

President's Welcome



Since I wrote to you on 9 January, 2007 there have been a number of developments which I would like to bring to your attention.

On behalf of all APACPH members, I would like to express a special welcome to Mr. Desmond Gul. Desmond has been appointed as our new administrative person in the APACPH Secretariat now that it has been relocated to Monash University from the Queensland University of Technology. We look forward to working with him as APACPH moves into many exciting ventures in the future.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Wahyun Low, of the University of Malaya, as the new Editor of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health.

Professor Low's appointment will run from 2008 - 2012, concurrent with our contract with Sage Publications, Inc. I have asked Professor Low to provide me with some recommendations relating to the restructuring of the Editorial Board. I look forward to meeting with Professor Low and other colleagues at the University of Malaya when I visit Kuala Lumpur in late March. These proposals will be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Board, which may be held in Indonesia in July.

In this Issue

page

- 2 Background: APACPH**
- 2 Changes at the Directorate Office**
- 3 38th APACPH 2006 Conference Overview**
- 3 APACPH announces new Journal Editor**
- 4 39th APACPH Conference, Japan**
- 4 2nd Early Career Workshop a Success**
- 4 New Courses for 2007 Spring semester at ICUH**
- 5 New Doctoral Course in Health Sciences at the University of Ryukyus, Japan**
- 5-6 Calendar of Events**
- 6 Contact**

Professor Walter Patrick, as Chair of the Membership Committee, has forwarded a comprehensive report to me on Membership Issues. Professor Patrick has made some excellent recommendations for support of LDC member countries and suggested recruitment plans for the period 2007-2008. This report will be a major agenda item for our next Executive Board meeting.

In relation to membership, I was very pleased to receive a message from Professor Alistair Woodward, Head of the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, informing me that the university will be submitting a formal application for membership of APACPH. I also look forward to completing the membership process in the near future from universities in Taiwan, Bangladesh, Canada and the United States of America.

At some time in the near future, I look forward to meeting with Professors Andy Johnson and Paula Palmer at the University of Southern California, to discuss ways in which we can move ahead with establishing our new Regional Office of the Americas which will be located at USC. Also, I will be submitting our formal application for a memorandum of association to be established with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the US, based on the decision of the Executive Board in Bangkok. It will not be long before we meet again at our 2007 conference at Kagawa Nutrition University in Japan. Plans are well under way for this to be a very exciting and enjoyable occasion.

I will write to you again with further news after the next meetings of the Management Committee and the Executive Board.

With best wishes.



Dr Richard F. Southby Ph.D., F.F.P.H., F.C.H.S.E., F.R.S.M., F.C.L.M. (Hon)
President, Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health

Background: The Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health

APACPH is a consortium of over 50 public health institutions in 18 countries across the Region. The Vision of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of all the people of the nations of the Asia-Pacific region. APACPH aims to enhance Regional capacity to improve the quality of life and to address major public health challenges through the delivery of education, research and population health services by member institutions.

APACPH supports activities that forward its five main objectives:

- (i) To enhance the quality and relevance of educational and training programs in public health;
- (ii) To expand knowledge, improve skills and demonstrate effective interventions;
- (iii) To raise awareness of current, emerging, and re-emerging public health issues and develop programs of action for their resolution;
- (iv) To enhance the capacity and sustainability of public health systems;
- (v) To assist in policy and leadership development for health;

APACPH has five Regional Offices, holds an Annual conference on a topical public health issue and publishes the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, the only English language journal of its type in the Region.

Changes at the Directorate Office

Relocation of Directorate Office

Following the appointment of the Honorary Secretary Professor Brian Oldenburg as Chair of International Public Health at Monash University, the APACPH Directorate office has now been relocated from QUT, Brisbane to Monash University in Melbourne.

The new address for the APACPH Directorate Office is now:

C/- Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine
 Monash University
 89 Commercial Rd, Level 3
 Alfred Hospital, Melbourne
 VIC 3004, Australia
 Tel: +61 3 9903 0140
 Fax: +61 3 9903 0556
 Email: brian.oldenburg@med.monash.edu.au or desmond@apacph.org

The website remains www.apacph.org



Change of Staff Member

We also say goodbye to Sonja Firth who has been the coordinator at APACPH for the last 4 years. We thank her for all her work to bring APACPH to where it is now. Her role will be taken over by Desmond Gul.

Desmond is originally from Singapore and moved to Auckland to do his university studies where he graduated with a Masters in Medical Science. He then went on to work for the Health Research Council of New Zealand as the Public Health Research Coordinator. After living in Auckland for 11 years, he moved to Melbourne where he is now assisting Professor Brian Oldenburg with international matters at the new International Public Health Unit at Monash University. The coordination of APACPH affairs has subsequently come under his portfolio.

He has an interest in health and well-being as well as learning about new cultures and languages. He speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, French and Spanish and is currently learning Japanese.

38th APACPH Conference 2006 Overview



Congratulations to A/Prof Chalermchai Chaikittiporn and A/Prof Nawarat Suwannapong and their team from the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University on the success of last year's APACPH conference in Bangkok, Thailand (3-6 December 2006).

In keeping with the conference theme "**Partnership for Human Security and Health**", delegates had the opportunity to refresh relations and establish new connections. Over 600 delegates from 51 countries participated in the conference.

A lively and varied program and spectacular social events made this a truly memorable conference.

The Conference Program ran over 3 ½ days (including pre-conference

workshops) and provided a varied and stimulating experience for participants. Awards were presented to **Professor Emeritus Dr Prawase Wasi** (APACPH Excellence in Leadership Medallion) and to **Professor Emeritus Dr Prasert Thongcharoen** (APACPH Public Health Recognition Award) for their contribution to public health in the Region.

Proceedings commenced with the Annual Executive Board and General Assembly Meetings of APACPH.

At the Executive Board Meeting, two new Regional Directors were appointed to the Executive Board. The new Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, **A/Prof Phitaya Jarupoonphol** took over as Director of the Thailand Regional Office. **Prof Masamine Jimba**, newly appointed to Professor of International Health at the University of Tokyo became Director of the Regional Office, Japan. APACPH would like to thank previous Regional Directors for Thailand and Japan, **A/Prof Chalermchai Chaikittiporn** and **Prof Susumu Wakai** for their service to APACPH.

There was an excellent turn-out to the General Assembly, with representation from 35 APACPH member institutions from fifteen countries. **Victoria University**, represented by Prof Ian Rouse, was inducted into the APACPH membership. Matters for discussion at the General Assembly Meeting included APACPH's new strategic plan, the new committee structure, future of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health and APACPH's Early Career Network.

Five Executive officers were elected at the APACPH General Assembly meeting in line with APACPH's constitution. **Prof Brian Oldenburg** (Monash University, Australia) and **Prof Ian Rouse** (Victoria University, Australia) were re-elected to the positions of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. **Prof Tomiko Hokama** (University of the Ryukyus, Japan) and **Prof Young Moon Chae** (Yonsei University, Korea) were elected to the positions of First and Second Vice-President respectively. A resolution to incorporate a new position into the APACPH constitution was passed at the General Assembly and **Prof Walter Patrick** was elected to the position of Secretary-General. All officers will serve two years.

Minutes for the APACPH Executive Board Meeting and General Assembly Meeting will be posted shortly on the APACPH website - www.apacph.org - under the '**Members Only**' section.

APACPH Announces New Journal Editor

An agreement has been reached with Sage Publishing who will take over the publication of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health on behalf of APACPH from 2008 onwards.

Sage Publishing is a global publisher with many titles in the social, behavioural and health sciences area. They have offices in the US, London and New Delhi and are establishing an office in Singapore. They publish hard copy and on-line through 'Highwire press', one of the best publishing platforms in the world, and see the APACPH Journal as having unlimited growth potential with the global explosion of research capacity.

Following the call for nominations for a new Journal Editor, the Board has made their decision and appointed **Prof Wahyun Low** at the University of Malaya as the new Editor for the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health. We would like to express our thanks to **Prof Anuar Zaini** who will stand down as Editor-in-Chief after many years of service.

The journal will also maintain its intention to publish four issues per year and the Editorial Office will continue to be based at the University of Malaya. All submissions for the Journal should continue to be sent to:

Managing Editor, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health
 Health Research and Development Unit (HeRDU)
 Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA
 Fax: +603 7967 5769 Tel: 603 7967 5748 Email: apjph@ummc.edu.my
 Website: www.apjph.org.my

39th APACPH Conference, Japan



The **39th APACPH Conference - Lifestyle Related Disease Prevention: The Challenge for Nutrition and Public Health** - will be held from **21-25 November** at **Kagawa Nutrition University** in Sakado City, Saitama prefecture, Japan.

The Call for Abstracts will be announced shortly.

Please visit the conference website for the latest news on the program, abstract submission, registration and general information - **www.apacph2007.org**

2nd Early Career Network Workshop a Success

In December 2006 at the annual APACPH conference in Bangkok, Thailand, the APACPH Early Career Network (ECN) hosted its second workshop entitled '**Practical Research Skills in resource poor settings: chronic disease surveillance, capacity building and community mobilization to improve public health**'. From all over the world, primarily the Asia Pacific Region, public health students, early career professionals, doctoral students as well as medical students decorated the room to hear from **Dr. Ruth Bonita** -former Director of Surveillance of Chronic Diseases at the WHO, Geneva and **Dr K.R. Thankappan** from the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Health Science Studies in Kerala, India.

Not only did participants have a chance to meet one another, but attendees also participated in interactive discussions around chronic disease and ways to equip and become equipped to address the health needs in their respective countries. Dr. Bonita and Dr. Thankappan created space for workshop attendees to actively participate in formulating and sharing ideas about addressing the most pressing health issues. Overall, after the workshop, participants were well informed and appreciated the wealth of knowledge and body of information that both Dr. Bonita and Dr. Thankappan offered.

A follow-up meeting of those workshop participants who were interested in playing a more significant role in the development of ECN was held during the conference. Committees were formed and tasks allocated to better streamline the network and distribute responsibility across the countries that ECN serves. The ECN development committee, as a whole, has already begun discussing and planning for the next APACPH Conference to be held in Japan. Publishing a dedicated ECN newsletter, raising financial support for ECN and facilitating ECN workshops are other areas of activity.

To register for the Early Career Network email Sonja Firth at **s.firth@qut.edu.au**

You can also visit the website to find out more about the network - **http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network**

New Courses for 2007 Spring semester at ICUH

In collaboration with APACPH, the International Cyber University for Health (ICUH) was established in May 2004 to provide public health education in the Asia-Pacific region via a distance online learning program, offered free of charge to those who seek information on the discipline of Public Health, education and networking opportunities, research and public health programs. Lectures are conducted by invited internationally renowned experts and the courses are run on a credit exchange program that may serve the academic needs of graduate students. Credits earned by ICUH students are formally recognised and are counted towards a degree in the Master of Public Health. Universities under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement will also allow the transference of course credits to the student's respective university. Currently MOUs have been signed with the University of Ryukyus in Japan, Health Science University in Mongolia, Yanbian University in China and National Taiwan University in Taiwan.

Courses for Spring Semester 2007:

- System Analysis and Design in Healthcare (available in Mongolian)
- Epidemiology (Available in Mongolian)
- Introduction to Health Economics
- Biostatistics
- Occupational Health
- International Child Health

All courses will be conducted in English. However, two courses will be offered in Mongolian for this coming semester. It is envisaged that more courses in other languages will be planned for the future.

For registration forms and more information, please visit the website **<http://icuh.yonsei.ac.kr>** or contact Bernard Tan Cheng Meng at **bernardtancm@gmail.com**

New Doctoral Course in Health Sciences at the University of Ryukyus, Japan

The Graduate School of Health Sciences at the University of Ryukyus, Japan has recently gained approval from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan to establish a Doctoral Program which will commence its first intake of students in April 2007.

The Graduate School of Health Sciences consists of two sections: the divisions of Human Health Promotion, and Islands and Global Health Science for human health and environmental problems. There are two aims in the Graduate School. The first is to produce highly specialized health professionals who possess the ability to find solutions to health problems within characteristics of Okinawa's history, subtropical climate, and the culture of its many islands, and to take on leadership in the education and research fields. The second is to produce people with creativity and international sense who possess the ability to exchange and to find solutions to health problems in Asian and Pacific countries. We will accept students from Asian and Pacific Island countries as well as from all over the world.

The entrance examination for the Graduate School will be carried out on February 28, 2007. We hope that students and members of universities belong to APACH will take up the challenge set by in our Graduate School.

For further information, please contact:

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207 Uehara, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0215, Japan
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Calendar of Events

XVIII World Congress of the WAS, 1st World Congress for Sexual Health

Date: 15 - 19 April 2007
Location: Sydney, Australia
Website: <http://www.sexo-sydney-2007.com>

The World Association of Sexual Health (WAS) has hosted 17 International Congresses with the most recent in Montreal in 2005. Attracting thousands of participants from around the world the Congress will be coming to Sydney for the first time in 2007.

Global Health Summit II 2007

Date: 3 June 2007
Location: Cincinnati, Ohio, United States
Website: <http://www.coausphsconference.org/related/globalhealthdiplomacy.cfm>

The Planning Committee for Global Health Summit II: "Improving Global Health and Safety Through Diplomacy" has unveiled the preliminary agenda for the event, which will be held June 3, 2007 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The committee also has announced a Call for Posters on related themes. Visit www.coausphsconference.org/related/globalhealthdiplomacy.cfm for details on the agenda and the Call for Posters. One of the primary targets of the event will be to identify effective strategies for increasing the capacity of health professionals, as well as academia, the media, the uniformed services, legislators and other opinion makers, to contribute to the positive results of health diplomacy.

The 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education

Date: June 11 - 15 2007
Location: Vancouver, Canada
Website: <http://www.iuhpeconference.org/>

"Health Promotion Comes of Age: Research, Policy & Practice for the 21st Century"

The themes of the conference are:

- Reducing health inequities
- Assets for health and development
- Enabling systems transformations
- Assessing the effectiveness of health promotion

Calendar of Events cont.

4th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers

Date: 13-20 August 2007

Location: Trivandrum, Kerala

Website: www.ccghr.ca

The Canadian Coalition is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 4th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers, to be held in partnership with the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala, India. Please visit the CCGHR website for more information, including the guidelines and application.

For a more comprehensive listing of Calendar of Events visit the APACPH website - www.apacph.org - 'Events'

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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