded to the ASPHER Board for its consideration.

A copy of the draft MOU can be found on the 'Member Only' section of the APACPH website (www.apacph.org)

Profile on....Prof Tomiko Hokama



Prof Tomiko Hokama was promoted to Dean of the Graduate School of Health Science at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan in April 2004, having previously held the position of Head, School of Health Science at the same University. After studying at Okayama University, Tomiko attained her PhD from Kagoshima University and MSc degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Tomiko's research and teaching interests lie in Maternal and Child Health with her most current study focussing on infant anaemia and child development. Her mentors in her professional life have been Honorary Professors K Hirayama and S Takenaka, Professors of Paediatrics and Maternal & Child Health, respectively.

Tomiko first became involved with APACPH in 1992, when the University of the Ryukyus hosted the 18th APACPH Conference. Since then she has become an active member of APACPH, a regular face at APACPH meetings, and a contributor to the curriculum of the International Cyber University for Health at Yonsei University. Tomiko's commitment to APACPH was recognised when she was appointed Vice-President of APACPH at the 2004 Board Meeting in Brisbane. Since then she has attended an Executive meeting in Kuala Lumpur, taken part in an Executive field trip to Sri Lanka and contributed to discussions regarding the 2005 conference in Taipei.

Tomiko's talents are not confined to her academic work. At the Brisbane Conference in 2004, she and two colleagues beautifully performed a traditional Japanese dance. Tomiko is also a keen gardener, cook and enjoys reading.

APACPH Member Updates

Professor Evelyne De Leeuw became Head of the School of Social Development at Deakin University in Australia. Evelyne hopes to become involved in the APACPH organisation and join the Conference in Taipei in November. For further information on the School see <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/hsd/intro.php>, and on Evelyne at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/hsd/staff/index.php?staffid=620>.

Prof Anuar Zaini Md Zaini has left the University of Malaya to head up the new School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Monash University Malaysia. Prof Zaini remains Editor-in-Chief of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health until further notice. Further contact information can be found at http://www.monash.edu.my/staff_email.asp

APACPH Member updates should be sent to sonja@apacph.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Calendar of Events

World Congress of Epidemiology

Date: 21st - 25th August, 2005

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

International Epidemiology Association invites its members and non-members to attend the World Congress of Epidemiology to be held in Bangkok, August 21-25, 2005. Since this congress is designed to promote discussion and exchange of ideas, experiences, technical advances to tackle health challenges posed by dynamic national, regional and global contexts, users of epidemiology, health actors and policy makers will also benefit from attending.

For more information, visit the conference website - <http://wce2005.org/>

2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Health Promotion: Healthy Lifestyle and Healthy Community held in conjunction with 2nd International Conference on Tai Chi Chuan

Date: 5th-6th November, 2005

Venue: Hong Kong, PR China

The CUHK-WHO Collaborating Centre for Sports Medicine and Health Promotion and Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department, with the support of World Health Organization (WHO), International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS), Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) and Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society (CSOS), will host the "2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Health Promotion / 2nd International Conference on Tai Chi Chuan" on November 5-6, 2005. The organizing committee cordially invites you to participate in these two conferences.

For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/whoctr/hptc2005>

Entries for Calendar of Events should be sent to sonja@apacph.org

Useful Resources

Developing capacity in evidence-based public health: teaching and training resources freely available

A number of high quality evidence-based public health training materials and are now freely available. The materials, produced by the 'Promoting and Facilitating Evidence-based Public Health and Health Promotion' project funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP) Innovations Program, focus on using and synthesising evidence in public health and health promotion policy, practice and research settings.

1) Tertiary education (School of Public Health, La Trobe University):

Teaching resources for the post-graduate level subject 'Evidence-based Public Health: knowledge, skills and practice' are now being disseminated. Please access these teaching resources at:

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/publichealth/visitors/visitors_sph.html#ExternalColleagues

2) Systematic reviews of health promotion and public health interventions (The Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field):

A workbook for conducting reviews, train-the-trainer manual, PowerPoint slides and quiz are available from

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/training/index.htm>.

3) Professional Development (The University of Sydney):

A two-day professional development course Evidence-Based Practice in Public Health and Health Promotion has been developed for managers and policy makers. Due to copyright restrictions these materials are not available on the internet but can be provided on request on CD ROM (contact details on project website below).

For more information on this PHERP project, and contact details, please visit

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/Publishing.nsf/Content/pherp-innovations-31.htm>. We hope you find the materials useful and welcome any comments you may have. It is also extremely useful for us to know when and where you have used the materials, what has worked and what could be improved.

Contact

For further information on any of the items mentioned in the newsletter, to include items for the next newsletter, or to enquire on any APACPH-related business, please contact:

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