



## President's Message



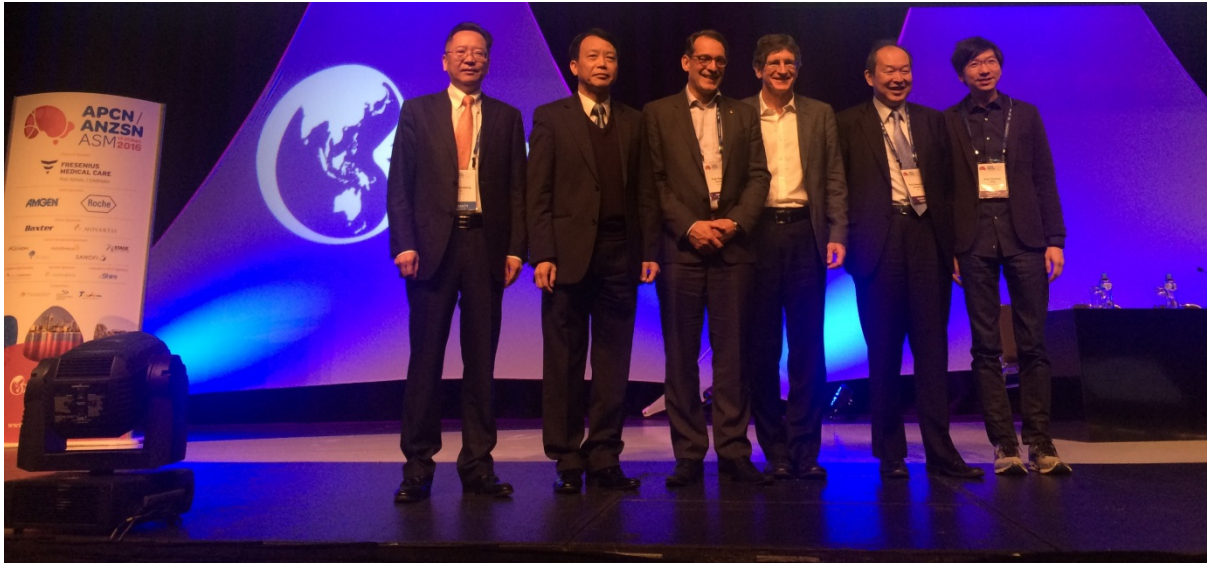
November 24, 2016

Dear all APSN Members and Supporters,

It is a great honour for me to take over from David Harris as the President of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology. I would like to thank David for his excellent leadership in the past 3 years.

I must first congratulate Paolo Ferrari and his team to have organised such a wonderful Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN) 2016 in Perth in Sept 2016 with remarkable turnout of nearly 1100 delegates, with over 650 delegates from 26 different countries outside Australia and New Zealand. The academic programme was also excellent with 645 abstracts submitted. 192 papers were presented as free communications.

The APCN 2016 has also contributed significantly to the Society's financial resource in helping us to do more for nephrology in the region.



[In the Closing Ceremony of APCN 2016 Perth Congress:

L-1: Xueqing Yu, Guangzhou, Congress Chair, APCN 2018, Beijing

L-2: Philip Li, Hong Kong, President, APSN

L-3: Paolo Ferrari, Sydney, Congress Chair, APCN 2016 Perth

L-4: David Harris, Sydney, Immediate Past President, APSN

L-5: Masaomi Nangaku, Tokyo, Scientific Chair, APCN, 2016

L-6: Sydney Tang, Hong Kong, Scientific Co-Chair, APCN, 2016]

We have our Executive and Council Meeting as well as the General Assembly in Perth and have discussed about the future directions of APSN.



[In the APSN Executive and Council Meeting held during the Perth Congress, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016]

The Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology aims to promote and encourage the advancement of scientific knowledge and research in all aspects of nephrology, and to promote the exchange and dissemination of this knowledge in the Asian Pacific region.

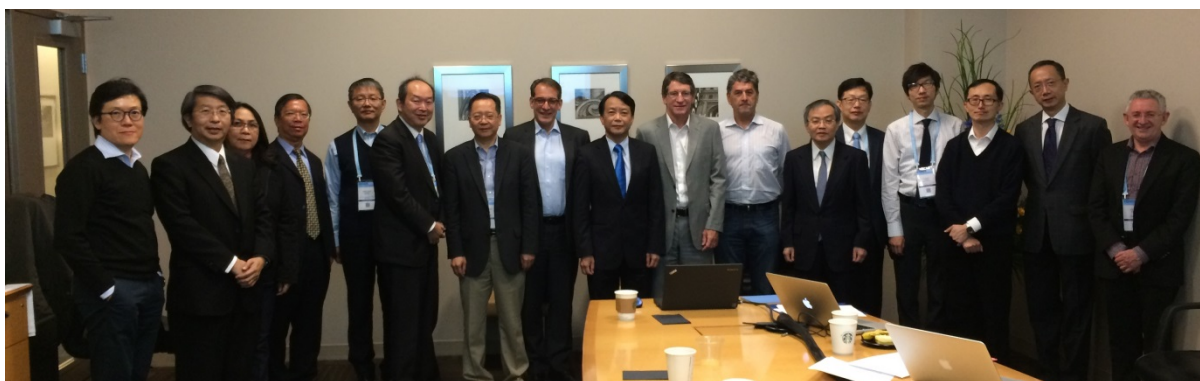
We have been doing this through:

- CME meetings
- Fellowships
- Partnership with ISN
- Website
- Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology
- *Nephrology* (Journal of APSN)
- Asian Forum for CKD Initiatives (AFCKDI)

My own vision for new Initiatives for APSN

- Enhance Support for Developing Countries in AP region
- Asian Pacific CKD programmes
- Asian Pacific Clinical Practice Recommendations
- Membership : Development and promotion of individual membership
- Enhancement of APSN image to the region
- Development of APSN Secretariat Office
- Enhancement of Research in the region
- Partnership with other academic organizations
- Advocacy of Nephrology in the region

In November 18, 2016, we have held our Executive Committee and Council Meeting in Chicago.



[In the APSN Executive and Council Meeting held on 18th Nov 2016 in Chicago- L-R: TM Chan, CW Yang, SA Rama, HC Chen, MH Zhao, M Nangaku, XQ Yu, P Ferrari, P Li, D Harris, R Walker, N Kashihara, HC Park, S Tang, CC Szeto, SK Mak, P Kerr]

On November 20, 2016, the Executive Committee had held an APSN Strategic Planning Workshop in Chicago to discuss on the financial sustainability of APSN, Development and promotion of individual membership, Asian Pacific CKD programmes, Asian Pacific Clinical Practice Recommendations, Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology, Enhancement of APSN image to the region, Enhance Support for Developing Countries in AP region. It was a very fruitful discussion and set the scene for APSN to develop further in the next 3 years and beyond.

With that as background, I will share with you my vision and goals during my tenure are:

### **Membership Engagement**

At the moment, APSN works with the national Societies of the region as our Sponsoring Societies and Affiliated Societies. We will continue to have these Sponsoring Societies and Affiliated Societies supporting us. At the same time the capturing of individual members will allow the benefit of much better communication between APSN and the individual nephrologist and thus make it easier for our promulgation of APSN programmes and messages to engage our nephrologists in the region. We will work closely with the Sponsoring Societies and the Affiliated Societies a model so that their members can register to our APSN Members' sites to have online access to Nephrology as well as other CME materials. The members will continue to enjoy the reduced registration fees for APSN meetings.

### **Nephrology**

Our official Journal ***Nephrology*** is one of the most important assets of the Society which helps to promote the education and knowledge of nephrology and for a communication channel across the Asian Pacific region and the world. Peter Kerr (Australia), our Editor-in-Chief, together with the whole Editorial Board will continue

to produce a high quality journal attracting clinical and basic research papers in renal medicine. There are now over 5,000 academic institutions around the world that purchased access to the latest content in ***Nephrology*** via Wiley, our Publisher.

### **Education Enhancement:**

Education is a fundamental aspect of the Society. Masaomi Nangaku (Japan), Chair of CME Committee has developed together with the National Societies on the CME programmes in the region. In 2016, there were 3 very successful CME programmes in June with the Japanese Society of Nephrology, in Sept during the APCN (Perth) and in Oct with the Chinese Society of Nephrology (CSN). These CME programmes were very well attended and at the same time had supported altogether more than 80 participants from Lower Income Countries (LIC) and the Lower Middle Income Countries (LMIC) through grants provided by APSN together with the local hosting Societies for joining these CME activities.

In 2017, plans have been made for CME Programmes co-hosted between APSN with the JSN on May 25th 2017, in Sendai. There will also be one co-hosted with CSN in early September. Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (HKSJ) will be co-hosting with APSN the CME meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Hong Kong.

### **APSN Website**

The APSN website will provide updates on relevant developments in APSN as well as information about scientific meetings both organised or supported by APSN. Under the Webmaster Gerald Waters (New Zealand) we have provided education materials on our website. The latest one is the APCN presentations in Perth that are available for download and viewing.

A lot more can be done through our Web including Membership recruitment and management, online access to ***Nephrology***, as well as communication and promotion strategies of APSN.

### **Asian Pacific Clinical Practice Recommendations**

CC Szeto (Hong Kong) will help the Society to form a group to study the current gaps in the clinical practice guidelines for the Asian Pacific region, notably in the good clinical practice despite resource limitations in the LIC and LMIC in the region. Some areas that would be explored include HD frequencies and management of nephropathies.

## **Asian Pacific CKD Programmes**

The initial ideas of setting up an Asian Pacific CKD Registry was deliberated in the APSN Strategic Planning Workshop and it was agreed that currently, this is not yet mature for APSN to take the lead on setting up this. However, APSN is still very keen to move forward to develop programmes for CKD management with a view to reduce the CKD burden in our region. One of the first steps is to have a more elaborate data on CKD in AP region. Sydney Tang (Hong Kong) together with David Harris and myself, will try to look for opportunities to collaborate with ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas in further studying more details how to help in managing CKD in AP region.

### **APCN 2018, Beijing, China, April 4 – 7, 2018**

APCN 2018 will be held in Beijing April 4 – 7, 2018. CSN will organise together with APSN on this meeting expecting to be the APCN with potentially the biggest number of participants. Xueqing Yu is the chair of the local organising committee. CC Szeto and Rob Walker are the APSN Co-Chairs together with Fanfan Hou and Xiangmei Chen as CSN Co-Chairs of the Scientific Programme Committee.

### **WCN-APCN Melbourne April 9 -12, 2019.**

Peter Kerr is the Congress Local Organising Chair. This is an ISN-ANZSN-APSN Meeting. Of note is 2019 will also be the 40th anniversary for APCN (Inaugural Meeting of APCN was in Tokyo 1979), so there will be activities celebrating such a memorable event.

### **Future APCNs**

In the APSN Strategic Planning Workshop, it has been a consensus that APCN after 2019 will be an annual event. It will be a WCN-APCN event in the year that WCN comes to AP region. The others will be co-hosted by a local Nephrology Society partnering with APSN. This will help to enhance education in the region, in the light that AP region is the fastest growing region for care of CKD and ESRD patients. Also it will allow APCN to go to more countries, developing and developed alike.

### **Partnership with ISN**

APSN continue to have good partnership with ISN on the collaborative projects including the fellowships, sister centre initiatives, CME, educational ambassadors and the on-going support for the region including the 0 by 25 project. These APSN-ISN activities are very welcome by the nephrologists in the AP region and have trained up quite a large number of renal doctors. These are also major areas that APSN has put in a lot of financial and human resources for capacity building in the Asian Pacific region.

## **Research**

APSN will enhance our role in developing research in improving renal care in the region. Paolo Ferrari (Australia) and Vivek Jha (India) will start to look for partners that can collaborate more with APSN in this area. APSN can help to provide a platform to capitalise on the fast growing resources in the region. Possible collaborators include Australian Kidney Trials Network and George Institute. APSN will encourage national and regional organisations and institutions for possible collaborations to enhance research.

## **Nurses**

APSN recognises the significant roles of renal nurses in the care of our kidney disease patients. The Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology is one of the supporting organizations of Asian Nephrology Nursing Symposium (ANNS) 2017 - 9th and 10th September 2017, Hong Kong

## **Financial**

APSN currently runs a very healthy financial status. Our major sources of income are from Sponsoring Societies supporting us and the region, our Journal ***Nephrology*** and the income generated from APCN.

The APSN Executive and Council are constantly looking into ways of revenue generation as well as wisely spending of the resources in supporting the region to provide a better care to our renal patients.

## **Promotion of APSN**

In the Strategic Planning Workshop in Chicago, it has been unanimously agreed that APSN should take advantage more of participation in International, regional and local meetings to promote further the activities of APSN: Individual membership

recruitment, future APCN congresses, **Nephrology** Journal, APSN Fellowship and CME programmes.

Possible venues for such promotion activities in 2017 will be in the ISPD Asian Chapter Meeting in Guangzhou, China (Mar 22-25, 2017), World Congress of Nephrology 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico (April 21-25, 2017), Japanese Society of Nephrology Annual Meeting in Sendai, Japan (May 25-28, 2017), Chinese Society of Nephrology Annual Meeting (Sept, 2017), Hong Kong Society of Nephrology Annual Meeting in Hong Kong (Sept 30-Oct 1, 2017) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Chinese Nephrologists in Taipei, Taiwan (Dec 8-10, 2017)

Our APSN CME speakers and APSN fellows are good ambassadors for us and we should capitalise more on our CME programmes for promotion of APSN.

### Secretariat Support to APSN

In the light of increasing workload and the expanding programmes of the Society, APSN has started to have ICC, based in Hong Kong, to provide Secretariat support to the Society. This will allow APSN to run more efficiently and to better serve our members. They can be contacted at [apsn@icc.com.hk](mailto:apsn@icc.com.hk)

### Presidential Activity

In October, 2016, I attended the Chinese Society of Nephrology (CSN) meeting in Chongqing and gave an Opening Speech on behalf of APSN. The Meeting had nearly 10,000 delegates.



[P Li in the Opening Ceremony of CSN Meeting in Chongqing on 13th October, 2016]

I also attended, on behalf of APSN, the 2016 International Forum of Kidney Organizations in Chicago on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2016 as co-facilitated by the American



Society of Nephrology, European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant Association, and International Society of Nephrology with over 30 global nephrology participating organizations discussing possible collaborations.

On behalf of all the Executive, Council and Committees, I would like to once again thank all of you as members who have supported our initiatives and we do further rely on you to contribute to the APSN development now and in future.

We treasure your views on how we should further advance nephrology in the AP region. If you have any suggestions related to APSN, please feel free to contact me, any of the Executive and Council or through the Secretariat [apsn@icc.com.hk](mailto:apsn@icc.com.hk)

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Li". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Philip K.T. LI

President,

Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology