

EDITORIAL

Update on the APJCP and the APOCP in 2013 - What is Going to be Achieved in the Future?

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Abstract

The history of the APOCP/APJCP goes back to 1999 when a number of interested scientists joined together to form the organization and to launch a new journal to support cancer prevention research in the Asian-Pacific area. Since the initial Founding Conference, some six General Assemblies (GAs) and ten Regional Conferences (RCs) and Special Study Sessions have been organized. Already the decisions have been made for two further GAs and at least three RCs. As of the April issue of 2013, a total of nearly 3,700 papers have already been published in regular issues of the APJCP or special supplements. With support of the Korean National Cancer Center, housing the Chief Editorial Office, the journal is now including approximately 100 papers a month. Although it experienced a set-back by reduction in the Impact Factor (IF) from 1.29 in 2010 to 0.67 in 2011, there are good grounds to expect an improvement in 2012. However, the future of the APOCP/APJCP will continue to depend on its membership, making continuous efforts to attend our conferences and submit good quality manuscripts. It is particularly important to cite papers in the APJCP wherever possible, if the wish is for an IF commensurate with our long term aims. In that sense it is up to all authors, since the journal will continue to have a very positive policy towards accepting papers from all countries within the Asian-Pacific, with its very varied levels of resources. The editorial team looks forward to your considered support. The APOCP also hopes to see you in person at future meetings, so that you have a more active voice in deciding the best way forward in our cooperative enterprise.

Key Words: APOCP - APJCP - conferences - impact factor - citation policy - membership support

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Past

Since our APOCP Founding Conference in Pattaya in 2000 (Somyos, the organization has grown with increasing use of the APJCP (all authors of papers accepted in the journal from countries within the Asian-Pacific area automatically become members) and opportunities for our membership to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest have been regularly staged, either at General Assemblies, Regional Conferences or Special Study Sessions.

The APJCP has seen continued increase in numbers of papers accepted for publication, from 49 in 2000 to 108 in 2005, to 367 in 2010 and 1,169 last year for 2012. All of these papers are freely accessible through PubMed and through our websites, first www.apocp.org and www.apocpcontrol.org since moving the Chief Editorial Office to the National Cancer Center in Korea in 2011. Unfortunately, a problem with functioning of the Korean website was experienced in 2012 so that the downloading of pdf files was not possible. This clearly had some influence on the number of 'hits' in PubMed (see Table 1) and presumably on our Impact Factor (IF), which saw a slight rise from 1.1 for 2009 to 1.2 for 2010, but then a fall to 0.7 for 2011. Let us hope that the more

healthy figures achieved more recently will translate into a more robust IF.

In addition to the Chief Editorial Office in Korea, 2012 saw the establishment of a Chinese Editorial Office in Nanjing and a continued presence in Thailand, to provide a better service to our membership across the Asian-Pacific. In order to cover essential costs with the increase in workload, a formatting and PubMed upload fee of 100 US\$ was introduced and this, along with the generosity of

Table 1. Number of 'Hits' for the APJCP in PubMed for the Period from 2011 to the Present

4/2013	22,548	2/2012	5,278
3/2013	20,431	1/2012	4,575
2/2013	17,640	12/2011	4,788
1/2013	22,294	11/2011	6,236
12/2012	18,917	10/2011	6,410
11/2012	23,052	9/2011	5,902
10/2012	21,297	8/2011	6,065
9/2012	20,096	7/2011	6,042
8/2012	14,680	6/2011	6,859
7/2012	9,432	5/2011	7,610
6/2012	3,913	4/2011	8,623
5/2012	4,736	3/2011	10,036
4/2012	5,021	2/2011	7,884
3/2012	5,607	1/2011	8,240

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Figure 1. Participants at the Joint APOCP/Thailand National Cancer Institute Commemorative ‘12 Year Cycle’ Meeting in Pattaya, March 2013

the Korean NCC, and the UICC-Asian Regional Office in the past, has allowed running of three offices with a Chief Editor, a Managing Editor, two Deputy-Managing Editors, all full-time, and two part-time assistants.

Present

At a joint APOCP-Thai National Cancer Institute Commemorative Meeting in Pattaya in March of this year (see Figure 1), it was re-confirmed that the next 7th General Assembly will be held in Taipei, Taiwan (March 20-23, 2014) and the decision was made to award the 8th GA to Brisbane, Australia for 2016. In addition, announcements were made for Regional Conferences in Sharm-El Sheikh/Egypt, Nanjing/China (both towards the end of this year) and Ha Long Bay/Viet Nam in September 2014.

The journal continues to enjoy the agreement with the Korean NCC to house the Chief Editorial Office of the APJCP and a website providing not only access to pdf files for all published papers but also a number of other services for promotion of cancer control in the Asian-Pacific. At the same time, as Chief Editor of the APJCP responsible for its success from the very beginning to the present, I have established a registered company in Thailand to provide a firm basis for continued publication and for legal receipt of formatting fees.

At present the journal is accepting approximately 60% of the submitted manuscripts, in line with the continued aim of providing a service to all scientists active in cancer control, with about 45% of papers now from China, 10% each from India/South Asia, Iran, Turkey and South-East Asia, 5% from Arab countries and the remainder from Australia, the Western World outside of our region, Japan and Korea. Commensurate with the important contribution of Chinese authors we are very happy to welcome Dr Xinen Huang as Chief-Editor for China. The roles played by our regional Regional Sub-Editors are also gratefully acknowledged (see www.apocpcontrol.org), many of whom are included in the photograph above. The approximately 90-110 papers included in each

monthly issue naturally means a great deal of work and we are trying very hard to maintain regular and timely publication. Your rapid responses to our requests for payment and galleyproof comments will greatly facilitate our task.

Future

What we aim for in the future will naturally depend on the membership, as the officials of the APOCP/APJCP have stressed on many occasions previously. Constructive criticisms and suggestions will always be welcome in the pages of the APJCP, as evidenced by Moore (2009), as will information on meetings of interest to our readership (Baldwin and Dunn, 2013). The rationale for the journal is to promote cancer control in whatever way possible, including building networks, for example for cancer registration and epidemiology (Moore et al., 2008; 2010). Papers which focus on this aspect will be given a priority.

Hopefully you will agree that it would be to the advantage of all concerned if the IF were to improve markedly in the future. Given our commitment to publishing papers from all countries, independent of their present level of research expertise, it is therefore essential that we make a combined effort to maintain standards, particularly by citing all the relevant literature,

Table 2. Specific Requests of the APJCP Editorial Team to Authors

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- Ensure that your submission is in line with our Instructions to Authors, particularly regarding referencing
 - Ensure that the Reference list is comprehensive
 - Focus attention on recent citations
 - Search www.apocpcontrol.org for relevant literature published in the APJCP
 - Send out the provided pdf files to colleagues across the globe to increase awareness
 - To ensure timely publication, please reply promptly to request for payment and galleyproof comments
- Consider the reputation of the APJCP!**
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with an emphasis on recent work. This latter provides the necessary proof of the present relevance of the research information documented. We also appeal to everyone to cite as many papers as possible from the APJCP, wherever you publish, and distribute the freely available pdf files of your work to scientists you know across the globe so that they are aware of your new contribution (see Table 2 for our 'wish list'). The website will assist in whatever way possible in this effort, for example by sending authors updates of recently published papers.

One means to maintaining quality will clearly be establishment of an improved peer review system. However, this will require considerable input in terms of staff and therefore increased cost. Since the APJCP is no longer supported by the Japanese National Committee of the UICC through the UICC Asian Regional Office (the earlier generous support of myself is very gratefully acknowledged), the salary of whoever is Chief Editor, whether myself or a replacement after I retire, together with those of the Managing Editorial Team outside of Korea, including the costs of our two offices, will depend on the payments received for formatting fees. Our policy will continue to emphasize the varying economic situations in the different countries from which we receive submissions, but with increasing outlay we envisage that fees will need to be increased in the future. The APJCP is a non-profit concern but I ask for your understanding that it needs to be run on a sound financial basis, especially if we are to invest more attention in a comprehensive review process and wish to be able to afford qualified staff. All attempts will be made to assist in facilitating payment through bank transfer, hopefully also by credit card when this can be arranged.

An organization that is responsive to the needs of cancer control in the Asian-Pacific and beyond, offering an open access journal for prompt and effective publication of research data and providing opportunities to gather together for scientific discussion on a regular basis, continues to be important, given the increasing toll from cancer across our region. The APOCP/APJCP was set up 13 years ago and many of the founding members have already retired or will soon do so. New blood is essential for success in the future - including your own contributions!

As always, thank you from the Editorial Team to all of the authors who have supported the APJCP by submitting their papers and scientists who have participated in our meetings. We look forward to your continued presence on our pages and in our conferences in the future.

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