



**ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE**

Annual Report for 2015

1. APFCB matters

Ordinary members

The following National Societies are members of the APFCB:

1. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
2. Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM)
3. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)
4. Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)
5. Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry (IACC)
6. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
7. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
8. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)
9. Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL)
10. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)
11. Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)
12. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)
13. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists (SACB)
14. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL)
15. Chinese Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taiwan (CACB)
16. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemists (TACB)
17. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

Corporate Members

1. Abbott Diagnostics
2. BD Diagnostics
3. Beckman Coulter
4. Bio-Rad
5. Diasorin Ltd
6. Diasys Diagnostic Systems, GmbH
7. Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co
8. Kopran Laboratories Ltd
9. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
10. PM Separations
11. Randox Laboratories
12. Roche Diagnostics
13. Sekisui Chemical Co
14. Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co Ltd
15. Siemens

16. SNIBE (Shenzhen New Industries Biomedical Engineering Co Ltd)
17. Sukraa Software Solution Pvt Ltd
18. Sysmex
19. Technidata Medical Software

Affiliate Members

1. Chinese Association of Clinical Laboratory Management (CACLM)
2. Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
3. Macao Laboratory Medicine Association (MLMA)
4. Nepalese Association of Clinical Chemistry (NACC)

Office Bearers (1 January 2014 till 31 December 2016)

Executive Board

President	Leslie Lai (Malaysia)
Immediate Past President	Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Vice-President	Sunil Sethi (Singapore)
Secretary	Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)
Treasurer	Elizabeth Frank (India)
Corporate Representative	Martin Fuhrer (Siemens)

Chairs of Committees

Communications(C-Comm)	Praveen Sharma (India)
Congress and Conferences (C-CC)	Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Education and Laboratory Management (C-ELM)	Tony Badrick (Australia)
Scientific (C-Sci)	Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)

Executive Board meeting

The Executive Board held a meeting from 5th to 6th September 2015 in Singapore.

Resignation of Mr Martin Fuhrer, Corporate Representative to the EB

The former Corporate Representative to the EB, Mr Martin Fuhrer, resigned from Siemens on 31st August 2015. The EB would like to record its thanks to Mr Martin Fuhrer for his invaluable and tireless contributions to the APFCB which has helped greatly in the advancement and growth of the APFCB and its activities. Mr Martin Fuhrer was elected by the Corporate members as Corporate Representative to the APFCB EB in October 2010 in Seoul, Korea and re-elected for a second term in October 2013 in Bali, Indonesia.

New Corporate Representative to the APFCB EB

The APFCB EB welcomed the new Corporate Representative, Mr Alexander Wong of Siemens at the EB meeting held in the Siemens headquarters in Singapore on 5th and 6th September 2015. Mr Alexander Wong was appointed to be the new Corporate Representative with the agreement of the Corporate members from 1st September 2015 till 31st December 2016.

New Members

Ordinary member

MAHL was promoted from Affiliate membership to Ordinary membership in March 2015.

Affiliate member

NACC was accepted as an Affiliate member in October 2015.

Corporate members

Two new Corporate members joined the APFCB:

1. Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co in May 2015
2. SNIBE in October 2015

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between APFCB and AACC

An MoU between APFCB and AACC was signed on 11 December 2014 between the President of APFCB and the CEO of AACC, Dr Janet Kreizman. The MOU is effective for a period of two years from 1.1.2015 till 31.12.2016.

Silver Jubilee Celebration

The MACB celebrated its Silver Jubilee at its Annual Scientific Conference from 3rd to 5th August 2015 at the Double Tree Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The President of APFCB presented the President of MACB, Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin with a crystal memento from the APFCB.



From left to right: Dr Leslie Lai, President of APFCB, VIP Dato' Tan Yoke Hwa, Director of Allied Health Sciences Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin. President of MACB.

2. APFCB ACTIVITIES

I. APFCB Education and Laboratory Management Committee (C-ELM)

Chair: Associate Prof Tony Badrick (Australia)

1. IFCC Visiting Lecturer for 2015 and 2016: Prof Howard Morris (Australia)

The theme of Prof Howard Morris's IFCC Visiting Lectureship is Vitamin D and bone disease.

Prof Howard Morris presented his lectures at the following conferences/meetings in 2015:

1. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry 15th Annual Scientific Meeting, Hong Kong 10 January 2015. Plenary Speaker,

"Strategies for interpreting and commenting on clinical laboratory results".

2. China Association of Clinical Biochemistry Annual Scientific Meeting, Taipei, 21 March 2015. Plenary Speaker, "Vitamin D: Molecular actions across a variety of biological systems".
3. The Endocrine Society and Diabetes Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) 36th Annual Meeting, Taipei, 21 March 2015. Plenary Speaker, "Vitamin D: Molecular actions across a variety of biological systems".
4. Visiting Lecturer, NCKU-Hospital, Tainan 23 March 2015.
5. Chinese National Meeting of Laboratory Medicine, Nanjing, China 9 - 12 September 2015, symposium presentations "Bone markers and their use 2015" and "Standardisation and harmonisation in laboratory medicine".

2. APFCB Travelling Lecturer for 2015 and 2016: Associate Prof Graham Jones

Associate Prof Graham Jones spoke on the topic of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in the following countries Singapore, Vietnam, India, China and Mexico (WASPALM World Congress). Associate Prof Graham Jones will deliver his lectures in Hong Kong in January 2016 and will deliver a Plenary Lecture at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei in 2016.

3. APFCB-AACB Travel Scholarships

The two winners of the 2015 APFCB-AACB Travel Scholarships to attend the AACB Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney were:

Dr. Sudhesna Mohapatra of Neogen Labs Private Ltd, Bangalore, India who presented a poster entitled "Evaluation of newborn screening for the diagnosis of Carnitine Uptake deficiency in Indian Population" and Jinia Lilianty of PT. Prodia Widyahusada, Jakarta, Indonesia who presented a poster entitled "Vitamin A and Vitamin E deficiency development in Indonesian Population".

4. Planning of future Courses and Congress Symposia and Workshops

There will be two workshops for to be held at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei in 2016. The first workshop is a Joint WASPaLM-APFCB Accreditation Workshop with the following topics covered by either APFCB or WASPaLM speakers;

1. Quality Systems Approach to Improvement

2. Introduction to ISO 15189
3. Ethical Practice/Governance
4. Staff training and competence
5. Request-Report cycle and error
6. QA/QC

The other workshop will be an APFCB Pre-analytical workshop with the following topics and speakers:

1. Introduction and Chair – Joseph Lopez
2. Pre-analytical errors and quality improvement – Qing He Meng
3. Phlebotomy competence – solutions – Endang Hoyaranda
4. Haemolysis an ongoing problem – Tony Badrick

Also at the 14th APFCB Congress will be a hypothetical entitled “the value of pathology” organised by the C-ELM in conjunction with Roche. The aim of this activity is to raise awareness of the importance of Pathology testing.

Planning began in 2015 with Roche Diagnostics to develop a series of workshops/courses dealing with Lean-Six Sigma. These workshops will be jointly organised by the local APFCB Ordinary Member or Affiliate Member Society, the APFCB and Roche Diagnostics. The first of these will be run in Vietnam in 2016.

The Committee is also planning for a Chemical Pathology Course to be run in Malaysia in 2016. The course will run for 3 days and will involve local and invited speakers. The content will be developed from a curriculum based on the AACB Chemical Pathology Course and is a pilot for this type of course in the region.

The APFCB will be sponsoring a symposium at the AACC 2016 Annual Meeting that has already been accepted by the Organising Committee. The programme and speakers are as follows:

Title of Symposium: Addressing pre and post analytical issues in developing countries. Chair: Tony Badrick

1. Driving change in the pre-analytical phase of testing
Endang Hoyaranda
2. Understanding the impact of race and ethnicity on common tests
Kiyoshi Ichihara

3. Improving clinical commenting by a QA program
Tony Badrick

5. Interpretative comments programme

There were six cases in 2015. The purpose of these cases and suggested responses is to provide some clinical cases for continuing education. Again there was a wide range of responses with between 15 and 45 participants for each case.

6. Young Scientist Competition (coordinated by Dra Endang Hoyaranda)

The APFCB Young Scientist Award Competition is a scientific paper competition conducted by the APFCB through C-ELM with the following objectives:

1. To foster and encourage scientific inter-exchange amongst young scientists within the Asia-Pacific region
2. To help and encourage young scientists in both written and oral communication of their research results

Scientists under the age of 40 on 26 November 2016 (opening of the 14th APFCB Congress in Taiwan) are eligible for this competition. There will be 5 (five) young scientists selected from all those who submit papers to present their papers as oral presentations at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei, Taiwan, on 26-29 November 2016. A dedicated symposium during this congress will be allocated to this competition. All five oral presenters will be sponsored by Siemens to attend the 14th APFCB Congress and the Congress Organising Committee has kindly agreed to waive registration fees. There will be a first prize winner of SGD 1,000 and a second prize of SGD 500 sponsored by Siemens.

II. Scientific Committee (C-Sc)

Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)

1. Regional reference interval study (chaired by Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara)

After completing the study in Japan, China, Pakistan, India, and Philippines, teams in Nepal, Malaysia and Bangladesh began to actively conduct the study for derivation of country-specific reference

intervals. Representatives for Nepal, Malaysia, India, Pakistan are members of the C-Sci and all met and discussed the progress in Paris during EuroMedLab 2015 at the IFCC C-RIDL meeting.

A web-site was developed in June 2015 for evidence-based laboratory medicine (EBLM) based on results from the 2009 Asian multicenter study which provides interactive viewing of information on sources of variations of reference values for 72 analytes:

<http://c-sci-apfcb.net/eblm/index.html>

Publications

Shimizu Y, Ichihara K on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Sources of variation analysis and derivation of reference intervals for ALP, LDH, and amylase isozymes using sera from the Asian multicenter study on reference values. Clin Chim Acta 2015; 446: 64–72.

Masuda S, Ichihara K, Yamanishi H, Hirano Y, Tanaka Y, Kamisako T on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Evaluation of menstrual cycle-related changes in 85 clinical laboratory analytes. Ann Clin Biochem 2015 (In press. doi: 10.1177/0004563215617212).

Jono H, Su Y, Obayashi K, Tanaka Y, et al. Sources of variation of transthyretin in healthy subjects in East and Southeast Asia: Clinical and experimental evidence for the effect of alcohol on transthyretin metabolism. Submitted to Ann Clin Biochem (under evaluation).

2. New regional project on building a case record database of haematological malignancy (chaired by Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara)

Making best use of value-assigned serum panel, a new project of building a well-defined, case-record database of hematological malignancy in collaboration with four Asian countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Japan is being planned. The purpose of the project is to explore possible country-specific differences in clinical and laboratory test results of the disorders. The information will be useful for the practice of EBLM for pathological conditions.

3. Urine steroid metabolomic studies by gas chromatography mass spectrometry to aid the diagnosis of disorders of sex development in Vietnamese children (working group chaired by Dr Ronda Greaves)

The National Hospital of Pediatrics (NHP) has progressed well with this difficult project. Dr Mai and her colleagues worked in the first half of 2015 to validate the method. In May 2015, Dr Mai reported that her team was ready to commence participation in the external quality assurance program offered by SKML in the Netherlands and SKML advised that a mid-year enrolment was acceptable. From July 2015 NHP has been enrolled in the SKML programme for urine steroids and the 2015 material supplied has been used for initial evaluation of the method. The 2016 SKML enrolment will be used as a formal EQA to confirm on-going method performance. Once this has been established the reference interval and ratio studies will be performed. All samples for these studies have been collected and are stored at -20°C awaiting analysis.

4. Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course conducted under APFCB auspices (organised by Dr Ronda Greaves)

The 7th Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (CPC) was conducted on Saturday 6th June 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City and on Tuesday 9th June 2015 in Hanoi. The speakers were Assoc Prof Graham Jones, Dr. Dinh Thi Thanh Hoa (Clinical Biochemist, Bach Mai hospital, Ha Noi), Pharm. Tran Huu Tam (Director of CSQL of HCMC, Vietnam) and Dr Ronda Greaves. The attendance was as anticipated with around 350 participants in Ho Chi Minh City and 200 participants in Hanoi. In addition to the recordings, this year there was a live telecast of the Ho Chi Minh City CPC through the APFCB website. Re-recordings were also made of the 6th Vietnam CPC; as the original recordings were of poor quality. Discussions have commenced for the 8th Vietnam CPC for 2016. Preliminary discussions are also in place to initiate a similar CPC in Yangon within the next year.

All recordings will be made available online for the APFCB website in dual language and also for the IFCC e-Academy in English.

Acknowledgements:

The APFCB thanks Roche Diagnostics Vietnam, particularly Mr Tien and Mr Rod Ward, for their continued support of professional development in the region.

5. Vietnam Workshops – Point of care testing (organised by Dr Ronda Greaves)

The 3rd Vietnam Point of Care Patient Testing Workshop was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City on 11th June 2015 at the RMIT Vietnam Campus in District 3. Mrs Jo-Ann Northfield (Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne POCT phlebotomy nurse / technician and RMIT POCT Course workshop leader) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this workshop. On Friday 12th June 2015 a POCT half-day seminar was conducted in association with Jo-Ann Northfield, Mr Eric Law (Roche Diagnostics Singapore) and Dr Ronda Greaves to present quality management solutions for POCT to senior hospital officials. The eventuation of the potential Six Sigma Workshop did not progress in 2015 and is now planned for 2016. Discussions have commenced to expand the workshop activities to Hanoi.

Acknowledgements:

The APFCB acknowledges the support of Roche Diagnostics Vietnam and Asia for the Workshop and Seminar.

6. Regional project for harmonisation of mass spectrometry-based steroid assays (working group chaired by Dr Ronda Greaves)

The list of scientists / laboratories interested in participating in the APFCB Mass Spectrometry (MS) Harmonisation working group continues to grow, with approximately two thirds encompassing members of the AACB. This APFCB MS Master group list has become quite large and required some time for management. After some initial discussions with the AACB CEO, Mr Peter Graham, the Master List was transferred to the AACB Office for administration purposes. The Office has agreed to send out emails on behalf of the APFCB Harmonisation Working Group and will support maintaining the contact list. The first email trial, which informed everyone on the list of this change (with an opt-out option) was successful. This centralised list was also used to invite people to this year's open face to face group meeting conducted on Wednesday 16th September 2015 during the AACB Annual Scientific Meeting. The added advantage of this centralised approach is that there is now a place to record the RSVP and attendance record for these annual face to face meetings.

The work conducted by the group was initially focused on serum testosterone analysis, with the plan to expand this work to other serum steroids in 2015. The establishment of the DHT pilot programme within the RCPAQAP Endocrine program was the primary focus of the 2015 harmonisation initiative. For this project the working group

obtained help from Prof Stefan Wudy (University Giessen Germany) to establish targets for DHT and other steroid analytes using GC-MS. These targets were successfully applied to DHT for the second cycle of 2015. This is the first EQA scheme to offer DHT to our knowledge worldwide and the RCPAQAP have agreed to continue this into 2016.

One of the difficult hurdles to overcome is the establishment of commutability of commercial calibrators and the RCPAQAP material; as it is the base for the harmonisation comparison. As an outcome of the 2015 AACB Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney, a Commutability Working Party was formed. This group's focus is to establish the commutability of the RCPAQAP Endocrine material; including the serum steroids. The APFCB MS Harmonisation Working Group is represented on this Working Party. To date experimental studies are being developed.

Publications

Lisa Jolly, Stefan A. Wudy, Michaela F. Hartmann, Chung Shun Ho, Richard KT Kam, John Joseph, Conchita Boyder, Ronda F Greaves. Establishment of an external quality assurance program for serum dihydrotestosterone. Accepted as a hot topic oral presentation at the 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Meeting. The abstract was published in the Clin Biochem Reviews 2015;36:S46.

Ronda F Greaves, Janne Pitkin, Chung Shun Ho, James Baglin, Rodney W Hunt, Margaret R Zacharin. Hormone modelling in preterm neonates: Establishment of serum steroid reference intervals by LC-MS/MS. Accepted as an extended oral presentation at the 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Meeting. The abstract was also published in the Clin Biochem Reviews 2015;36:S19.

A publication developing reference intervals using the "common" calibrator piloted by the APFCB Harmonisation Working Group was published in JCEM in 2015; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1210/jc.2014-3681>. This work developed mass spectrometry based reference intervals for preterm neonatal serum for testosterone, 17OHP, androstenedione, cortisol and cortisone.

RF Greaves, L Jolly, MF Hartmann, SA Wudy. Should we target set our RCPAQAP material when there are gaps in the traceability chain? Target assignment of 17-OHP, androstenedione, DHEA and DHT by GC-MS/MS. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Meeting. The abstract was published in the Clin Biochem Reviews 2015;36:S46.

Greaves RF, Ho CS, Hoad KE, Joseph J, McWhinney B, Gill JP, Koal T, Fouracre C, Lu Y, Cooke B, Boyder C, Pham H, Jolly L. Achievements and future directions of the APFCB harmonisation project on serum testosterone. Clin Biochem Rev 2015. Manuscript submitted November 2015 and currently under review.

A systematic review of the literature has been conducted to ascertain the published reference intervals for MS based serum steroid assays. This review, "*Systematic review of serum steroid hormone reference intervals for mass spectrometry methods*", has been registered with PROSPERO (CRD42015029637). Collation of the data is progressing for publication and distribution to the APFCB MS working group in 2016 for further input.

7. APFCB Chronic Kidney Disease (working group chaired by Associate Prof Graham Jones who is also the APFCB Travelling Lecturer for 2015 and 2016)

The key activities have been coupled with the opportunities provided through the APFCB Travelling Lecture Programme. Associate Prof Graham Jones delivered his lectures in Singapore, Vietnam, India, China and Mexico in 2015.

Of the countries Associate Prof Graham Jones has visited there is a great need for action in the area of CKD. In many laboratories, creatinine assays are not standardised although it seems likely that doctors are calculating the eGFR using smart phones or similar, based on the assumption of standardisation. Similarly, while there appears to be excellent co-operation between some laboratories and their local clinical renal colleagues, there does not seem to be as much activity at the national organisation level. Associate Prof Graham Jones hopes that some of the presentations and discussions obtained through the APFCB Travelling Lectureship may promote these activities.

A press release from KDIGO on 14th July 2015, KDIGO to Strengthen Implementation Programs in Low and Middle Income Countries, may provide opportunities for collaboration with clinical groups as the organisation appears to have representatives from a number of Asia-Pacific nations.

III. Communications Committee (C-Comm) **Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma (India)**

1. APFCB website

The APFCB website (www.apfcb.org) was launched on 1st Nov 2011 and is being maintained with regularly updated comprehensive information on the organisation and activities of APFCB and its member societies. Access is made available through the site to the on-going scientific, educational and laboratory management programmes of APFCB, to the activities of communication & publications committee and to the photo gallery of these events. It also serves well as a source of information for the APFCB Congress / regional meetings and future events. APFCB e-News and annual reports are conveniently published online on this platform making them readily available to all the members. It also facilitates webinars related to clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine.

The year 2015 witnessed the on-line live telecast of the Vietnam CPC in the month of June (6th June 2015) which was viewed by almost 200 people across the Asia-Pacific Region.

2. APFCB e-News:

The APFCB e-News is published online on the APFCB web-site. This has ensured wide reach of the e-News to all members at no additional cost. As decided by the EB at its meeting in Singapore on 5th and 6th September 2015, the APFCB e-News shall be published twice a year commencing in 2016. The C-Comm has requested member societies through their National Representatives to contribute annual activities report for publication in the e-News.

3. Public Relations

A power point presentation on the APFCB, its members and its activities was developed by Mr Martin Fuhrer, Corporate Representative to the EB and is now being updated regularly by the new Corporate member, Mr Alexander Wong since Martin Fuhrer's resignation from Siemens. This power point presentation is ready for use at member society conferences and at regional and international meetings to promote the APFCB.

IV. Congress and Conferences Committee (C-CC)

Chair: Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)

1. 14th APFCB Congress

The C-CC Chair has been in close contact with the Chair of the Organising Committee of the 14th APFCB Congress on preparations for the congress. The latest report from the OC is appended below.

The APFCB President and Chair C-CC visited Taipei on 24 Oct 2015 to confer with the Congress Organising Committee on preparations for the 14th Congress. A report of this visit has been submitted to EB and the COC by the Chair of C-CC (Please refer to Appendix 1). One of the important points noted was that sponsorship from the major vendors of diagnostic products was still not yet forthcoming.

2. APFCB auspices

The following conferences/courses have been granted APFCB auspices:

- i. EFLM-IFCC EuroMedLab, Paris, 21-25 June 2015
- ii. Chemical Pathology Course 2015 that was held on 06 June 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City and on 09 June 2015 in Ha Noi, Vietnam
- iii. WASPaLM World Congress that was held in Cancun, Mexico from 18-21 November 2015
- iv. Cherry Blossom Symposium to be held in Seoul from 20-22 April 2016 in Seoul
- v. College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka Annual Academic Sessions from 4-5 March 2016

3. The Chair of the C-CC has written an article entitled "APFCB Auspices of Meetings" for the 2015 APFCB e-News as a way of informing learned societies in laboratory medicine and APFCB members of the opportunity to apply for auspices.

4. Turning Science into Caring (TSIC)

Abbott Laboratories has held TSIC meetings in the Asia-Pacific region over the past few years in conjunction with the IFCC. The purpose of these meetings is to bring laboratory and other healthcare professionals together to exchange information on trends in laboratory medicine. Following a discussion with a representative from Abbott at the EuroMedLab in Milan in May 2013, the APFCB was invited to

become a partner of these meetings. An agreement to this effect was signed between the APFCB and Abbott on 22 July 2013 which enables the APFCB to be a partner and contribute to the planning of the scientific programme of TSIC meetings.

This year's TSIC meeting was initially planned for Bangkok, 2-3 September 2015. However, due to the bombing that occurred in Bangkok the TSIC meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia, 2-3 December 2015. The theme for this year's TSIC meeting was: "Elevating the standard of patient care". The APFCB was represented by Dr Elizabeth Frank, Treasurer of APFCB.

5. Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)-Beckman Coulter (BC) Scientific Symposia

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 8 October 2015

Jakarta, Indonesia 10 October 2015

Bangkok, Thailand 14 October 2015

The APFCB-BC Symposia was an educational series proposed by Beckman for the purpose of raising the standard of laboratory medicine within the region. Beckman had indicated that they were prepared to organise, fund and promote the series of symposia in their selected cities – Ho Chi Minh, Jakarta and Bangkok. Planning for the entire event began in May 2015. Ms Ng Siew Bee from Beckman was the coordinator of the activities and had discussions with Associate Prof Sunil Sethi who represented the APFCB and Beckman Headquarters, particularly Dr Jack Zakowski, Director of Scientific Affairs and Professional Relations at Beckman Coulter. Dr Zakowski also holds appointments within the Board of Directors at Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and College of American Pathologists (CAP). Dr Zakowski had agreed to participate in all three of the APFCB-BC Symposia as a subject expert in the area of laboratory standards, accreditation and the clinical value of specific biomarkers.

The series of APFCB-BC Symposia were held in hotels within the city centre and the programme was usually a one-day activity with a series of talks from local experts, APFCB representative and BC expert.

The events were generally well received and participation rates were between 70 -150 participants, who were a mix of laboratory professional and technical staff as well as medical staff. The audience was generally well engaged and there were lively Q&A sessions and panel discussions as part of the planned activities. Overall, the scientific content was tailored in some ways to the needs and interests of the local laboratories which helped maintain the interest. There was

also a small exhibition area which featured BC equipment. This gave the event a rather nice conference with exhibition atmosphere.

Each event was opened with formal introductions by the BC senior management team, followed by Associate Prof Sunil Sethi representing the APFCB. The APFCB hopes to continue to work with Beckman and perhaps enshrine the APFCB-BC Symposia as a regular series rather than only for this occasion.

Report prepared by Leslie Lai with contributions from Joseph Lopez, Sunil Sethi, Endang Hoyaranda, Kiyoshi Ichihara, Tony Badrick, Praveen Sharma, Ronda Greaves, Graham Jones and Woei-Horng Fang.

06.01.16

Progress report of APFCB Congress 2016

APFCB President Leslie Lai and Dr. Joseph Lopez, Chair, APFCB C-CC met the Organising Committee on Saturday 24th October 2015 to discuss the progress of preparations for the 14th APFCB Congress to be held from 26th-29th November 2016, in Taipei. A power point presentation was made by Prof. Woei-Horng Fang, Chair of the Congress Organising Committee (COC), Prof. Shu-Chu Shieh, Chair, Scientific Committee (SC) and other colleagues from the COC. Also present were representatives from the professional conference organiser (PCO). The EB representatives considered that overall preparations appeared to be on course.

The following are some key points of the progress:

1. Scientific Programme:
 - a. There are 4 plenary lectures and 24 symposia and the speakers and titles are in place.
 - b. Dr. Kuo, Director-General of Centres for Disease Control Taiwan, has been invited to be the Keynote speaker with the title of his talk being “Laboratory Medicine in Cloud.”
 - c. The abstracts submission system was opened in December 2015 and the closing date is 31 May 2016.
 - d. APFCB Travelling Lecturer, Dr. Graham Jones is one of the plenary speakers.
 - e. Some APFCB national societies have not yet confirmed the themes of their talks and speakers and we are actively tracking them and will reserve some rooms for late additions of symposia.
2. Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM) accepted our invitation to include their annual conference as a satellite meeting of the APFCB Congress. The time frame of this satellite meeting will be on 26th - 27th November with the title “Asia-Pacific Chinese Conference of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine” and Mandarin will be used in this conference. This satellite meeting is expected to attract more participants from China, Hong Kong, Macao, as well as the bulk of local medical technologists. An effort is being made to attract the local clinical pathologists to participate in the congress.
3. Registration: USD 550 (same as Bali) for foreign participants; free registration for scholarship holders. Daily registration will be USD 100 and an extra payment is required for the banquet. The registration system will be open in early 2016.
4. Corporate Sponsorship:
 - a. There are 2 diamond sponsors – Roche and Siemens.
 - b. However, some of the well-known vendors who are APFCB Corporate Members have yet to register their interest in the

- congress. APFCB will assist the COC in contacting these prospective sponsors.
- c. Local sponsors will be actively contacted in the coming months. Good local vendor support is expected because of the participation of the TSLM.
 - d. There are still slots available for industrial workshops and it is expected that these will be taken up in the coming months by the major vendors.
5. Venue: the venue of the congress will be the Taiwan International Convention Centre (TICC). The entire building of the TICC is available for the period of the APFCB Congress. The trade exhibition will be held at the Taiwan World Trade Centre which is just across the road from the TICC. TICC, TWTC and the Grand Hyatt are all within the vicinity of the iconic 101 Building and within walking distance of each other and metro stations.
 6. Professional Conference Organiser (PCO):
 - a. The local Enjoy-PCO will act as the congress's contact point. It will manage everything, including registration, communication with speakers and participants, accommodation arrangements, etc.
 7. Social:
 - a. The reception for the opening will be held at the TICC.
 - b. Packed lunch will be provided to all registered participants on each day of the congress
 - c. The congress banquet will be held at the Grand Hyatt hotel and will be open to all registered participants for a fee. This venue can hold 800 guests.
 8. Promotions:
 - a. The official web-site <http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/> will be progressively updated.
 - b. It will be used for registrations and submission of abstracts.
 - c. A major promotional effort will be made at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid.
 9. We are ready to provide venues for meetings of the APFCB EB and committees, and the IFCC and its Divisions, Committees, if requested, and other joint meetings (e.g. APFCB-IFCC; APFCB-WASPaLM) that are held in conjunction with the APFCB Congress.

Report prepared by Joseph Lopez (Chair of C-CC) with contributions from Woei-Hong Fang (Chair of COC)