

# The Bulletin of the AFPA

# The Winter 2020 Issue



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#### AFPA President's Messages

Welcome to the winter 2020 issue of *the Bulletin of the Asian Federation of Asian Psychiatric Associations* and let me begin by wishing all of you a happy new year and best wishes for 2020.

Here in Australia it has been a somewhat challenging start for the new year with very severe bushfires effecting large parts of the country involving the destruction of over 5.7 million hectares of land and with the loss of around 30 lives. But I equally realise within a relatively short period, we have also seen volcanic eruptions in the Phillipines and New Zealand 2020 JSPN annual meeting in Sendai in June 2020......9 World Congress of WPA in Bangkok in October 2020...9 CINP World Congress in Taipei in June 2020......16

as well as floods in Indonesia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Besides, we are witnessing the coronavirus epidemic in China and many parts of AFPA regions. This period has reinforced to me how clearly disasters and their mental health consequences are a part of our Asian landscape. I would like to express what I am sure is our mutual support to those effected by those events and our desire to help our colleagues however we can in working through recovery. Of course, there are many commonalities in how we should respond to such events, as well as issues specific to each event. I would recommend that this is an important continuing area of work for the AFPA, sharing our experiences, advocating for the importance of mental health for communities effected by those events and most importantly supporting each other.

Since last I wrote I want to acknowledge the many important events that have occurred in our member organisations. I would particularly like to acknowledge the 50th Anniversary of National Institute of Mental Health recognition during the Institute's 11th Annual Scientific Conference in October in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Vietnam Psychiatric association has long been an important member and contributor to AFPA and I wish to congratulate them on this anniversary and look forward to continuing our close association. I am looking forward to attending the Annual National Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society in January 2020 in Kolkata and reacquainting with many good friends from India. I am also very pleased to be able to recognise that the 2021 Congress of the Royal Australian and New Zealand

#### The Bulletin of the AFPA

#### A newsletter for the Asian Federation of

**Psychiatric Association**<sup>®</sup>

Web site address: www.afpa.asia Publisher: Malcolm J. Hopwood \* \*Corresponding address: 31-33 Albert Road, Melbourne VIC 3004, Australia E-mail: Malcolm J. Hopwood <mhopwood@unimelb.edu.au>

Editor: Winston W. Shen\*\*

\*\*Corresponding address: Taipei Medical University-Wan Fang Medical Center, 111, Section 3, Hsing Long Road, Taipei 116, Taiwan

E-mail: Winston W. Shen <Shenwinw@gmail.com> The Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations<sup>®</sup>(AFPA<sup>®</sup>) was registered in Tokyo, Japan on 12 December. 2016.

College of Psychiatrists is to be held in Singapore. This will be the second time in recent years that the RANZCP Congress has been held outside Australia and New Zealand, after the very successful congress in Hong Kong in 2016. I am looking forward to this opportunity very much. Congresses such as this and the WPAs World Congress of Psychiatry, 14-17 Bangkok in October 2020 are important opportunities to draw us all together and represent the issues of Asian psychiatry.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of our executive members as possible at the WPA World Congress. Exact time and location in Bangkok will be forwarded once available.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of our office bearers for their work during 2019 and particularly thank Winston W. Shen for his ongoing tireless work as the editor of *the Bulletin of the APFA*.

Malcolm J. Hopwood <sup>§</sup>Professorial Psychiatry Unit, Albert Road Clinic <sup>†</sup>Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, Australia <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 31-33 Albert Road, Melbourne VIC 3004, Australia E-mail: Malcolm J. Hopwood <mhopwood@unimelb.edu.au> (Editor 's note: Hopwood is the AFPA president, 2019-2021.)

#### Gundugurti Prasad Rao Becomes AFPA President-elect 2019-2021



Gundugurti Prasad Rao was graduated from S. V. Medical College, Tirupati Andhra Pradesh, India with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He successfully completed a Diploma in Psychological Medicine from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, India and won medal during his doctor of medicine (M.D.) for his outstanding performance at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in 1985. After working as a registrar at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, he has been a consultant psychiatrist since 1987.

In 1997, Dr. Rao started as the founding director, Asha Hospital, at Hyderabad, Telangana, India, and has been director of schizophrenia and psychopharmacology since 1997. He was instrumental in starting the residency programme at Asha Hospital and various post graduate programmes from 2001 as academic head. He was directing and instrumental in developing a large psychiatry services in adult, child, geriatric and rehabilitation psychiatry as well as de-addiction services at Asha Hospital.

Dr Prasad Rao's primary research has been in neuroimaging, schizophrenia and mood disorders. Has been principal investigator for over 70 drug development research trials for phase I, II, and III drug studies. His interest in psychiatry is schizophrenia disorders, dementia, drug development and neuroimaging research. Currently he is completing Ph.D. research in Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Prasad Rao has published over 170 research publications in both national and international peer reviewed psychiatric journals. He has also received various national and international wards for his leadership and academic contribution.

Dr Prasad Rao has been in editorial board of many national and international psychiatric journals. He was editors of Andhra Pradesh Journal of Psychiatry (2002 – 2008) and Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine (2008 to 2012), and deputy editor of Indian Journal of Psychiatry (2008 to 2015).

Dr Prasad Rao was a council member of Indian Psychiatry Society (2002 to 2005). He was a past president of Indian Psychiatric Society (2015 - 2016), present president of Indian Association of Biological Psychiatry (2018-2020), president of Indian Association

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of Private Psychiatry (2018-2020). He is currently participating in many activities at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

Dr. Prasad Rao was the secretary for education and training of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association (2017 - 2019), he was elected as presidentelect the AFPA 2019-2021 at the seventh World Congress of Asian Psychiatry (WCAP) in Sydney, 21-24 February, 2019. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this story.) Malcolm J. Hopwood <sup>§</sup>Professorial Psychiatry Unit, Albert Road Clinic <sup>†</sup>Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, Australia <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 31-33 Albert Road, Melbourne VIC 3004, Australia E-mail: Malcolm J. Hopwood <mhopwood@unimelb.edu.au> *(Editor's note: Hopwood is the AFPA president, 2019-2021.)* 

# FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETIES

#### A Report of the 115th Annual Meeting of the JSPN, in Niigata, 20-22 June, 2019

The 115th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology took place in Niigata, 20-22 June, 2019. The theme of the meeting was "Psychiatry to bridge human, mind, and brain: beyond time and current matters," reflecting the strong wish of Toshiyuki Someya, president of the 115 JSPN annual meeting, to make it a bridge to the next stage by exploring the future of psychiatry.

This annual meeting consisted of various symposia, workshops and special lectures. The poster sessions were especially well-received, and the meeting was acclaimed as "as experience-enriching as international congresses," and "epoch-making as it presented the JSPN in a new light." Rice in Niigata is among the best, and it was fantastic to see the participants enjoying discussion with our famous rice balls in their hands.

The presidential lecture gave an overview the global movements around psychiatry in the era when modern psychiatry was introduced in Japan and on issues surrounding psychiatry today, including issues that psychiatric diagnosis faced in the middle of the 20th century and movements that took place in response, a misconception that "it is diagnostic criteria that determines illnesses," and proposals submitted to correct it. Helen Herrman (Australia), the president of the World Psychiatric Association, gave a special lecture on recent issues in women's mental health, and Geoffrey M. Reed (USA) on International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11) in the context of comprehensive global mental health initiatives, both of which were highly stimulating.

The gala dinner at a hotel by Shinano River, a renowned river in Japan, was full of Japanese hospitality and sheer fun. The participants enjoyed sake and sushi that Niigata is proud and even geisha's dance accompanied by songs by Someya himself, thoroughly appreciating fine traditions and tasteful seasonal fish in Niigata.

The 116th annual meeting of the JSPN will be held at Sendai Intenational Center/Tohoku Kawachi Hagi Hall. The conference president will be Hirooki Yabe, Fukushima University. Please plan to attend. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)



*Kagami-biraki* at a gala dinner, a ceremonial opening of a sake barrel to celebrate the success of the event.

From left: Hideyo Hanazumi (Japan), Shigenobu Kanba (JP), Helen Herrman (Australia), Bruce Schwartz (USA), John Allan (AU),

Toshiyuki Someya (JP), Wolfgang Gaebel (Germany, and Hiroshi Matsuda (JP)



A photo of three key hosts at the reception of the annual meeting in Niigata

From left: Shigenobu Kanba, Toshiyuki Someya, and Hideyo Hanazumi

Takuro Sugai Department of Psychiatry, Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Niigata, Japan. Corresponding author. 757 Ichibancho, Asahimachidori, Chuo-ku, Niigata-shi, Niigata, 951-8510, Japan E-mail: Takuro Sugai <tsugai@med.niigata-u.ac.jp> (Editor's note: Sugai is a secretary-general of the 115th annual meeting of the JSPN. Schwartz and Allan are the presidents of the American Psychiatric Association as well as the Royal New Zealand and Australia College of Psychiatrists, respectively. Gaebel is a past president of European Psychiatric Association. Kanba and Someya are presidents of the JSPN and the 115 JSPN annual meeting, respectively. At the time of the annual meeting, Matsuda was a board member of the JSPN (finance). Hanazumi is the governor of Niigata Prefecture. Culturally, kagami-biraki in Japan is used when the delegates use wood hammers symbolically to open sake barrel ceremonially to wish a successful event.)

## The 23rd MCPM and the 1st International Meeting of the WPA Psychotherapy Section, Kuala Lumpur, 11-13 July, 2019

The World Psychiatric Association-partnering with the Malaysian Psychiatric Association had successfully brought the first International Meeting of the World Psychiatric Association Psychotherapy Section: the WPA to South East Asia. The conference was conducted concurrently with the annual Malaysian Conference on Psychological Medicine (MCPM), in Kuala Lumpur, 11-13 July, 2019. The theme for this year was "Cutting edge evidence-based treatments in psychiatry" (MCPM) and "Evidence-based psychotherapies" (WPA).

The two-day conference was followed by a full day workshop and was held in Hilton Kuala Lumpur. The conference attracted more than 350 delegates from several countries with the vast majority from South East Asia. The opening ceremony started with a cultural dance performance, followed by speech and a Malay traditional ceremony by Hazli Zakaria, (MPA president), Cesar Alfonso (USA, chair of WPA psychotherapy section), and Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (India, secretary-general for the WPA). Allan Tasman (USA) was interviewed by a local media after the opening ceremony.

Keynote speakers were Cesar Alfonso and Allan Tasman while the plenaries were delivered by speakers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, India, and Iran among others.

There were four post-conference workshops:

• "Principles of evidence-based cognitive behavioural therapy," facilitated by Reham Aly (Egypt), Afzal Javed (Pakistan), Roger Ng (Hong Kong), Nuttorn Pityaratstian (Thailand)

• "The psychodynamic formulation: a contemporary



approach," facilitated by Constantine Della (Philippines), Alma Jimenez (PHL), Michael Sionzon (PHL), Allan Tasman

• "Child and adolescent mental health: clinical cases discussions," facilitated by Ng Boon Seng (MYS), Aili Hashim (MYS), Manveen Kaur, (MYS), Joni Teoh (MYS), and Al-Zilal Abdul Wahid (MYS)

• Psychospiritual therapy: understanding and approaches to handling patients," facilitated by Asrenee Ab Razak (MYS), Mohammad Hatta Shahrom (MYS), Nabil Rosli (MYS), Khairul Azhar Idris (MYS), and Intan Aidura Alias (MYS)

The conference was complemented with a gala dinner which was attended by the international delegates and the MPA committee members. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)



A photo at the Malay traditional opening ceremony From left : Hazli Zakaria (Malaysia), Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (India), and. Cesar Alfonso (USA)



A group photo of committee members of Malaysian Psychiatric Association after the conference's opening ceremony

Back row (from left): Muhammad Muhsin Ahmad Zahari, Ismail Drahman, Siti Nor Diana Dollah, Rajinder Singh, Ian Lyold Anthony, Seed Hon Fei, Ting Joe Hang, Abdul Rasyid Sulaiman, Aida Harlina Abdul Razak, and Al Zilal Abd Wahid

Front row (from left): Sabedah Othman, Firdaus Abdul Gani, Aida Syarinaz Adlan, Hazli Zakaria, Aili Hanim Hashim, Asrenee Abdul Razak, Thong Kai Shin, Nik Ruzyanei Nik Jaafar, and Siti Hazrah Selamat Din

> Firdaus Abdul Gani Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health,



Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Hospital, 28000 Temerloh, Pahang, Malaysia E-mail: Firdaus Abdul Gani <firdausag@yahoo.com> (Editor's note: Firdaus is the secretary of Malaysian Psychiatric Association)

#### The Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry Had Its 58th Annual Meeting in Taipei 2-4 November, 2019

The Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry (TSOP) held the 58th annual meeting at College of Social Science of National Taiwan University 2-4 November, 2019. Under the theme "From psychosocial disability to wellbeing through integration and implantation," all TSOP members were enthusiastically submitted scientific presentations, including 3 keynote speeches, 30 symposia 3 workshops, 6 educational speeches, and 159 posters. The building of College of Social Science was designed by well-known architect, Toyo Ito (Japan), based on the concepts of ecological sustainability, to emphasize on the reconciliation between and innovation and tradition. In addition to the clinical experience sharing and academic programmes, we also invited all the meeting participants to appreciate the venue inside those beautiful public art buildings on campus.

Under the main theme "From psychosocial disability to wellbeing through integration and implementation," we had three keynote speeches:

• "Functional recovery: an important outcome variable in psychiatric practice" by Afzal Javed (Pakistan), the president-elect of the World Psychiatric Association

• "Enhance the social security net programme-the experience of promotion and supervision of mental health and social work," by Li-Chiung Su, deputy minister of Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

• "The social determinants of mental health," by Tung-Liang Chiang, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University.

In ethical quality regulations course, we scheduled a talk "Enforcement rules of controlled drugs and violation case sharing," by Shou-Mei Wu, director general of Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, At the annual meeting, abundant and practical lectures and workshops included geriatric psychiatry, mental health in army, psychiatry and the law, psychiatry in community, National Health Insurance and mental health, big data research and analysis, the relationship between emerging drugs and substance use with AIDS and hepatitis C, insomnia and circadian rhythm, the application of ECT, research of brain-derived neurotrophic factors and psychiatric disease, innovated psychiatric treatment, cross-disciplinary suicide research, prospective studies of schizophrenia, southward experience sharing and new southward policies, mental illness stigma and long-term care, psychiatric education and research, psychoanalysis and mindfulness treatment, appointment with psychiatric clinics, etc.



A photo taken at the banquet of the TSOP annual meeting, Taipei From left: Winston W. Shen (Taiwan), Eva Tang (TW), Afzal Javed (Pakistan), Wen-Cheng Wu (TW), Chia-Ming Chang (TW), Te-Jen Lai (TW), Andree Chen (TW), Yen Kung Yang (TW), Shih-Ku Lin (TW), and I-Chia Chien (TW)



A photo taken at the academic achievement award ceremony at the TSOP annual meeting

From left: Te-Jen Lai, Suan Shur-Fen Gau, and Tong-Ping Su.

At this TSOP annual meeting, the academic achievement award was given Shur-Fen Gau to recognise her eminent accomplishment. Gau gave her speech at the general assembly.

More than 1,200 participants took part at the 58th annual meeting 2019. We believed that all experts, attendee at the conference, would have a fruitful and pleasant gain. (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)

Ching-Yen Chen<sup>§</sup> Te-Jen Lai<sup>†</sup> <sup>§</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital-Keelung, Keelung, Taiwan <sup>†</sup>Institute of Medicine and Department of Psychiatry, Chung Shan Medical University and Hospital,



Taichung, Taiwan

<sup>†</sup>Corresponding author. No. 110, Section 1, Jianguo North Road, Taichung 402, Taiwan

E-mails: Ching-Yen Chen <psycychen@yahoo.com.tw> and Te-Jen Lai <tejenlai@hotmail.com>

(Editor's note: Lai is the second two-year term TSOP president, 2017-19. Chen is a TSOP council member who chaired the programme committee of the annual meeting 2019. Tong Ping Su was an academic achievement awardee in 2018. Eva Teng is secretary general of the League for Persons with Disabilities, president of Taiwan Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, and spokesperson of National Health Insurance Civic Surveillance Alliance, Taiwan.)

# The 47th Thai Annual Congress of Psychiatry, 7-8 November, 2019

The 47th Thai annual congress of psychiatry was collaboratively organised by the Royal College of Psychiatrist of Thailand, the Psychiatric Association of Thailand, and the Department of Mental Health. This two-day congress took place 7-8 November, 2019 at Golden Tulip Sovereign Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of this Thai annual congress of psychiatry was "130 years of Thai psychiatry in the transforming society."

Afzal Javed (Pakistan), president-elect of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and president of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association (AFPA) was invited to give a talk on the topic "Social functioning as an outcome variable in schizophrenia" which provided great opportunity for Thai psychiatrists and psychiatric residents to learn and to be inspired by the world authority. This plenary lecture also attracted the majority of Thai society members. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



Afzal Javed (Pakistan) was giving a lecture

Chawanun Charnsil<sup>§</sup> Department of Psychiatry, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 110 Intawaroros Road, Sriphum, Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand E-mail Chawanun Charnsil <chawanun.c@gmail.com> (Editor's note: Charnsil is the president of the Psychiatric Association of Thailand.)

#### The Report of the 10th International Conference on Psychiatry in Sreemangal, Bangladesh, 9-10 December, 2019

The 10th International Conference on Psychiatry (ICP) organised by Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists (BAP) was held in Srimongal, Moulovibazar, Bangladesh, 9-10 December, 2019. This ICP was co-sponsored by the World Psychiatric Association.

Effective 1997, Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists started to sponsored the ICP bieenually. The first eight ICP took place in various places in Dhaka, the 9th ICP took place at Sayeman Beach Reseort, Cox's Bazar. The current 10th was held in the Grand Sultan Tea Resort and Golf, Screemangal. The ICP included several plenary and theme-related sessions, as well as symposia, workshops, poster presentations, scientific quiz, and so on.

The main theme of the ICP was "Forced migration: psychosocial issues and concerns." Over 600 delegates (500 registrants from Bangladesh) participated in the conference. The numbers of other international delegates were 11 from India, 3 from Taiwan, 2 from the United States of America, 2 from United Kingdom and 1 delegate from Australia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, each.

In total the 10th ICP had 49 oral sessions, including speech on the theme and plenary session of the conference, symposia, workshops, poster presentations and psychiatry quiz. Forced migration has become a rising concern all over the world and the conversation it has created worldwide compelled us to choose this as the theme of the 10th ICP and our delegates from all over the world responded well to it and participated enthusiastically too.





Herrman received a crest after her giving a lecture

From left: Waziul Alam Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Golam Rabbani (BD) and Helen Herrman (Australia).

The award ceremony with special speeches was also held during the 10th ICP, 2019. The 3rd "Professor Hidayetul Islam Gold Medal Award" was as a best promising young psychiatrist. The first Professor Md Waziul Alam Chowdhury Research Grant Award was also given in this event. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)



A photo at anugural ceremony of International conference of Bangladesh

From left: Mohammad Tariqul Alam (Bangladesh), Avro Das Bhowmik (BD), Md Waziul Alam Chowdhury (BD), M. A. Aziz (BD), Julhash Uddin Ahmmed (BD), P. K. Dalal (India), Afzal Javed (Pakistan). Helen Herrman (Australia), Golam Rabbani (BD), M. Iqbal Arslan (BD), Mrugesh Vaishnav (ID), Mohit Kamal (BD), Md Faruq Alam (BD), Hidayetul Islam (BD), Mekhala Sarkar (BD), M. S. V. K. Raju (ID), Md Azizul Islam (BD), Michael Radford (USA), Nahid Mahjabeen Morshed (BD), M. A. Shalahuddin Qusar Biplob (BD), and Shahida Chowdhury (BD)

Mekhala Sarkar National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Dhaka, Bangladesh Sher E Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh E-mail: Mekhala Sarkar <mekhala\_sarkar@yahoo.com>

One of the exciting attractions of the two-day ICP was psychiatry quiz. The quiz was held on the second day of conference, comprising of 5 teams where 2 members were there in each team. The teams were named as Team Rutter, Team Oxford, Team Maudsley, Team Kaplan and Team Crider. Post-graduate psychiatry trainees from five institutions participated in the quiz competition, which were National Institute of Mental Health, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka Medical College, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

The quiz session was conducted by Mekhala Sarkar. Md Abdul Mohit, Brig Md Azizul Islam, MMA Salahuddin Kusar and Riad Ahmed Chowdhury were in judge panel who represented as the head of the five institutions participated there. About 70 questions (multiple choice questions with four possible answers) related to various aspects of psychiatry including phenomenology, psychopathology, psychopharmacology, psychology, psychotherapy, history, influential theories and theorists of psychiatry and more were asked and the competition was too close to call. The audience enjoyed the quiz session. Team Crider comprised Shaafi Raaisul Mahmud and Afroza Rahman Lopa representing National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka won the competition. Excellent team work of scientific committee for the psychiatric quiz competition made the event a grand success.



Participants in psychiatry quiz (all five teams and judges) From left: Afroza Akhter, ASM Kowser, Mahbub Hasan, MA Mohit, Md Waziul Alam Chowdhury Rajibur Rahman, Ahmed Riad Chowdhury, Tania Gofur, Mekhala Sarkar, Rezwana Habiba, Azizul Islam, Taslima Rahman, Rezwana Hossain, MMA Shalauddin Kowsar, Shhafi, Raaisul Mahmood, Md Tayubur Rahman, and Shafiul Alam

#### Matasir Maruf

National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh E-mail: Matasir Maruf <marufdmc@gmail.com> (Editor's note: Herrman and Javed are president and president-elect of the World Psychiatric Association, respectively. Chowdhury is the president of Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists. Sarkar is a member secretary of scientific committee of the 10th ICP.)

#### The IPA Held the Annual Meeting in Balikpapan, Indonesia, 24-27 October, 2019

The Indonesian Psychiatric Association held the annual meeting in Balikpapan, Indonesia, 24-27 October, 2019. At the board meeting, Diah Setia Utami was elected as president of the IPA, 2019-2021, and Andi J. Tanra was elected as president-elect of the IPA, 2019-2021.

In a leisure time from the congress, Indonesia Psychiatric Association board members were gathered to collaborate with Helen Herrman, the president of World Psychiatric Association.





A photo taken annual meeting of the Indonesian Psychiatric Association Back row from left: Rosmalia Suparso (a member of IPA), Diah Setia Utami (president of IPA), Eka Viora (past president of IPA) Front Row from left: Helen Herrman (president of WPA), Andi Jayalangkara Tanra (president Elect of IPA)

The upcoming event of the Indonesian Association of Biological Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology (IABPP) will be held with the second Congress of Asian Congress of Neuropsychopharmacology – Association of South East Asian Nation(2nd AsCNP-ASEAN). The congress is planned to be held 20-22 November, 2020, in Makassar, Indonesia. We are looking forward to have you join the Congress and meet you all in Makassar, Indonesia. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)

Andi J. Tanra\* Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia \*Corresponding author. RSP UNHAS Building, 5th Floor Perintis Kemerdekaan Road, Makassar City, South d, KM.11, Tamalanrea Sulawesi 90245 Indonesia E-mail: Andi J. Tanra <ajtanra@yahoo.com> (Editor's note: Tanra was elected as president-elect of the IPA, 2019-2021.)

#### News from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

In October 2019, I was honoured to be a keynote speaker at the conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam's National Institute of Mental Health in Hanoi. Presenting on "The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and Opportunities for engagement in the Pacific and South East Asia," the conference was a great occasion to strengthen friendships with colleagues from across the The RANZCP has recently released a statement on climate change and mental health. The statement affirms that the impacts of natural disasters and weather events, including those linked to climate change, can affect access to essential needs such as shelter, clean water, medication, power, and food. This can lead to a wide range of direct and indirect negative health effects including mental health problems and mental disorders, health risk behaviours and effects on other social and lifestyle opportunities, health perceptions and physical health. Further work is being considered.

The RANZCP has continued to advocate for the mental health of asylums seekers and refugees. Over the past few months, the RANZCP has been actively involved in a joint campaign with other medical colleges to advocate for the Australian Parliament to maintain the legislation that allows the medical transfer of detainees to Australia for treatment. As part of this campaign, the RANZCP promoted an online petition calling for Australian doctors to unite and support the effort to maintain this important legislation.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming colleagues from the region to our annual Congress to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 17–21 May, 2020. With a theme of "Influencing and being influenced by the world around us," Congress will offer a comprehensive scientific programme spanning the breadth of contemporary psychiatric practice and research. More information at www.ranzcp2020.com.au.



A photo taken at the 2019 annual RANZCP Congress in Cairns From left: Vinay Lakra, John Allan, and Andrew Peters

John Allan RANZCP Head Office, Melbourne, Australia





The 116th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology will be held at the Sendai International Center and the Tohoku University Kawauchi Hagi Hall in Sendai, 18-20 June, 2020. The theme for the 2020 annual meeting is "Critique on psychiatry today as a signpost for the next 10 years."

The Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March, 2011, and the subsequent accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station triggered a mental health crisis in the Tohoku region as a result of a massive loss of beds in psychiatric departments, the large-scale evacuation of residents and widespread health concerns, and the intense multilayered suffering caused by discrimination and damage caused by rumors. In a nutshell, Tohoku is where Japan's overall mental health care issues are most pressing - issues including securing psychiatric emergency medical services, outreach and community mental health care, pediatric mental health care, medical care for mentally ill offenders and medical services for persons with mental illness accompanied by physical complications, as well as suicide prevention, measures addressing alcohol dependence, better medical care and welfare for dementia, and making up for the shortage in psychiatric health care facilities and psychiatrists. Given the multitude of challenges faced here, it means a lot that we are holding our annual meeting in Tohoku.

In research, 2020 will mark the year in which we look back on the 10th year since Nature announced "A decade for psychiatric disorders" in the foreword of its new year issue in 2010. I think new findings and potential biomarkers obtained over these past 10 years which could lead to a breakthrough in psychiatry are also topics of discussion that our society needs to address. In recent years, quite a few clinicians in mental health care have become aware of limitations of evidence-based medicine psychiatry without solid biomarkers. I believe it is time to examine psychiatry in Japan, which we have advanced in collaboration with the international colleagues.

Consequently, 2020 will be an important year requiring a historical review of our current mental health care and psychiatry in conjunction with reform for the future. It will also be an eventful time for our whole country busy with the Olympics. We will strive for an annual meeting to serve as a signpost for the future of mental health care and psychiatry in Japan. I look forward to seeing you all in Sendai for our JSPN annual meeting. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this announcement.)



Chuson-ji Temple: a world heritage site



Spring landscape at Yunokami Onsen Station

#### Hirooki Yabe

Department of Neuropsychiatry, School of Medicine, Fukushima Medical University,Fukushima, Japan Corresponding author. 1 Hikariga-oka, Fukushima City, Fukushima, 960-1295, Japan Email: Hirooki Yabe <hyabe@fmu.ac.jp> (Editor's note, Yabe is the president of the 116th annual meeting of JSPN, 2020.)

## AFPA and PAT Invite You to Attend the World Congress of Psychiatry in Bangkok, 14-17 October, 2020

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On behalf of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA), together with the Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT), we would like to encourage all members of the national societies/ associations in Asia to participate in the 20th World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP), an official congress of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). This meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand during 14-17 October, 2020 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center (BITEC). This is the first time the WCP has been held in Asia since 2002, so our aim is to make it so successful that the next return to Asia will be much quicker!

AFPA has a long relationship with the WPA and shares interests in issues like psychiatric workforce and education, reduction of stigma, as well as the protection of rights of the mentally ill. The congress theme is "Psychiatry in a Troubled World" and while this is true globally, this Congress offers an opportunity to focus on these issues as they effect the breadth of Asia. One highlight of the programme from our viewpoint will be an inter-organization symposium involving AFPA and the WPA, and we would love to see many of our Asian colleagues there.

Of course, many of us within will recall attending the 4th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry which was successfully held in Bangkok in 2013, are will relish the opportunity to come back to Thailand again. This is your great opportunity to return and for those who have never visited this amazing country, this is really a good time to attend the world congress in a wonderful land.

Thailand is one of the most popular destinations of Southeast Asia and has everything to offer. From the stunning temples to the luxurious accommodations, from national parks full of vibrant wildlife to the worldrenowned food. Bangkok itself has been picked as the world's most popular tourist destination, according to Mastercard's 2019 Global Destination Cities Index. This commendation is a repeat for the Thai capital, as it was named the world's most visited for the past four years.

Aside from the richness of the scientific program, everyone will be able to enjoy their social programmes or sight-seeing visits which Bangkok and Thailand in general has much to offer. So, please come and join us to strengthening our relationship among national societies in Asia and to establish new relationship with new colleagues from other parts of the world.

We look forward to seeing you in Bangkok in October 2020. (The authors declare no potential conflict of interest in writing this announcement.)



The Golden Mount temple (Wat Saket)



The temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew)

Malcolm Hopwood Afzal Javed Chawanun Charnsil Pichet Udomratn<sup>§</sup> <sup>§</sup>Corresponding address: Mental Health Clinic, 80 Niphat Uthit 1 Road, Hat Yai, Songkhla 90110, Thailand E-mail: Malcolm Hopwood <mhopwood@unimelb.edu.au>, Afzal Javed <afzalj@gmail.com>, Chawanun Charnsil <chawanun.c@gmail.com>, and Pichet Udomratn cpudomratn74@gmail.com> (Editor's note: Hopwood is the president of AFPA, Javed is the president-elect of the WPA, Charnsil is the president of PAT, Udomratn is the vice president of World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation and WPA section chair on psychiatric rehabilitation.)



## FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA-ALLIED SOCIETIES

#### Activities of the 19th WCP ECPs, in Lisbon, Portugal, 21-24 August, 2019

The World Psychiatry Association's (WPA) 19th World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP) took place in Lisbon, Portugal, 21-24 August, 2019. The event was attended by 3,939 participants hauling from an astounding 121 countries, cementing the notion that it is, indeed, one of the most important meeting points for the mental health community of the four corners of the Earth.

Members of the WCP Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP) Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Portugal's Association of Psychiatry Trainees (APIP) actively collaborated in the organisation of scientific and social activities.

Packed with a vast number of presentations and symposia, it was actually challenging trying to keep up to the pace of excellent communications happening in the venue. Virtually every major player in the field could present their line of work, findings and points of view on various themes, be it on the presidential symposia, curated by the WPA itself and focusing on the actuality of psychiatric practice from a worldwide perspective, or in the scientific sessions, aimed at allowing attendees to contact with the newest and most exciting findings in specific areas of psychiatry. Pre congress courses were also available and provided profound expertise in various areas during a full morning.

Poster presentation and short oral communications also took place in several time-slots during the event, granting an opportunity to contact with smaller and exciting developments from all over.

Promoted and organised by Portugal's APIP, some attendees could visit two of Portugal's psychiatric hospitals, one of them being Hospital Miguel Bombarda, the oldest psychiatric hospital in Portugal. Deeply engaged with granting a unique experience to everyone attending, the local expertise granted by the enrollment of local trainees and the local trainee association allowed for a proximity experience which was deeply valued.

Social events and leisure time were also taken into account during the 19th WCP. On day one a reception took place in the venue, with food, drinks and the participation of a Portuguese Tuna (an academic musical group composed of college students with traditional roots) and the Portuguese APIP organised a dinner and social event aimed for all trainees and ECPs, that got a fantastic attendance and was a great opportunity to network and get to know fellow ECPs.

And speaking of ECPs, their presence was always felt through all the event. Under the leadership of Mariana Pinto da Costa (Portugal), the ECP Advisory

Committee took part in shaping the event and bringing it closer to psychiatry trainees and young psychiatrists. With multiple symposia directed to ECP practice and challenges during the event, as well as an ECP lounge situated in the venue's hall and specifically directed to discussing themes related to ECPs, it was without a doubt an event reaching for the younger audiences.

APIP also hosted a symposium directed to new challenges in psychiatric practice oriented to all ECPs, and counting with Roger Ng (Hong Kong), Howard Ryland (United Kingdom), and Roya Aliyeva (Azerbaijan), which was packed with enthusiastic participants.

It was definitely an enriching experience and a really unique event, which I encourage anyone in the mental health community to attend and be part of. (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)

Pedro Frias Goncalves<sup>§</sup> Mariana Pinto da Costa §†\* <sup>§</sup>Hospital Magalhães Lemos, Porto, Portugal. <sup>†</sup>Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar (ICBAS), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal <sup>\*</sup>Unit for Social and Community Psychiatry (WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Services Development), Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. Rua Professor Álvaro Rodrigues, Porto, Portugal E-mails: Pedro Frias Goncalves <friaspn@gmail.com> and Mariana Pinto da Costa <mariana.pintodacosta@gmail.com> (Editor's note: Gonçalves is the president of APIP, a member of the 19th WCP's ECP Advisory Committee. Pinto Da Costa is the president of the 19th WCP's ECP Advisory Committee.)

#### AsCNP-ASEAN Held a Pre-Congress Symposium at the Sixth Congress of the AsCNP in Fukuoka, 10 October, 2019

A pre-congress symposium of the Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology - Association of South Eastern Nation (AsCNP-ASEAN) was held before the sixth Congress of the Asian College of Neuropsychopgarmacology in Fukuoka International Congress Center, 10 October, 2019. The theme of the pre-congress meeting was "Bridging Research Collaboration between AsCNP and ASEAN Region in Psychiatric Field."



This symposium had four symposium speakers. The speakers were Andi J. Tanra (Indonesia), Shih-Ku Lin (Taiwan), Amer Siddiq (Malaysia), and Takahiro Kato (Japan). The number of attendance at this pre-congress symposium 30. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



A photo taken at the pre-congress symposium of the AsCNP-ASEAN in Fukuoka

From left: Shih-Ku Lin (Taiwan), Takahiro Kato (Japan), Amer Siddiq (Malaysia), Andi J Tanra (Indonesia), Shinfuku Naotaka (JP)

Andi J. Tanra<sup>§</sup> Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. RSP UNHAS Building, 5th Floor Perintis Kemerdekaan Road, Makassar City, South d, KM.11, Tamalanrea Sulawesi 90245 Indonesia E-mail: Andi J. Tanra <ajtanra@yahoo.com> (Editor 's note: Tanra is a past president of AsCNP.)

#### The Sixth AsCNP Congress Was Held in Fukuoka, Japan, 11-13 October, 2019

The 6th Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP) Congress was held in Fukuoka, Japan, 11-13 October, 2019. Taking place in Fukuoka Convention Center, the Congeress included the 49th Annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Neuropsychopharmacology (JSNP), 29th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Clinical Neuropsychopharmacology (JSCNP), the fall meeting of the Korean College of Neuropsychopharmacology (KCNP), the fall meeting of the Taiwanese Society of Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology (TSBPN), as well as the 2nd ASEAN-AsCNP Congress.

The main theme of the AsCNP 2019 Congress was "Neuropsychopharmacology to the Next Generation: New Wave from Asia." Although Typhoon Hagibis (Typhoon 19) landed on the Kanto area of Japan, the Congress took place smoothly and concluded successfully with over 2,200 delegates (1,664 registrants from Japan). The numbers of other AsCNP Congress international registrants were 118 from Taiwan, 72 from Indonesia, 64 from Korea, 55 from China, 51 from Thailand, 35 from Philippine, 31 from Hong Kong, 25 from United States of America, 23 from Denmark, 23 from Poland, among the others.

Totally the AcCNP had 85 oral sessions, including special lectures and symposia and three poster sessions. On behalf of the AsCNP/JSNP/JSCNP 2019 executive committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your attendance and contributions to the congress while overcoming many difficulties. The growing need for central nervous system medications that are especially targeted to Asians and recent advances in neuropsychopharmacology in both academia and industry prompted many neuropsychopharmacologists, researchers, and clinicians in related medical fields to participate in the Congress from all over the world.

At the Congress, we also started to give the first AsCNP Lundbeck science award with special thanks to Lundbeck and our award committee for the generous support and hard work, respectively. The awardees were Brian Dean (Australia) for basic research and Toshiaki A. Furukawa (Japan) for clinical research. The award ceremony and award lectures were held during the AsCNP 2019 Congress.



A photo of AsCNP/JSNP/JSCNP 2019 chairs and secretaries From left: Takahiro Shinkai (Japan), Fumitoshi Kodaka (JP), Kazutaka Ikeda (JP), Reiji Yoshimura (JP), Hisatsugu Miyata (JP), and Shinya Kasai (JP)

On 12 October, the AsCNP board meeting took place in Fukuoka with 31 attendees. The current status of AsCNP, which includes 3,200 members from 17 countries/regions and has funds in the amount of JPY7,000,000, was reported by Atsumi Nitta (Japan), secretary of AsCNP. She announced that the company that assists with AsCNP management will be changed from Convention Linkage to AE Planning on 1 January, 2020. Shih-Ku Lin (Taiwan), chair of the award committee, reported the AsCNP Lundbeck science award. Andi J. Tanra (Indonesia), chair of the education

committee, proposed the 3rd ASEAN-AsCNP Congress in the fall of 2020. Gavin Stewart Dawe (Singapore), chair of the 7th AsCNP Congress in Singapore in 2021, discussed preparations for the Congress and mentioned fascinating aspects of Singapore. Our Korean AsCNP board members preferred hosting the 10th AsCNP Congress in 2027 in Korea rather than hosting the 8th AsCNP Congress in 2023. Tianmei Si and Zhong Chen, Chinese AsCNP board members, agreed to consider hosting the 8th AsCNP Congress in 2023. (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



A photo at the AsCNP board meeting

Back row from left: Shinya Kasai (Japan), Kiyofumi Yamada (JP), Ming-Chyi Huang (Taiwan), Eric Y. H. Chen (Hong Kong), Ya-Mei Bai (TW), Hiroyuki Uchida (JP), Lih-Chu Chiou (TW), Manit Srisurapanont (Thailand), Kazutaka Shimoda (JP), Naren Rao (India). Hisatsugu Miyata (JP), Toshikazu Saito (JP), Gavin S. Dawe (Singapore), Young-Chul Chung (Korea), Kristian Liaury (Indonesia), Kyung Joon Min (Korea), Melissa Mariano (Philippine), Zhong Chen (China), Winston W. Shen (TW), and Roger Ho (Singapore).

Font row from left: Atsumi Nitta (JP), Shigeto Yamawaki (JP), Tianmei Si (China), Shih-Ku Lin (TW), Kazutaka Ikeda (JP), Andi J. Tanra (Indonesia), Chay Hoon Tan (Singapore), and Chan Hyung Kim (Korea).

Kazutaka Ikeda<sup>§</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Japan <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 2-1-6 Kamikitazawa, Setagayaku, Tokyo, 156-8506, Japan E-mail: Kazutaka Ikeda <ikeda-kz@igakuken.or.jp> (Editor's note, Ikeda is the AsCNP president, 2019- 20.)

## The 2019 TSBPN-AsCNP Joint Symposium at Fukuoka

The 2019 Taiwanese Society of Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology (TSBPN) and Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP) joint Symposium was held at Fukuoka International Congress, Fukuoka, Japan on 11October, 2019. Three Taiwanese researchers were invited to present various topics including neuroimage studies in attentiondeficit hyperactivity disorder (by Susan Shur-Fen Gau), neurotransmission in early psychosis (by Yi-Ting Lin), and a novel drug target for neuropsychiatric disorders (by Lih-Chu Chiou). The symposium was chaired by Yeng Kuang Yang, the current president of TSBPN. More than 50 participants joined us at this symposium with lively discussions between speakers and the participants in the audience.

Since the establishment of TSBPN in 2002, TSBPN is always active in international academic activities. We keep encouraging senior and young psychiatrists to attend overseas conference and meeting, such as the 2017 joint meeting in Bali, Indonesia, the 2018 CINP Congress in Vienna, Austria, the 2018 annual meeting in Kobe,Japan, the 2019 WFSBP Congress in Vancouver, Canada, and this 2019 joint meeting in Fukuoka.

The TSBPN comprises the local organising committee and now is preparing and assisting the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP) in organising the CINP World Congress 2020 in Taipei, Taiwan. 25-28 June, 2020 This is a great honour and chance for us to introduce the beauty of Taiwan to each attendee. You are extremely welcome to join us at this world congress. We are looking forward to meeting you in Taiwan in 2020! (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



A group photo at the 2019 TSBPN-AsCNP Joint Symposium First row sitting: Yen Kuang Yang, Second row sitting from left: Ming-Chyi Huang, Susan Shur-Fen Gau, Ya-Mei Bai, Shih-Ku Lin, and Tung-Ping Su, Third row sitting from left: Po See Chen, Hsien-Yuan Lane, and Winston W. Shen

Po See Chen Yen Kuang Yang<sup>§</sup> College of Medicine and Hospital, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 138, Sheng-Li Road, Tainan 70428, Taiwan E-mails: Po See Chen <chenps@mail.ncku.edu.tw> and Yen Kuang Yang <ykyang@mail.ncku.edu.tw> (Editor's note: readers of the Bulletin are advised to read the announcement if CINP World Congress in Taipei in this issue of the Bulletin of the AFPA.)

## The Report of the 2019 WASP Congress in Bucharest, Romania

The 23rd World Congress of Social Psychiatry was held in Bucharest, Romania, 25-28 October, 2019. From 66 countries, 653 delegates of the Congress came from Romania 297, India 29, United Kingdom 25, Japan 23, Thailand 23, France 21, Australia 18, USA 17, Potugal 17, Italy 16, Germany 13, etc. The Congress had 441 scientific presentations including 12 plenary sessions, 53 symposia, 19 workshops, 97 free papers and 81 e-posters. The event was co-sponsored by the World Psychiatric Association.

The release of our official journal World Social Psychiatry was a dream come true! Hearty congratulations to the editor Debasish Basu. All the published articles can be freely downloaded as PDF files from the journal website at www.worldsocpsychiatry.org.

The WASP president Roy Kallivayalil presented honorary fellowships to 31 eminent professionals at the grand opening ceremony on 25 October. Early career psychiatrists fellowships were awarded to 21 young colleagues from all parts of the world. Presidential address, Yves Pelicier award lecture by Norman Sartorius, presidential address, presidential symposia, theme symposium were other other highlights. Afzal Javed (president-elect of the World Psychiatric Association), T. Sakuta (Japan), Oye Gureje (Nigeria), Mohan Isaac (Australia), Tom Craig (UK), and Helen Killaspy (UK) were among the speakers.

Apart from a grand opening ceremony, there were cultural evenings in which the delegates joined with enthusiasm. Outgoing president handed over charge to the new president at the closing ceremony. The general assembly has elected the following new executive council members:

- President: Rachid Bennegadi, France.
- President-elect: Vincenzo Di Nicola (Canada)
- Secretary general: Rakesh Chadda (India)
- Treasurer: Andrew Molodynski (UK)

Our heartiest congratulations to them and we wish, they will take WASP to greater heights. Our Romanian colleagues led by Doina Cozman and Alex Paziuc ably assisted by Alina Puscas of our PCO has made the Congress an unforgettable event! (The author declares no potential conflicts in writing this feature.)

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A photo at WASP opening address

From left: Fernando Lolas (Chile), Marianne Kastrup (Denmark), Rachid Bennegadi (France), Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (India), and P. Sakuta (Japan).



Norman Sartorius releasing the first journal copy of the World Social Psychiatry.

From left: Rachid Bennegadi (France), Roy Kallivayalil (India), Norman Sartorius (Switzerland), and Debasish Basu (India).

Roy Abraham Kallivayalil Department of Psychiatry, Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Corresponding author. Tiruvalla, Kerala- 689 101, India E-mail: Roy Abraham Kallivayalil <roykalli@gmail.com> (Editor's note: Kallivayalil is the immediate past president of WASP, secretary-general for the World Psychiatric Association. Basu is the editor of the World Social Psychiatry.)

# The JYPO Will Hold the 19th CADP, 14-16 February, 2020

The Japanese Young Psychiatrists Organization (JYPO) has three main missions-to educate future leaders in psychiatry, to act with international perspective, and to contribute to society for improving mental health care and stigma toward psychiatric diseases. I am reporting some planned activities of the JYPO in this half year: • Hosting workshop for junior psychiatrist residents /

medical students

The JSPN holds the summer seminar every August for junior residents and medical students to promote psychiatry. The JYPO has provided workshops, for example, how to answer questions and experiences of hallucination, how psychiatry is interested in, and how the consumers are suffering. This kind of training through workshop makes us the grow in providing workshops and communicating to the next generation.





#### • Holding the 19th CADP

The Course for Academic Development of Psychiatrists (CADP) is a three-day training camp produced by Norman Sartorius (Switzerland). The aim of CADP is education-in developing academic skills and international relationships. The management of CADP is another important matter for Japanese young psychiatrists to gain leadership skills. Furthermore, we can extend our knowledge and make several discoveries to enhance our skills, careers, and lives.

The 19th CADP will hold during 14-16 February, 2020 in Kyoto, and we will engage Norman Sartorius and Naotaka Shinfuku. We also offers to young psychiatrist participats from foreign countries. We are appreciating many enthusiastic applicants and apologizing that we cannot accept all international applicants.

Please keep applying the CADP in the future. It is held usually in February or March every year. We would appreciate if you could recommend the applicants for CADP from young psychiatrists around you. (The author declares no potential conflicts in writing this feature.)

Nozomu Oya<sup>§</sup> Department of psychiatry, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 465 Kajii-cho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan E-mail: Nozomu Oya <n-oya@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp> *(Editor's note: Oya is the president of the JYPO, a* 

(Editor's note: Oya is the president of the JYPO, a certified non-profit organization in Japan. The website address of the JYPO is www.jypo.org/en/.)



The Second International Conference of Research and Education Center of Bridging Asian Mental Health and Psychiatry (REBAMP) will take place at the College of Medicine, Cheng-Hsing Campus, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, 10-12 April, 2020.

The REBAMP project is launched by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan, and is organised by National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) since 2018. Following Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, the main purpose of the REBAMP is to promote international collaboration on psychiatry and mental health between Taiwan and other countries from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Oceania, including Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Australia, and New Zealand. This international conference is intended to provide platform for relevant participants to communicate and collaborate, and it is the most important annual activity of the REBAMP.

During 26-28 April 2019, the First International Conference of the REBAMP took place at the College of Medicine, Cheng-Hsing Campus, National Cheng Kung University. Topics include suicide prevention, substance use, child and adolescent mental health, medical education collaboration, disaster mental health, early psychosis, etc. were well-discussed during the conference. The young psychiatrist session was also held on 26 April, 2019 with vibrant discussions. The conference has successfully brought together the academic and clinical researchers between Taiwan and New Southbound countries, provided excellent interaction for researchers and clinical experts in psychiatry and mental health.

It is our great honour to organise the 2nd International Conference of REBAMP the coming spring again. We are pleased to invite mental health professionals to participate in symposiums, workshops, oral or poster presentations. The last date of oral and poster abstract submission is 15 February, 2020. Honourable participants are invited to communicate with us for the symposium submission at the e-mail address <rebamp.tw@gmail.com> and submit to < rebamp2020@gmail.com>. For details about abstract submission and registration, please visit the REBAMP website at www.rebamp2020.csie.ncku.edu.tw.

To the new friends, we are confident to say, Tainan is the ancient city of Taiwan, and also known as the capital of tasty food. A half-day city tour is arranged to bring the participants an in-depth cultural, historical and delicious food experience of Tainan. To the old friends, bring your best memory here and come to see us and beautiful Tainan City again! (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



A photo taken at the Tainan Art Museum, which opened on 2019.1, Tainan.





A photo taken at Hayashi Department Store, which opened on 1932, Tainan

Yi-Ting Hsieh, Huai-Hsuan Tseng<sup>§</sup> Yen Kuang Yang<sup>§</sup> College of Medicine and Hospital, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan <sup>§</sup>Corresponding authors. 138, Sheng-Li Road, Tainan 70428, Taiwan E-mails: Yi-Ting Hsieh <100160@mail.hosp.ncku.edu.tw> Huai-Hsuan Tseng <hhtseng@mail.ncku.edu.tw> and Yen Kuang Yang <ykyang@mail.ncku.edu.tw>



The International College of Neuropsychopharmacology invites you to attend the 32nd CINP World Congress of Neuropharmacology. After competitive discussions, we have selected 24 symposia out from 73 applications. These symposia include cutting edge scientific and up to date research information. We also invited world renown researchers to deliver plenary speeches:

• "From genes to clinical phenotype in ADHD across the lifespan," by Barbara Franke (The Netherlands)

• "What is life: Implications for brain health," by Josef Penninger (Canada)

• "Big data analyses for neuropsychopharmacology," by Tom Tung-Ping Su (Taiwan)

• "Brain mechanisms of insomnia: fMRI and GWAS perspectives on causes and Consequences," by Eus Van Someren (The Netherlands)

• "Transgenerational epigenetics: A key to understand neurodevelopmental diseases," by Noriko Osumi (Japan)

#### • "Effects of cannabis in adolescence and depression risk in young adulthood: From animals to human studies" by Gabriella Gobbi (Canada).

The Congress is also featuring pre-congress educational workshops, debates, regional symposia, young investigator sessions, meet the expert and oral abstract sessions, guided poster sessions, and more -- on the most up-to-date research and education in psychopharmacology. The abstract submission is open now to 30 January, 2020. Listen to experts from all over the world informing why you won't want to miss #CINP2020. CINP homepage: www.cinp.org; 2020 CINP World Congress Website: www.cinp2020.org/; Facebook: www.facebook.com/cinp.org, and Twitter: https://twitter. com/thecinp.

With its own style and charm, Taipei is an amazing modern city with an innumerable amount of historical attractions, especially the National Palace Museum, numerous acclaimed night markets, shopping districts, as well as cultural amenities like modern coffee houses, museums, and fantastic nightlife at www.guidetotaipei. com. We hope to see you at the next CINP World Congress 2020 in Taipei, Taiwan. We guarantee that you will have an unforgettable memory for your stay in Taipei!



The National Palace Museum in Taipei



Jiufen and Jinguashi: Taiwan's Golden Getaways

Yen Kuang Yang<sup>†</sup> <sup>§</sup>Taipei City Psychiatric Center, Taipei City Hospital, and Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan <sup>†</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Cheng-Kung University,

Shih-Ku Lin<sup>§</sup>

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Tainan, Taiwan <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 309 Songde Road, Taipei 110, Taiwan E-mails: Shih-Ku Lin <sklin@tpech.gov.tw> and Yen-Kuang Yang<ykyang@mail.ncku.edu.tw> (Editor's note: Lin was the president of the Taiwanese Society of Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology, 2015-2018, and now the vice president of CINP 2018-2022. Yang is the president of TSBNP, 2018-2021. Both are chairs of local organising committee of 2020 CINP World Congress.)



The 19th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP 2021) is to be held 8-10 April, 2021 in Seoul, Korea.

Under the theme "Towards effective, safe and equitable mental health care for all," PRCP 2021 promises to be a great occasion to present advanced academic achievements and exchange information, valuable scientific researches, and cases in the field of psychiatry. A large number of eminent speakers and delegates will share their expertise, remarkable accomplishments, and most recent findings. The scientific program will propose high quality sessions that will provide deeper knowledge and new perspectives in the field.

In addition, PRCP 2021 aspires to serve as vital platform that will allow for the exchange of valuable ideas in the Pacific Rim region and beyond, offering opportunities to socialize and interact with colleagues and friends from all parts of the world.

The host city Seoul is a place full of character. Throughout its 2,000-year history, it has been a thriving center of the peninsula's traditions and culture, and attracts many international visitors every year. Now a global megacity, Seoul is a unique city where Korea's rich cultural and historical heritages blend seamlessly with modern technologies.

We are confident that PRCP 2021 will bring innovation and further advancement to the scientific level and quality of the field of psychiatry, and extend our heartfelt invitation to you to join us at PRCP 2021 in Seoul. We will keep bring the information of the IC of the PRCP 2021 up to date to you in the future issues of the Bulletin of the AFPA. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this announcement.)



Haechi and Gwanghwamun Gate (photo courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization)



Seoul Skyscraper (with 555 Metres, photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization)

Yong Chon Park<sup>§</sup> Department of Neuropsychiatry, College of Medicine, Hanyang University

<sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. 153 Gyeongchun-ro, Guri 11923, Republic of Korea

E-mail: Yong Chon Park <hypyc@hanyang.ac.kr> (Editor's note: Park is chairman, organising committee of PRCP 2021 and president of Korean Neuropsychiatric Association.)



We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 7th Congress of the Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP) that will be held in Singapore, 22-24 October 2021. The theme of the congress is "Advances in neuropsychopharmacology: spotlights on progress and beacons to the future."

In Singapore, the conference is supported by the Pharmacological Society (Singapore), the College of

Psychiatrists, Academy of Medicine Singapore, and the Departments of Pharmacology and Psychological Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. Eminent plenary and keynote speakers will include Andrea Cipriani (United Kingdom), Lakshmi N. Yatahm (Canada) and Roger McIntyre (Canada).



Super tree of Singapore



Coastal sky line of Singapore



A call for symposia will be announced in 2020. On behalf of the local organising committee, we are pleased to invite you to submit symposium proposals aligned with the theme of the congress.

The conference website will be launched soon at www.pharmconf.org/AsCNP2020. Please, check the website for more details as they are released. We look forward to working with you to make this congress a success and to welcoming you to Singapore. (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)

> Gavin S. Dawe<sup>§</sup> Roger Chun-Man Ho<sup>†</sup> <sup>§</sup>Department of Pharmacology and <sup>†</sup>Department of Psychological Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore <sup>§</sup>Corresponding author. Level 4, 28 Medical Drive, Singapore 117456

> E-mails: Gavin S. Dawe <gavindawe@nus.edu.sg> and Roger Chun-Man Ho <pcmrhcm@nus.edu.sg> (Editor's note: Dawe and Ho are co-chairs of local organising committee of the 7th congress of the AsCNP.)

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