I am truly honored and privileged to serve as President of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology. My office starts from May this year, and continues until the next Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology, to be held in June 2010 in Seoul, Korea.

I would like to thank my predecessors for laying down a solid foundation of the Society, and I pledge my commitment to strengthen our Society and promote collaboration amongst colleagues in the nephrology community with the objective of promoting the clinical care and science in the field of nephrology, for better prevention and treatment of kidney diseases.

The emphases of the Society in the coming two years include the following aspects:

a. **Enhancement of Corporate Governance and Communication** – The objective is to foster consonance and cultivate ownership amongst members societies. Support from member societies is key to the success of the APSN. It is my belief that a corporate structure that emphasizes transparency and communication promotes ownership, which is crucial to sustainable growth and success of our Society.

The Executive Committee is the key decision-making body of our Society for day to day administration, while the Council will be consulted in important matters of common interest. The Executive Committee is chaired by the President and comprises the Office Bearers and representatives from the Sponsoring Societies. The following three Subcommittees have been established recently:

- **Education Subcommittee**, chaired by Dr Yasuhiko Tomino, which oversees activities related to education or training, such as the organization of CME courses or training fellowships
- **Membership and Website Subcommittee**, co-chaired by Dr Peter Kerr and Dr Robyn Langham
- **Awards and Nomination Subcommittee**, chaired by Dr Gavin Becker, which oversees the nomination and selection of various APSN awards and the nomination of Office Bearers for the next term of office

b. **Membership Drive** – The strength of our Society owes to the support from member societies as well as its members. We need to keep everyone updated on what the Society is doing. To foster this link and communication, we are launching a membership drive. Non-life membership subscription is waived with immediate effect until June 2010. We would still encourage everyone to join as Life Members, which is of course better value for money in the long run! Please return the completed Membership Application Form to us, and we will keep you abreast of all the developments in the APSN.

c. **Education and Professional Development** – There is marked disparity in the development of nephrology service within the Asian Pacific region. The Society will support initiatives to promote the education and training of nephrology, especially in less developed countries.

d. **Academic Development** – The Society encourages basic and clinical research in nephrology, which are prerequisite to clinical advancement. Under the leadership of David Harris and prior editors, our official journal *Nephrology* has established itself as an important regional academic journal. Support to *Nephrology* will continue to be an important mission of the APSN.

As members of the nephrology community in the Asian Pacific region, we share common visions. It is only with your continued support that the APSN can continue its efforts to foster the collaboration and mutual support that are essential to our realizing these goals.

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Administrative Structure of the APSN

A. Office Bearers:
- President – Daniel Tak Mao CHAN
- Honorary Secretary - Robyn LANGHAM
- Honorary Treasurer - Sydney TANG
- Chair of Education Subcommittee and President-elect - Yasuhiyo TOMINO
- Co-Chairs of Membership and Website Subcommittee - Peter KERR and Robyn LANGHAM
- Chair of Awards and Nomination Subcommittee - Gavin BECKER
- Editor-in-Chief, Nephrology - David HARRIS
- President of 12th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology, 2010, Seoul, Korea – LEE Ho Yung

B. APSN Executive Committee
Members of the Executive Committee include the President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, President-elect (also the Chair of Education Subcommittee), Co-Chairs of Membership and Website Subcommittee, Nephrology Editor-in-Chief, Chair of Awards and Nomination Subcommittee, President of 12th APCN, Sponsoring Society Representatives (one from each society)

Sponsoring Societies – Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, Japanese Society of Nephrology, Korean Society of Nephrology, Hong Kong Society of Nephrology, Taiwan Society of Nephrology, Chinese Society of Nephrology

Nephrology – Journal of the APSN

Thanks to the efforts of its authors, subject editors and its many reviewers, the official journal of APSN, Nephrology, has enjoyed considerable growth in content, quality and impact over the past few years. If the current trend continues, and there are many reasons to suspect that it will, then its stature should continue to grow to make it an important force not just in our region, but internationally. Recently, a new contract has been negotiated between the publishers Wiley-Blackwell and APSN, whereby the profits are shared equally between both parties. It was expected that it would take several years for APSN to realize a profit. To our surprise, APSN has been rewarded with a profit in the very first year of this new arrangement. This monetary gain for APSN will be put to good use to support programs which advance the practice of nephrology in our region.

The mission of Nephrology is to support the readers and authors of our region. To fulfill this mission, the Journal aims to publish manuscripts of particular relevance to Asian Pacific nations. There has been a steady increase in the number of manuscript submissions (probably 450 in 2008) so that, despite the current “healthy” acceptance rate of approximately 35%, the number of published pages is increasing. In 2008 the Journal will increase from 6 to 8 issues, with the aim of increasing to 10 issues in 2010. However, given the current submission trends and the plans to publish in 2009 two special issues focused on particular important topics, the second increase may occur, profits permitting, in 2009.

The impact factor of the Journal has increased by almost 400% in the last 3 years. This has occurred even though it has not been a major focus as it is determined at least in part by factors that are counter to the Journal’s mission. Impact factor is determined by the number of citations with respect to the number of published articles. For a journal of its size, Nephrology contains a relatively large number of articles. For these reasons it is anticipated that the Journal’s impact factor cannot in the near future achieve the levels enjoyed by American and European nephrology journals.

The editorial processes of the Journal are under constant refinement, and so authors are rewarded by relatively rapid decisions and, following acceptance, rapid electronic and paper publication.

Nephrology is proving its importance to APSN and to those involved in nephrological care in our region and beyond. I urge authors in our region to submit their best manuscripts to the Journal, and all members of APSN to support the Journal in whatever way they can. With your support, Nephrology will continue to grow in stature, to the benefit of APSN and Asian Pacific nephrology.

David Harris, Editor-in-Chief, Nephrology

11th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology, 5-8th May 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 11th Congress of the Asian Society of Nephrology was held on 5th to 8th May 2008 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The congress was attended by 1,768 participants from 56 countries, including participants from outside the Asian Pacific region. The congress was preceded by two other events held on 4th May - The Asian Colloquium in Nephrology Postgraduate Course and the 2nd Asian Forum on Chronic Kidney Disease. The postgraduate course was well received and 211 physicians, nephrologists and trainees attended. The OT Khoo lecture given in honour of Dr Khoo Oon Teik, the founder of the Asian Colloquium in Nephrology, was delivered by Dr BN Lee. The 2nd Asian Forum on Chronic Kidney Disease, co-organized with the Japanese Society of Nephrology, was attended by about a hundred participants, and the major themes included the determination of eGFR for Asians and the ways to combat the epidemic of chronic kidney disease.

The 11th APCN featured 4 plenaries, 14 symposia, 13 lectures, 12 CME sessions, and 9 industry-sponsored lunch sym-
posia. There were close to 400 free papers, about 100 of which were oral presentations. There were about 20 recipients of the Best Abstract Awards and the APSN Nephrology Development Awards, which were established to encourage young investigators and to assist delegates from developing countries in attending the Congress. 79 speakers including 21 from outside the Asian Pacific region were invited, and most of the lectures can be accessed at www.apcn2008.org.my [to log in please type APCN2008 and the password is kualalumpur]. Professor Robert Atkins from Melbourne, Australia, received the Oshima award, and Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa from Japan received the Kincaid-Smith award from the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to nephrology. The Ross Bailey lecture was delivered by Professor David Harris from Sydney.

3rd Asian Forum of Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative (3rd AFCKDI), 18th to 19th April, 2009, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Chronic kidney disease has become an increasingly important issue in the Asian Pacific region. Following the success of the first forum in Japan and the second forum in Malaysia, the 3rd AFCKDI will be held next year in Taiwan. Promoting the advancement of the science and clinical service in nephrology to combat renal diseases is an important objective of our Society, and the APSN will continue its support to this forum. Further information on this meeting can be obtained from Dr Hung-Chun Chen, President of the 3rd AFCKDI, Department of Nephrology, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung 807, Taiwan.

12th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology, 5th-8th June 2010, Seoul, Korea

The 12th APCN will be held from June 5 to 8, 2010, at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul, Korea. The scientific programme will present state-of-the-art knowledge on topics in general nephrology, dialysis, or kidney transplantation. Entertaining social events during the congress will also provide opportunities for interaction and the strengthening of friendship and collaboration. Seoul is one of the most fascinating metropolitan cities in Asia, endowed with a unique cultural and historic heritage while presenting the most advanced developments in communication and digital technology. We invite everyone in the nephrology community to come and savor the scientific and social programmes that we have prepared for you.

Lee Ho Yung, President of 12th APCN

Join the APSN – Join for Free!!!

Under the current Membership Drive Campaign, non-life membership subscription for residents in Asian-Pacific countries is waived for a period of 2 years, until the 2010 APCN. While I still urge you to join as Life-Members, which is definitely better value for money in the long run, please do not waste this opportunity. APSN members are entitled to discounts in Nephrology subscription rate and APCN registration fees. So send in your APSN Membership Application Form* today!

*also downloadable from the APSN website:
http://www.apsneph.org/