



President's Message

Dear Friends & Colleagues

Please let me take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year. 2011 promises to be a very busy one for APLAR. To ensure we achieve maximum results for our Association, we have extended the Executive Committee by co-opting 8 Members. We welcome them and have confidence that with their added involvement in discussions and planning, APLAR can continue to grow as a cohesive influence in the Rheumatology world.

Continuing our commitment to education, we have obtained new funding from Merck to support our ongoing Fellowship programme. We now have 5 Fellowships with an increased amount of USD\$12,000 per award. We are also delighted to have recently launched the new APLAR Research Grants. Applications are invited from science and medical graduates from APLAR member societies; full details may be found on the Association website.

Lastly we would like to hear from you, please enjoy the newsletter and feel free to send us your news items and articles for the next issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rohini Handa", is positioned above the printed name.

Professor Rohini Handa
APLAR President

Committees

Following the election of office bearers at the General Assembly in July 2010, the new Executive Committee was formed. In a desire to see all countries represented, Professor Rohini Handa, in one of his first acts as President, directed the co-option of eight members of APLAR National Organisations on to the Executive Committee. Co-opted Members may participate fully in all discussions of importance to the Association.

Executive Committee



2010-2012
PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR ROHINI HANDA
INDIA



PRESIDENT ELECT
PROFESSOR ZHAN-GUO LI
CHINA



VICE PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR SYED ATIQUL HAQ
BANGLADESH



VICE PRESIDENT
DR SWAN SIM YEAP
MALAYSIA



TREASURER
PROFESSOR KEVIN PILE
AUSTRALIA



DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
PROFESSOR CHUNG-TEI CHOU
TAIWAN



SECRETARY GENERAL
DR T H CHAN
HONG KONG



IMMEDIATE-PAST PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR HO-YOUN KIM
KOREA

Scientific and Education Committee

Chair: Professor Kazuhiko Yamamoto, Japan

Chair: Professor Sami Salman, Iraq

Co-opted Members

Dr H Kalim, Indonesia

Dr F Davatchi, Iran

Professor Chit Soe, Myanmar

Dr N M Ahmad, Pakistan

Dr Paulo Lorenzo, Philippines

Professor P H Feng, Singapore

Dr L Weerasekera, Sri Lanka

Dr L Kazkaz, Syria

Dr W Louthrenoo, Thailand

Dr Waleed Al Shehhi, UAE

APLAR Events

Members will have the chance to participate in two APLAR events. In April, the first APLAR Symposium will take place in Taipei, Taiwan, followed by the 2012 Congress in Damascus, Syria.



1st Symposium of the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology

April 15-17, 2011 • NTUH International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan



Adding a biennial Symposium to the well-established APLAR Congress provides a much needed annual platform to disseminate the latest diagnostic and therapeutic information to improve disease outcomes.

The inaugural APLAR Symposium will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Taiwan Rheumatology Association R.O.C. The two events together will bring huge benefits to the

Rheumatology community. <http://www2.kenes.com/aplar>

The Organizing Committee under the leadership of Professor Shue-Fen Luo has drawn up a comprehensive and contemporary scientific programme which aims to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of common musculoskeletal disorders and will focus mainly on newer technologies and therapies in the treatment of these conditions. Register before **Tuesday, February 15, 2011** and take advantage of special 'Early Bird' rates.



<http://www.aplar2012.com>

Delegates to APLAR 2012 will enjoy a warm welcome to Syria on the important event of the 15th Congress of Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology. The Congress will be held in the ancient and fascinating city Damascus, from 10th to 14th of September 2012. We would like to encourage you to participate in this important congress. The scientific program will focus on New Horizons in the pathogenesis and management of Musculoskeletal diseases and will include basics, educational courses, plenary sessions, symposia, updates, case presentations, workshops and poster presentations.

Invitation to all Member National Organizations

APLAR invite you to submit news items and articles for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter. We will also be delighted to include details of all regional meetings and events.

International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases



International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases

On behalf of the Editorial Office, I would like to wish all members of APLAR a healthy and prosperous Year of 2011!

The International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases (IJRD) has continued to grow in 2010 since the Journal was indexed by MEDLINE and SCI-E the previous year. The number of articles submitted to the Editorial Office for consideration for publication in 2010 has more than doubled compared to 2009. The quality of manuscripts submitted has been significantly enhanced, too! A number of changes have therefore been made to accommodate the increased demand to publish more reports and to further increase their exposure and quality. The page number has been significantly increased and authors wanting to publish a case report are encouraged to shorten the article to that of a Letter to the Editor. All accepted and edited reports are now available as 'early view' on the Journal's home page. To assist and promote the research output of the Asia

Pacific rheumatology community, APLAR is also offering USD2000 per year to support authors whose first language is non-English to improve the language quality of their manuscripts subject to recommendation of the Editorial Board.

Finally, remember that members of APLAR are entitled to free access to all IJRD articles. Just visit the Association homepage, follow the IJRD link and input your username and password which are available from your local society secretary, as well as the APLAR Office. Look out for the special Asian Pacific issue on Osteoarthritis which is due to be released in May this year.

Professor CS Lau
Editor In Chief:



14TH CONGRESS OF ASIA PACIFIC LEAGUE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY
11-15 July 2010, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Hong Kong 2010 APLAR Congress

The main congress of the 14th APLAR Congress was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 11th to 15th July 2010. Three pre-congress review courses preceded the main congress, namely, APLAR musculoskeletal ultrasound course, American College of Rheumatology (ACR) review course, and the APLAR basic science review course. The courses worked out to be very successful and welcomed by the delegates. In fact, the original attendance quota of 50 of the ultrasound course was very soon oversubscribed.

A total of 1,951 delegates from 68 countries registered for the main congress. The organizing committee received 920 abstracts submission. Prof. C S Lau, APLAR past-president, presented an enjoyable keynote lecture on the history of medicine and rheumatology in Hong Kong during the opening ceremony. More than 100 renowned physicians and scientists from all over the world presented state-of-the-art lectures on clinical management and research of various arthritis and autoimmune diseases. Prof. Ho Youn Kim and Prof. Rohini Handa presented prizes to ten recipients of the Young Investigators awards. It was heartening to hear the many positive feedback from both the faculty members and the delegates after the conclusion of the congress.

The host organizing committee would like to thank all local and overseas faculty members. The congress could not have been possible without the contribution of all the speakers, who shared their knowledge and experience with us. Last, but not the least, we wish to thank sincerely the pharmaceutical industry for their unfailing support of rheumatology education in the Asia Pacific region.

Dr. Tak Hin CHAN

Chairman, Host Organizing Committee, Hong Kong 2010 APLAR Congress

Opening Ceremony



Educational Opportunities

APLAR RESEARCH GRANTS

APLAR is pleased to announce the introduction of up to three grants of USD \$12,000 which will be awarded to doctors striving to improve the lives of rheumatology patients through research.

Applications are invited from science and medical graduates from APLAR member societies. The grants are to promote and support basic and clinical research directed to the causes, prevention, and treatment of rheumatic diseases. Applicants should demonstrate how they will impact improvements in education and/or the clinical practice of rheumatology.

Further details and an application form are available on the APLAR website.

The offer is valid only for:

1. Medical or science graduate of less than 40 years of age.
2. Nationals of countries in the Asia Pacific area who are members of APLAR.

Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. The successful candidates will be required to submit data from their research work for presentation at a subsequent APLAR Congress of Rheumatology, and for publication as a full scientific article in the International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases.

APLAR Fellowships

There Fellowship programme is designed to assist graduates to undertake intensive or advanced study in the research or clinical aspects of either adult or paediatric rheumatology in a rheumatic disease unit in any country within (preferable) or outside the Asia Pacific area for a minimum period of six months. There are five Fellowships awarded annually for US\$12,000. For full details visit the APLAR website: <http://www.aplar.org/Education/Pages/FellowshipsAwards.aspx>

APLAR WEBSITE

<http://www.aplar.org>

The Association is here to meet the needs of the Membership. You are encouraged to view the website regularly for news and updates and to access the International Journal of Rheumatic Disease.

Why not utilize the APLAR website to advertise your Meetings and Events.

For all enquiries and submissions to the website or articles for the next newsletter please contact the Association Manager, Arpita Bhose at: info@aplar.org