



Newsletter 2009, No.2

28th August 2009

To: All member nation organisations of APLAR.

Greetings from the APLAR Executive Committee! We would like to update you on some of the events happening in APLAR.

1. Registration of APLAR

In May 2009 APLAR was officially incorporated in Singapore as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). We had looked at various registration options in various countries and this was deemed the most suitable for the size and location of our Membership. We will also enjoy generous tax incentives for the first few years of commencement.

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority granted us permission to use the name APLAR without the need to include 'Ltd' in its title. This distinction is usually reserved for entities which carry out non-profit making activities that have some basis of public interest, a requirement which APLAR clearly fulfilled. This process was a lengthy and complicated one and it is believed that APLAR is one of the first Asia Pacific Medical Associations to be granted this status in Singapore.

Our registered address is at DrewCorp Services, a legal firm who will provide the Company Secretary services and ensure that all legal requirements for APLAR to continue as a non-profit organization. The address is as follows:

APLAR
c/o DrewCorp Services Pte Ltd
20 Raffles Place #09-01
Ocean Towers
Singapore 048620

Once the CLG was established, the company bank account was opened in HSBC Singapore, under the name APLAR. Details of the new bank address and account numbers will be sent out with the annual Membership Invoices. Our hope is that now we have professional and legal status it will be easier to attract sponsorship for our future endeavours.

We are very grateful to Professor Feng Pao Hsii for his time and help in ensuring that the required procedures ran smoothly.

2. Change in Personnel

With the appointment of Kenes Asia as our Association Management company, APLAR says good-bye to Mr Ichi Morita, who was helping APLAR as the Secretarial Assistant until the end of 2008. We would like to thank him for all the work that he did during his time with APLAR and wish him all the best for the future.



The APLAR Association Manager/Executive Secretary for all APLAR administrative matters is Ms Arpita Bose (email: info@aplar.org) who is based in Singapore at Kenes Asia. She will be the main point of contact for any administrative or other queries, in addition to the APLAR Executive Committee.

3. The *International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases* is newly indexed by Science Citation Index Expanded™ !

As the official journal of APLAR, *International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases* (IJRD) serves as a primary vehicle for scientific exchange, education of rheumatologists and related health professionals, and promotion of rheumatology as a medical subspecialty in the Asia-Pacific region.

IJRD has grown over the years and is now published quarterly featuring primarily reports of original research work of clinicians and researchers from the Asia Pacific region. Because of the world's growing interest in the influence of ethnic, cultural and economic differences on rheumatic disease manifestation, course, outcome and treatment responses, IJRD articles are widely cited. This process is now being ensured by the recent selection of our Journal by ISI® services for coverage. Information on the contents of IJRD will now be indexed in **Science Citation Index Expanded™**. The Editorial Board is particularly proud of this achievement as ISI® reviews nearly 2000 new titles each year, selecting only 10-12% of the journals evaluated.

Support your Journal and send your work to IJRD. You can make a difference to the continued growth of APLAR!

To submit your article, enter the website <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aplar> where you will find detailed instructions to authors. All articles will be peer reviewed by two anonymous reviewers and a Subject Editor. Every effort is taken to ensure a quick turnaround time and prompt publication of your accepted article. An on-line ahead of print publication will also soon be available.

4. APLAR Review Course, 27 November 2009, Manila, Philippines

The programme for the APLAR Review Course is now finalised and can be viewed at the APLAR website (www.aplar.org). There will be Symposia on basic rheumatology, translational research, clinical practice guidelines development, clinical research, developing a protocol and getting published and outcome measures. Block the date in your diaries now! Registration and hotel booking forms are available on the APLAR website.



5. APLAR 2010, 11-15 July 2010, Hong Kong (www.aplar2010.com)

Preparations for APLAR 2010 are well underway so keep the dates free. Here are some important deadlines:

Opening date of abstract submission: 1 November 2009

Closing date of abstract submission: 28 February 2010

Deadline for early bird registration: 30 April 2010

6. APLAR Fellowships 2009

Due to generous funding from Abbott and Wyeth, we are able to fund 5 APLAR Fellowships this year. APLAR would like to thank Abbott and Wyeth for their generous contribution towards the education and training of future rheumatologists in Asia-Pacific.

The successful candidates are as follows:

- a. Dr Liyun Zhang, China
- b. Dr Maruf bin Habib, Bangladesh
- c. Dr Skand Shukla, India
- d. Dr Toirov Khisrav Kosimovich, Tajikistan
- e. Dr Varun Dhir, India

We look forward to working with your associations for the betterment of rheumatology in the Asia-Pacific. Please email our Executive Secretary or any Executive Committee members with your suggestions and comments.

Kind regards,
Professor Ho-Youn Kim
APLAR President