



# Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology

*Our goal is to promote chemical safety, poison control and treatment within the Asia Pacific region.*

Newsletter 1, July 2013

## Message from the president

The Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) scientific congress in Hong Kong was a great success. Feedback regarding the educational aspects of the meeting was positive. I would like to acknowledge the tireless contribution of CC Yang, Michael Eddleston and Rick Lau and all the folks behind the scene.

The APAMT has grown rapidly since it has organized regular annual meetings. These give a platform for international co-operation, emphasizing toxicology issues which are most important to our region. The APAMT welcomes North-South as well as South-South scientific collaborations.

One of the core values of the Association is to provide high quality education to facilitate achieving our goal; “to promote chemical safety, poison control and treatment within the Asia Pacific region.”

I wish for this meeting, which will be held this time in the West of Asia, to help to develop an umbrella of scientific support to promote medical toxicology including (i) contributions to high quality science education, (ii) filling the gaps between science and policy makers and (iii) science outreach to promote public awareness of medical toxicology. As a priority, we need to upgrade and enforce regulation concerning chemical safety within the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues, in particular the chair of the scientific committee, Indika Gawarammana, and the chair of the organizing committee, RJ Hoffman. All APAMT board members, and in particular Hossein Hasanian and Nick Buckley, have been very supportive. I am looking forward to seeing the 2013 meeting be an even greater success!

**Reza Afshari**

## Welcome to Dubai from the 2013 APAMT organising committee

The APAMT organizing committee looks forward to welcoming members and friends of the APAMT to Dubai. The Zayed University Convention Center will be the venue for the conference. The architecturally beautiful and picturesque campus of Zayed University is situated just 20 minutes from Dubai International Airport and is around 15 minutes from Dubai city center and most other accommodation options in Dubai.

The website is up and running and will be continuously updated with all details as they become available. This will also serve as the portal for registration for the meeting and pre-meeting symposia. <http://apamt2013.com/> Registration and accommodation bookings will open soon. To get the best deals it is strongly recommended that hotels and flights are booked early as the presence of The Dubai International Air Show, occurring simultaneously with our conference, may make late bookings much more expensive. I hope you all also make some extra time to appreciate the modern metropolis and ancient cultures in the Emirates.

**RJ Hoffman**

Report from 2013 APAMT scientific committee

Planning is well underway for the scientific program. There will be pre-meeting symposia and then a three-day scientific meeting. There will be over 20 invited speakers, four symposia sponsored by other clinical toxicology societies and many opportunities to present original research in oral and poster sessions. Session/symposia topics include Capacity building of Toxicology in Asia, Traditional Medicines, Low Resource & Point of care Diagnostics in Toxicology, Pharmaceuticals, Recreational drugs, Antidotes, Toxicokinetics, Pesticide bans, Natural Toxins, Young Investigators, Toxicovigilance, Substance abuse, Translational Research & Construction and implementation of guidelines.

Abstract submission deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> September, and all those who wish to have their abstract included in the program must also register by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. There will be a small number of competitive partial travel scholarships for investigators. There are several eligibility criteria (including aged < 45, Asia Pacific region, no recent APAMT travel scholarship). An application form and an abstract must be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> August. Further details are on the APAMT2013 website.

**Indika Gawarammana**

### **Call for bids to host the APAMT meeting in 2015**

APAMT would like to invite interested parties to submit their requests to host the association's **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in 2015**. A written proposal for the purpose will be required and must include the following information.

1. Proposed dates for the conference (preferably in the **last two weeks of November 2015**)
2. Proposed conference venue
3. Proposed conference theme and sub-themes
4. Financial feasibility: budget estimates; potential institutional funding and/or sponsorships
5. Description of proposed conference facilities
6. Importance of the meeting to a local toxicology or clinical toxicology society
7. Proposed social/cultural program, if any
8. Brief summary of previous experience in hosting an international conference(s)
9. Was there a previous application (bid) to host an APAMT annual scientific meeting?
10. Introduction to the hosting institution(s)
11. Letter of approval and commitment from the head of host institution(s)
12. Proposed timetable of the meeting
13. Autonomy of the meeting

#### **All proposals will be evaluated based on a number of selection criteria:**

1. Experience of local organizing team
2. Adequate conference facilities for meeting and exhibition
3. Accessibility of proposed site and other facilities (e.g. food and accommodation)
4. Appropriateness of proposed dates
5. Budget projection, sponsorship and financial viability
6. Geographical and national balance with regard to locations of previous conferences

You may send your submission or request for more information to the APAMT Secretariat at [apamt.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:apamt.newsletter@gmail.com) or [lucyc@usm.my](mailto:lucyc@usm.my). **Proposals must be received by 15 October 2013**. Short-listed applicants will be requested to make an oral presentation of their bid to the APAMT Board at the Dubai meeting this November.

## Highlights of the 2013 EAPCCT in Copenhagen

The XXXIII EAPCCT was held in Copenhagen from 28-31 May 2013. Over 400 people attended the conference, with the Asia Pacific region represented by many individuals from a number of countries including India, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The pre-congress symposium was on extracorporeal techniques in the poisoned patient and included an afternoon session with hotly debated interactive case presentations.

The main themes of the conference were: counterfeit and adulterated products, the toxicity of anti-thrombotic agents, skin and eye toxicology, adverse events of poisoning therapies, new insights into the toxicology of psychotropic drugs, the toxicology of ethanol and simple diagnostic tools for clinical toxicology.

The Louis Roche Lecture was given by Dr Hugo Kupferschmidt on "Poisons Centres and the provision of antidotes, with a special focus on their pre-hospital use". The opening reception was held at the Copenhagen City Hall and the conference dinner at the magnificent Moltke's Palace which dates back to 1702.

Next year's EAPCCT Congress will celebrate the 40th anniversary of EAPCCT and will be held in Brussels, Belgium from 27th - 30th May 2014.

**Paul Dargan**

## Highlights & photos from the 2012 APAMT meeting in Hong Kong

The 11th APAMT was held successfully in Hong Kong from 29th Nov to 1st Dec 2013 with a pre-congress workshop on the 28th Nov. With the theme of "Poisoning in Asia Pacific: from farmland to skyscrapers", the congress was a great success with great satisfaction from the participants in the scientific content, logistic arrangement, IT support and hospitality received.

The congress was attended by 366 participants from 25 countries, with roughly equal numbers from Hong Kong and elsewhere.

**Rick Lau**



**The Guest of Honor, Dr W M Ko, secretary of Food and health of Hong Kong receiving a souvenir from the organising committee chairman, Dr Rick Lau**



Eye dotting ceremony for the lion dance in the opening ceremony



Chinese Kung Fu show by Hong Kong delegates at the conference dinner.



**Find yourself in this attentive audience?**



**The Chinese Herbal workshop**

## **The final word - from the newsletter editor**

The APAMT board decided a bimonthly newsletter would be a good way of keeping the membership informed about APAMT news and upcoming events. While much of the content will come from the board, the newsletter is able to publish short news items on medical toxicology matters submitted by any APAMT members. For example, if people want to use this forum to promote another upcoming regional meeting on toxicology, a training course within the region, a new useful website or toxicology resource, a collaborative research venture, or invite submissions for their new journal on toxicology, etc... This is definitely not a forum for scientific content, or debate, or product commercials; most news items should be no longer than one short paragraph, with a link provided for further information if necessary.

Please feel free to send suggestions for how to improve this newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed this first one and look forward to catching up with many of you in Dubai

**Nick Buckley**

## **Toxicology Meeting calendar**

27<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2013 – NACCT Atlanta, USA

20-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 – APAMT Scientific meeting, Dubai, UAE

28-30<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – ACMT meeting – Arizona, USA

1-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 – TAPNA meeting, Newcastle, Australia

27-30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – EAPCCT meeting, Brussels, Belgium