

### President's Welcome



It is only a month before our 2007 Conference in Japan and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at this time. I am especially grateful to Professor Yasuo Kagawa and his Organizing Committee for their tremendous work over many months preparing this series of exciting activities.

In looking back over the past two years, APACPH has developed and implemented some important initiatives. We have a Strategic Plan, our committees have been restructured, new members have been admitted, the agreement has been signed with Sage Publications to publish our journal, and the Secretariat has been relocated within Australia. There is, however, still quite a lot of 'unfinished business' and I hope that this can be dealt with satisfactorily in the near future. Our procedures for admitting new members, for example, can be improved so that the time from application, review of

qualifications, the official site visit and formal admission as a member can be shortened. I am very aware of the importance of maintaining our high standards but at the same time we must make sure that the process moves more quickly so that potential member institutions are not discouraged. I am also aware that we are an organization of volunteers, all having many other demands on our time.

As we move forward, however, I think it is important to remind ourselves that we are primarily an 'academic consortium'. Our contributions to improving the health of people in the Asia-Pacific Region are derived from the intellectual and professional resources of our member institutions. These resources are extensive, varied, and strengthened by the broad representation of the membership. We can be very proud of our contributions over the years in curriculum development; short courses; the application of research to health planning, policy development and problem solving; the provision of practical assistance following disasters such as the Tsunami; and the strong emphasis and support on mentoring public health students and young professionals throughout the region. I hope that all these activities, and many more, will continue to thrive under the 'APACPH Banner' in the future.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you as President these past two years. I wish all of you continued success in your endeavors to improve public health in this important region of the world in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Dr Richard F. Southby  
President, APACPH

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## *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.

## *APACPH Member Reminders*

- **Draft Minutes from General Assembly Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 3 December 2006**  
These Minutes can now be downloaded from the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website - [www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)
- **Annual Subscription Payments**  
The Directorate Office would like to thank those members who have paid their subscription on time. Members who have yet to pay their subscriptions, please contact the Directorate Office to arrange for payment. Non-paying members will not be allowed to vote at the General Assembly in Japan this year.
- **APACPH General Assembly 2007**  
This will be held on 22 November 2007, the day before our APACPH Conference in Saitama, Japan
- **APACPH Conference 2007 - 23-25 November 2007 - Saitama, Japan**  
Logon to the conference website [www.apacph2007.org](http://www.apacph2007.org) for updates
- **Member Update forms**  
Please complete the 'Member Update form' (found on the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website) and return to the Directorate Office for inclusion on your Member Institution page on the website.

For more information or to advise of a change of details at your institution, contact Desmond Gul at the APACPH Directorate Office - Email: [desmond@apacph.org](mailto:desmond@apacph.org)

## *Changes in APACPH Membership*

**Prof Ann Taket** has taken over the role of **Head of School of Health and Social Development** at **Deakin University**, Melbourne, Australia. She also holds a chair in Health and Social Exclusion within the School of Health and Social Development, and is Director of the Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion (CHASE).

**Prof Evelyne de Leeuw** is now **Associate Dean (Development)** in the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences at Deakin University.

For information on joining APACPH please contact Desmond Gul at the Directorate office - [desmond@apacph.org](mailto:desmond@apacph.org)

## APACPH Conference, Saitama, Japan - Update

Preparations for the conference have been getting intense as we come closer to November. In about 3 weeks time, APACPH will have its 39th annual conference at Kagawa Nutrition University. The full conference program has now been confirmed. 2 new sessions have been added. They are "Roundtable Session on Undergraduate Public Health Training & Education" and "The Public Challenges & Health Legacy of the Beijing Olympic Games". Please visit the conference website [www.apacph2007.org](http://www.apacph2007.org) for full program details.

Dr. Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of WPRO WHO, has accepted the invitation to open the conference. He will also be giving his opening address at the conference Opening Ceremony. During this occasion, the new APACPH Journal will also be officially launched. Editors of the journal will also be present for anyone who would like to have a chat with them.

The shuttle buses between the hotels in Kawagoe area and the National Women's Education Center and the Conference venue will run during the conference period. If you have not registered your hotel accommodations, please confirm your reservation through the conference website. See you soon in Japan!



The 39th  
Conference of the Asia-Pacific  
Academic Consortium for Public Health  
(APACPH) 2007



<http://www.apacph2007.org>

November 21-25, 2007

KAGAWA NUTRITION UNIVERSITY (Joshi Eiyo Daigaku), Sakado City,  
Saitama Prefecture, Japan

Lifestyle-related Diseases Prevention:  
The Challenge for Nutrition and Public Health

## APACPH's New Members

This year at the General Assembly meeting on November 22nd, we will welcome 2 more members into APACPH. They are BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Tzu Chi Medical University, Hualien, Taiwan.

Members are reminded that there will be a formal induction ceremony of new members in academic dress (Cap & Gown) to be conducted in the morning session of the General Assembly. Assembly members are invited to participate in this ceremony in academic dress and a group photograph of attendees will be taken.

### Profile of New Members:

#### BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dean: **Prof Mushtaque Chowdhury**

Located in the city of Dhaka, this institution has a faculty of 31 members and offers MPH programs of study. It has affiliation with a number of national and international institutions located in the US, UK, Sweden and the Netherlands. It has plans to develop diploma and doctoral training programs as well as setting up a centre for health system management. Some of its special focus include:

- Health needs of the developing world in the face of traditional health problems and poverty
- Health problems associated with changes in life style
- Ensuring health equity among vulnerable groups
- Pedagogical techniques of Problem-Based Experiential learning

Through APACPH, BRAC University hopes to extend links with other public health institutes in the region and to transfer lessons learned into local context.

#### Department of Public Health, Tzu Chi Medical University, Hualien Taiwan

Chair: **A/Prof Lih-Ming Yiin**

The Department has about 10 faculty members and offers courses to about 200 students. The department has affiliation with the Public Health Association in Taiwan. Some of its special focus include:

- Health policy and management
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Environmental health
- Health education and promotion

Through APACPH, Tzu Chi University hopes to improve the quality of their public health education programs and to enhance academic opportunities for their faculty and students.

## *Public Health in Higher Education: Plans for a Healthier Asia Pacific Rim*

Submitted by Dr Elahe Nezami

Public health awareness and improved health care service are growing priorities for communities around the world, and the Asia Pacific region is no exception. Globalization continues to change the landscape of international relations, commerce, and travel. As members of more regions come into contact with one another, new public health challenges will inevitably arise. As such, public health officials are seeking ways to be better prepared for the unknown, and to educate citizens about health behaviors that will decrease new incidences of chronic disease. The countries of the Asia Pacific region can begin collaborating to improve the region's public health by using a powerful tool: education. Broadening the reach of public health, epidemiology, and global health education to the undergraduate level will be great progress toward a shared vision of health and wellness. A new generation of citizens will have expanded knowledge of health issues and practices. Many among them will become educators, public health workers, and government officials who can change the way public health service and education is thought about and delivered throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Members of APACPH who participate in several other public health education networks have been a part of planning and implementation efforts to create undergraduate public health education curricula in the United States. Based on the initial success of such efforts in the U.S., organizations are working to expand the undergraduate education efforts worldwide. Because APACPH membership draws such a wide array of highly competent and motivated individuals from a variety of influential organizations and institutions, collaborating to implement a cutting edge idea seems the natural next step to take.

The Asia Pacific region needs more public health workers for the demands of its immense population. Currently, there are not enough individuals who have earned MPH degrees to provide for the public health workload of the region. The potential exists for significant improvement in the public health and health education workforce. If bachelor's programs or certificate programs in public health, epidemiology, and health promotion and education became available to students, many could join the workforce upon graduation and alleviate issues caused by an insufficient number of qualified employees for the needs of the region.

Beyond merely preparing public health workers, however, implementing undergraduate public health education serves a far more practical purpose. By making a public health class a general requirement for those pursuing bachelor's degrees at universities throughout the region, the level of knowledge about health issues, health-promoting behaviors, and health risks of the population at large will immediately improve. The study of public health and epidemiology at the undergraduate level will grant students an understanding of the most basic public health concepts. Even if these students go on to industries other than public health, they will still be armed with the new knowledge that will hopefully influence their patterns of health behavior.

The capacity to create a network of undergraduate public health programming in the Asia Pacific region exists. It is now up to APACPH to create the infrastructure to do so successfully, and to guide the programming implementation in a manner that will be of the most benefit to all involved. Public health, after all, is a matter of global importance. The Roundtable Interactive Discussion at the Conference is designed to allow for brainstorming, and the initial phases of planning the vision of undergraduate public health education in the region. Together APACPH can educate and prepare leaders to grow and advance the field so that all may gain from the organization's teamwork.

### **Roundtable Interactive Discussion - Undergraduate public health training and education in the Asia Pacific Region**

**Held during the APACPH Conference in Japan - Friday, November 23rd – 12.50-2.10pm**

**Chair:** Dr. Elahe Nezami, University of Southern California,  
**Co-Chairs:** Professor Brian Oldenburg, Monash University,  
A/Prof Pimpan Silpasuwan, Mahidol University

## *University of Colombo Student Attachment in Melbourne*

3 medical students from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka were at Monash University recently (24 September - 12 October) on a 3 week elective programme to learn more about public health as part of the medical education. They were guided by Prof Brian Oldenburg and Academic Mentor Dr Stephen Bunker from the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. While at Monash, they interacted with various researchers, staff members and students and visited a number of public health care organisations and centres. Their topic of work while in Australia was "Prevention and management of chronic disease (eg. diabetes and heart disease): Lessons learned from Australia for Sri Lanka". Below is their story:

### **Elective at Monash: An experience of a lifetime.**

Submitted by Isuru Liyanage, Randi Caldera and Ashan Pathirana (University of Colombo)

Elective, we knew was going to be one of the highlights of our medical career and today as we approach the end of our elective appointment we are delighted to say that, indeed it was. Discussions on what we wanted to do and where we wanted to go to do our elective started almost one year back when we had our first ever glimpse into international public health at the 38 th APACPH conference in Bangkok, Thailand. While exploring our opportunities we were stunned to hear from Prof. Brian Oldenburg inviting us to do our elective under his guidance at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Australia. We could not have asked for anything better, to do our elective in a world renowned University situated in one of the most developed countries in the world. This is our story.....

Apart from the cold weather, the first thing that we noticed when we landed in Australia was its friendly, cheerful people who were extremely helpful. Throughout our stay we met many people from different institutes, different parts of the country, and people who have specialised in various public health specialities but no matter how famous they are or how qualified they are, all of them had the time to say hi, and offer their help.

Everything was new to us, and everyday was a whole new experience teaching us something brand new. The places we visit, the people we met, and everything else that Mother Nature had to offer down under was a blessing because we had only 3 weeks to experience it all.

The best experience for us was to get to know how things are done in a high-resource country where resources are plentiful and the need for compromise is minimal. We had the opportunity to experience many chronic disease prevention strategies practiced in Australia that are alien to us. Even though they cannot be directly applied to a low resource Sri Lankan context, the ideas behind the strategies were innovative and simple and that enabled us to always analyse these strategies with the idea of modifying them to suit our country.

Everything we learned and everything we did during the last 3 weeks will be an inspiration to us in all our future endeavours and more than anything this will give us the capacity to make a difference (if the opportunity is given) for the betterment of Sri Lanka.

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to all the people at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine who helped us make this dream a reality. Prof. Brian, Dr. Steve, and Desmond thank you so much for going out of your way to make time for us in your busy schedules and to guide us during the course of our attachment.



Sri Lankan students (from L to R) Ashan Pathirana, Randi Caldera and Isuru Liyanage, together with Dr Stephen Bunker

## *American Public Health Association Grant Award Program*

### **American Public Health Association - International Health Section Award Program, sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive**

Community-Based Field Research Grants to Young Faculty and Students at Schools of Public Health for Behavioral Hygiene Promotion and Global Health

The International Health Section of APHA in collaboration with Colgate Palmolive is pleased to announce the third round of a small grants program to support young faculty and students in schools of public health or tertiary institutions with an established public health program to carry out community-based field research in behavioral hygiene. These competitive grants will be awarded for community-based research projects investigating the role of hygiene (especially hand washing with soap) in personal and community health and infection control, including investigations about the knowledge of proper hygiene habits, hygiene motivation and behavior change. The research should focus on mothers, families and children in resource-poor settings. Each award will be in the range of \$10,000 - \$15,000. A total of \$30,000 is available to support this initiative each year.

Awards will be made on the basis of merit as determined on independent review by 5 senior reviewers. Three awards will be made, with preference being given to projects to be carried out in one of the following countries: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique, or the United States. The U.S. investigation would need to focus on migrant or immigrant populations. Awards will be made through schools of public health or tertiary institutions with an established public health program. The institution concerned can be based in the United States or in another country as long as the field research is carried out in one of the above countries or another developing country, if the proposal is of superior merit. Those projects which are funded will be presented and/or recognized at the annual meeting of APHA at the World Federation of Public Health meeting there.

APHA, working in collaboration with the Working Group on Community-Based Primary Health Care of the International Health Section, will take responsibility for administering the program. This round of the competition is formally announced with this notice. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 17 November 2007, with funded projects beginning on 1 February 2008.

Only proposals submitted according to the guidelines will be accepted. These guidelines can be obtained from **Morgan Taylor - [morgan.taylor@apha.org](mailto:morgan.taylor@apha.org)**

For further information and submission of proposals, contact **Dr Paul Freeman - [freeman.p.a@att.net](mailto:freeman.p.a@att.net)**

## *APACPH Announces Mini-Grant Program*

### **APACPH Announces a Mini-Grant Program to Support Research and Training**

APACPH will be requesting proposals for mini-grants to stimulate innovative research and training projects. Awards will range from US\$1000 to support student dissertations to up to US\$5,000 for research projects and training and capacity building activities. Preference will be given to proposals with lead investigators from low and middle developing nations and those that are interdisciplinary and involve multiple APACPH institutions. Grantees will have up to 12 months to complete the funded projects with possibility of a six month extension. All grantees will be expected to submit an abstract based on project findings for the next APACPH conference, utilize data to the extent possible to seed additional grants, and publish their findings.

Application forms and detailed instructions will be made available on the APACPH website soon.

Further details will be announced during the General Assembly meeting at the Tokyo conference.

## *Admiral Jerrold M Michael Fellowship in Public Health Education*

The founding Dean of the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health, **Dr Jerrold M. Michael**, has been honored by the establishment of a Fellowship in his name dedicated to the graduate education in public health for career officers in the United States Public Health Service. The Fellowship has been established by the **Public Health Service Commissioned Officer Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health**, located in Washington, DC.

Before beginning his 36 year career as a public health academic, Dr. Michael served for 20 years in the Federal career service of the United States, attaining the post of Assistant Surgeon General of the United States with the rank of Rear Admiral. He subsequently served for 25 years on the faculty of The School of Public Health at the University of Hawaii, the majority of that time as its Dean. He later retired from that post and for the past eleven years has been an Adjunct Professor of Global Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, in Washington, DC.

In the announcing the **Admiral Jerrold M. Michael Fellowship**, the Foundation noted that *"This was an appropriate manner to celebrate Professor Michael's long and distinguished career as an advocate for advanced public health education to better serve the global community."*

## *Public Health Law Series 2007 at CUHK*

The **School of Public Health** and the **School of Law** at **The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)** will be jointly organising a series in public health law from October to November 2007. The series has three main parts:

**1. Short Course in Public Health Law**  
**Dates: 27 October - 19 November**

In this public health law certificate course, participants will learn about the role of lawyers and the law in the public health arena. They will look at how the law regulates public health, how the government can apply public health interventions, and how the global community can influence public health worldwide.

**2. The School of Public Health Annual Symposium: The Law and the Public's Health: Current Challenges**  
**Date: 17 November, 2-5pm**

International speakers including Prof. Lawrence O Gostin, Faculty Director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law of the Georgetown University Law Center and others from the UK, Australia, and Hong Kong will be giving presentations on current issues concerning the law and public health.

**3. The First Public Health Genetic Foundation Annual Lecture in Hong Kong**  
**Date: 19 November, 6.30-8.30pm**

Prof. Lawrence O Gostin from Georgetown University, USA, has been invited to speak at this Open Lecture, which is co-organised by the CUHK School of Public Health and the Department of Community Medicine at The University of Hong Kong.

For more information or for enquiries on the series, please visit the CUHK School of Public Health website at [www.sph.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.sph.cuhk.edu.hk) or e-mail [sph\\_info@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sph_info@cuhk.edu.hk).

## *Short Courses Offered by APACPH Members*

CUHK School of Public Health is pleased to offer two short courses in health economics which will be given by senior staff members of the **Health Economics Research Centre** at the **University of Oxford**. The details of the courses are as follows:

### **1. Introduction to Health Economic Evaluation**

This one-day introductory course will lay down solid foundations in evaluating health care interventions from an economic perspective. It will start by establishing basic health economic concepts, move on to the measurement of costs and outcomes, and finish with the application of cost-effective analyses in decision-making. The course is particularly suitable for health care managers, researchers, pharmaceutical and medical technology industries. Participants are not required to have a previous knowledge of economics.

Dates:

6 November School of Public Health, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

12 November Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention

### **2. Advanced Methods of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis**

This is a hands-on, computer-based course that will run over three days, and will involve exercises and individual tutoring as well as lectures. It aims to instruct participants in practical health economic evaluation, and will include modules on decision analysis, cost analysis, and the analysis of health outcomes. The training will be ideal for health service managers, health economists and health sector researchers. While participants will need to know the basic methodologies for economic evaluation, and be familiar with Excel, prior experience in using the decision analysis software is not required.

Dates:

8 – 10 November School of Public Health, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

All courses will be taught in English. Participants will receive a certificate following the completion of the course. For more information, please visit **www.herc.ox.ac.uk**. Inquiries and bookings can be made online, or by e-mail to **herc@dphpc.ox.ac.uk**.

## *International Health Course*

### **Master of International Research Bioethics**

Based at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, this is an interdisciplinary program covering comparative moral theory, research bioethics in an international setting, critical appraisal techniques and relevant law. Particular emphasis is given to ethical issues associated with research in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Some fully funded places are available for students.

For more information, please contact **A/Prof Bebe Loff** at **bebe.loff@med.monash.edu.au**



## Calendar of Events

### Asian European Clinical Epidemiology Program

#### Diagnostic Research: Theory & Practice

Date: 20 - 22 November 2007

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Website: <http://spm.ummc.edu.my/clinepid.htm>

3-day workshop taught by faculty from the Julius Center for Health Science and Primary Care, University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands. This workshop will cover methods for interpreting and analysing diagnostic test results and designing diagnostic research.

### 39th APACPH Conference

Date: 23 - 25 November 2007

Location: Saitama, Japan

Website: <http://www.apacph2007.org>

### Asia Pacific EcoHealth Conference

Date: 30 November - 3 December 2007

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Website: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/events/ecohealth2007/>

Unsustainable living, climate change and disassociation from nature are beginning to take their toll and will create disastrous repercussions for human health and survival if they are not addressed in the near future.

The Asia Pacific EcoHealth Conference will showcase the latest research and contribute to the development of partnerships that will create opportunities for new strategies to address this looming crisis. Professionals from the social and biological sciences including health promotion, environmental health, sociology, urban planning, economics, conservation, environmental management and environmental policy will be able to share knowledge and ideas.

### 4th Asia Pacific Congress of Heart Failure

Date: 31 January - 3 February 2008

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Website: <http://www.apchf.com.au>

### International Epidemiological Association - 9th South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting

Date: 9 - 12 February 2008

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Website: <http://www.iea-rsmsea2008.org>

For a more comprehensive listing of Calendar of Events visit the APACPH website - [www.apacph.org](http://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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