



# FAOPS NEWS LETTER



## Message from the 15<sup>th</sup> President of FAOPS

It is with jubilation and awe to be bestowed on me by the membership the honor and privilege to serve as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of FAOPS. In jubilation, I am delighted to have this once in a lifetime opportunity to serve the physiologists in Asia and Oceania. In awe, I am fully aware of the great responsibility that comes with this office. At the end, I take solace in realizing that I will be working with a capable Council, with Professor Harbindar Jett Singh as the Secretary General.

This is an exciting time for the discipline of physiology. With the great strides in identifying novel genes and proteins during the first decade of this millennium, biomedical research is now shifting to the delineation of the functional significance of these genes and proteins. As the crucial bridge between molecules and functions and the foundation for translational medicine, I am of the view that physiology will once again be in the scientific limelight during the next decade. Whether this view is going to take root will depend on whether we, as physiologists in Asia and Oceania, would want to make it a reality. It is in this direction that I think FAOPS can play a crucial role.

The missions of FAOPS are to foster research activities in the field of physiological sciences in Asia and Oceania, to provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and

ideas between physiological scientists in Asia and Oceania, and to encourage and support the advancement of physiological sciences to developing countries and regions in Asia and Oceania. I would pledge that during my tenure as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of FAOPS, I am prepared to utilize all the resources in my hands to work closely with the Council members in sustaining those missions. Particularly high on my agenda are increasing the number of members, improving the FAOPS website and strengthening our interactions with The International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). Because of the importance of Education in Physiology, consensus was reached at the 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting held in Taipei in September to create an Education Committee. This Committee shall spearhead the development of physiological curricula and promotion of innovative methods to enhance teaching and learning of physiology that are most suitable for students in Asia and Oceania.

My personal conviction is that the stamina of FAOPS, like any institution in the world, resides in the vigor of its members. Thus, I would welcome your suggestions and comments on how we can, within our limited resources, make FAOPS a vibrant organization.

Cordially,

**Julie Y.H. Chan**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> President, FAOPS**



### Inside this issue

Message from the 15 <sup>th</sup> President of FAOPS	1
Editorial	1
Council member meeting-General Assembly	2-3
Why Birmingham 2013?	4
Congress Reports	4-6
The Inter-Medical School Physiology Quiz (IMSPQ)	7
Contribute your news!	7
Meeting Calendar 2012	8
New category on FAOPS e-newsletter	8
Selected photos from The 7 <sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei	9-12

## Editorial

Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of FAOPS newsletter.

We have had exciting outcomes since the last issue of the FAOPS newsletter. The most prominent of them was the 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress which was successfully held in Taipei, last September.

Participation of more than 700 physiologists from 35 countries shows that FAOPS has been very well accepted amongst the physiologists of Asian and Oceanic countries, along which, it means that greater steps have to be taken by its council and officials.

In the FAOPS General Assembly held during the congress days, the new Council was elected. In addition, applications for full membership by Pakistan Physiological Society and Myanmar Medical Association were unanimously approved. The application for associate membership by Uzbekistan Physiological Society was also approved. So far we have 19 members throughout these two continents. We hope this membership would be a beginning for recognizing physiologists and physiology societies from the other Central Asian countries, such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and many Middle Eastern countries.

In the past issues, we have published reports from the Korean Physiological Society, Iranian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology, Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, Physiological Society of Japan, Pakistan Physiological Society, Chinese Physiological Society (Taiwan), and Uzbekistan Physiological Society.

I hereby ask the other physiology society members of FAOPS to collaborate with us and send us reports from their activities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Saeed Semnanian MD PhD**

**The Editor**

ssemnan@modares.ac.ir



### Editor

S. Semnanian

### Editorial board

H. Azizi

Z. Fazlali

A. Haghparast

N. Hosseinmardi

A. Imani

F. Khodagholi

N. Naderi

# Council member meeting - General Assembly



## New and old FAOPS council member meeting

### From left to right:

Chumpol Pholpramool (Thailand)  
Ranjan Kumar Pejaver (India)  
Arif Siddiqui (Pakistan)  
Byung Rim Park (Korea)  
Arie Moran (Israel)  
Yasunobu Okada (Japan)  
Julie YH Chan (Taiwan)  
Harbinder Jeet Singh (Malaysia)  
David Cook (Australia)  
Saeed Semnianian (Iran)  
Ming Fan (China)  
Xiao-Min Wang (China)

## Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS General Assembly

NTU Convention Centre, Taipei  
Sunday 11 September, 2011

### Matters discussed:

The President and Chairman, Prof Yasunobu Okada welcomed and thanked the delegates at the Assembly

### Reports of Officers:

#### i) Report from the President (Y. Okada)

The President presented his report on activities covering the period from Jan 2007 to Sept 2011 such as:

- Reschedule the FAOPS Congresses to be held in between the IUPS Congresses.
- Appointing (i) 2nd Vice-President (Prof Julie Chan), (ii) Chairperson of the PR Committee (Prof Motamedi), and (iii) Vice Chairperson of the PR Committee (Prof Cheah).
- Report on the 13<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Council Meeting held in Kyoto in 2009.
- Approval of Uzbekistan Physiological Society for FAOPS Associate Membership
- Organisation of the 36<sup>th</sup> IUPS Congress in Kyoto.

•Delivery of report of IUPS Congress held in July 2009 in which he highlighted that of the 3997 attendees to the IUPS Congress, 2336 were from Japan and 640 from countries within the Asia and Oceania region. In addition, of the 136 winners of the travel awards, 72 were young physiologists from Asia and Oceania.

#### ii) Report from the Treasurer (D. Cook)

•The Treasurer presented the financial report covering the period between 30 Jun 2009 and 27 July 2011. The total income from 30 June 2009 to 27 July 2011 was \$ 25,219.82 and the expenses over the same period were \$17,950.06. A total of \$3,000 had been committed for travel grants to FAOPS 2011. The closing balance in the bank at 29 July 2011 was USD \$56,703.75

•The proposal to increase the annual membership fee by 3% (i.e. from USD 2.00 to USD 2.06 per member of each FAOPS member society) was presented and was unanimously agreed by the delegates.

#### iii) Report from the Secretary General (Xiong Li Yang)

The Secretary General presented his report listing major activities covering the last four years such as:



# Minutes of the 7th FAOPS General Assembly



- 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Kyoto
- Full membership applications from Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Myanmar
- Financial support to regional conferences
- Ask the nomination committee to call for new Council
- Site visit to Taipei in July 2010

As this was going to be his last report as Sec Gen he also thanked all the delegates, past and present, who had helped and supported him during his tenure as Sec Gen of FAOPS.

The delegates recorded a vote of thanks to Dr Yang for his immense contributions to FAOPS over the last two decades

#### iv) Report from the Organizing Committee of the 7th FAOPS Congress, Taipei

The report on the preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress was presented by the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee Prof Julie Chan listing the chronology in the organization of the Congress. The detailed report can be viewed on this issue of the newsletter.

#### v) Reports concerning FAOPS Website and Newsletter

A report from the Webmaster in Malaysia, Cheah Swee Hung, was read out by the secretary General. Delegates were informed that the domain name and website server fee has been renewed until Jan 2012. He requested that more materials be made available from member societies for inclusion on the website. It was unanimously agreed that we continue to use and update the website and renew its subscription in Jan 2012.

A brief report on the FAOPS Newsletter was presented on behalf of Dr Fereshteh Motamedi by the Secretary General. In brief, members were informed that since 2005 five issues have been published with the last issue in 2009. So far activities of 7 member societies have been reported. Other activities reported include the 2009 IUPS Congress, 13<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Council Meeting and the change of dates of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congresses.

The Editor also requested to be relieved from the editorial duties and the delegates approved the appointment of Prof Saeed Semnianian as the new editor of the newsletter. The delegates recorded a vote of thanks to Prof Fereshteh Motamedi for all her support to FAOPS over the last two decades.

#### vi) Approval of membership applications

Applications for full membership by Pakistan Physiological Society and Physiology and Biochemistry Society, Myanmar Medical Association were unanimously approved. The application for associate membership by Uzbekistan Physiological Society was also approved.

#### vii) Confirmation of official invitation from the Physiological Society of Thailand hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress 2015

The preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress to be hosted by the Physiological Society of Thailand was presented to the delegates by the representative of PST, Dr Wattana B Watanapa.

#### viii) Invitation to host the 9<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress in 2019

Delegates were informed that 2 bids had been received for the 9<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress in 2019. The bid from the Physiological Society of Japan was presented by the Chair of the Education Committee Dr Noriyuki Koibuchi. Due to unforeseen circumstances the delegate from Iranian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology was unable to attend the meeting to make the presentation. The Physiology Society of Japan was accepted as host of the 9<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress.

#### ix) Report of the nominating Committee

The Report of the nominating Committee was presented by its Chairman Prof Chumpol Pholpramool, which was unanimously endorsed by the members of the Council for presentation at the General Assembly

#### x) Election of Officers and Councilors

The Members of the FAOPS Council for the term 2011 – 2015 endorsed by the General Assembly are:

#### Executive Committee

**President: Julie YH Chan (Taiwan)**

**Past-President: Y. Okada (Japan)**

**1st Vice President: B.R. Park (Korea)**

**2nd Vice President: To be proposed (Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress in Thailand)**

**Secretary General: H.J. Singh (Malaysia)**

**Treasurer: D. Cook (Australia)**

#### Council Members

**N. Chattipakorn (Thailand)**

**G. Ilavazhagan (India)**

**A. Moran (Israel)**

**A. Siddiqui (Pakistan)**

**X.M. Wang (China)**

**S. Zahedi Asl (Iran)**

#### xi) Other matters

Amendments to the constitution:

A proposal to amend the following By-Laws in FAOPS Constitution was discussed.

1. Article I (3). "The names of additional candidates shall be added to the list if their nomination is approved by a majority vote of the delegates present at the General Assembly." (Reason: according to the Article V (4) of the revised Constitution-1998, the quorum of the GA has been decreased to one-third of the delegates. Also to correspond with Article II (2) of the By-Laws)

2. Article II (3). "Unless specifically provided otherwise in the Statutes, one-third of the delegates at the General Assembly, of the Council, and of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum, and the decision made by these bodies shall simply be the majority of the members present and entitled to vote. In case of a tie, there will be a second vote. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a vote, and a further (casting) vote when there is a second tie." (Reason: to correspond with Article V (4) of the revised Constitution-1998)

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the Council and was approved by the General Assembly.

# Congress Reports

## Why Birmingham 2013?



It is a huge privilege for physiologists in the UK to have the opportunity to welcome our international colleagues from all the 50 or so member societies of IUPS, and from countries that are not yet members, to come to the Congress in 2013. The last Congress in the UK was in 1993 and it attracted over 4500 scientists, in addition to great interest in the national and international media. We also published a book, *The Logic of Life* (OUP, 1993), that played an important role in re-establishing physiology's credentials as a necessary discipline both for the fundamental science of understanding life and for the practical applications for developments in health care. At that time, sequencing of the human genome was already in progress, though we had to wait a further 7 years for the first full draft sequence to be announced. Even so, Nobel laureate Sydney Brenner, who gave one of the great plenary lectures at the Congress, was already issuing a challenge to physiologists, emphasising that our science was essential to interpreting the data that was emerging from the genome projects.

I also recall the palpable excitement as the vast plenary lecture hall in Glasgow filled to overflowing to hear Sir Bernhard Katz give the opening lecture. It was a congress with five Nobel laureates as Honorary Presidents: Black, Hodgkin, Huxley, Katz and Vane. So, will IUPS2013 match, and even exceed, IUPS1993? I think so. Having participated in the meetings of the International Scientific Programme Committee and interacted with the organisers as the programme of the Congress is developing, I can say with great confidence that a splendid Congress is in the making. One of the reasons for saying that is that, a decade after the draft human genome sequence, it has become abundantly clear how prescient Sydney Brenner was in 1993. We are all awed by the immensity of the task now facing us. Simply sequencing the genome has not given us the answer to the question 'what is life?' nor has it yet delivered on all the health care promises. The sheer complexity of the genome and its interpretation has challenged us all. Whether you call it physiology or systems biology, we are back in action at the frontier. Interpreting the significance of the genome requires functional analysis. The higher levels of the systems biology approach are essentially indistinguishable from physiology.

Comparing Glasgow 1993 with Birmingham 2013, however, inevitably raises another question. Birmingham was originally the city chosen for the 1993 Congress when it was approved by the General Assembly in Vancouver (1986). By the time of Helsinki in 1989 we had switched to Glasgow. One of the reasons for that switch was that the reactions to the Birmingham site were not very enthusiastic. The National Exhi-

bition Centre (NEC) was the only location at that time capable of hosting a Congress of our size. It is a large and impressive location, and close to an airport. But it is more than 10 miles from the City Centre, and an hour away by public transport.

Understandably, therefore, there is still a question in many people's minds: why on earth have the UK organisers decided to choose Birmingham? The answer needs to be broadcast loud and clear. Birmingham has transformed itself since that time. The Congress will not be held at the NEC, miles out of town. It will be held in a new International Convention Centre, the ICC, situated right in the centre of town in the famous canal area. The canals are the remnants of the Industrial Revolution. In their post-industrial state they have been cleaned up, the canal side wharfs and jetties (think of Amsterdam) have been refurbished to become the pubs, coffee houses, restaurants and night clubs where we will relax, drink, eat and discuss in 2013.

I was one of the sceptics, having been deeply involved in the decisions for the 1993 Congress. I have become an enthusiast simply by going there and seeing for myself. I capped my visit by enjoying the acoustics of the magnificent new Symphony Hall and a performance by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It is easily one of the best concert halls in Europe.

Visit the Congress website to learn more: <http://www.iups2013.org/>

I can vouch personally for the accuracy of what you will find there. There is no hype. What you will see on that site is what you will experience in July 2013.

But, most of all, you will be amazed by where our science is taking us, now that it is acknowledged to be precisely what the genome sequencing requires to make sense of the question 'what is life?'

**Denis Noble**

**IUPS President**



The next meeting will be held in Europe in July 2013 in Birmingham, UK. Although the official host is the Physiological Society (UK and Republic of Ireland), the meeting organization will be very much a European collaboration. As well as being the annual meeting of the Physiological Society, it will also be the meeting of FEPS and FEPS is represented on both the main organizing committee and the Scientific Programme Committee by its President, Ulrich Pohl. In addition the Scandinavian Physiological Society has made the IUPS meeting its annual meeting for 2013.

The meeting will be held in the ICC in the middle of Birmingham. This conference centre is within easy walking distance of hotels and is situated next to pleasant canal side walks with many cafes, bars and restaurants for participants to unwind in.

Birmingham is also an excellent centre for those wishing to visit Stratford upon Avon, Wales and the Midlands.

Further details are available on the website:

<http://www.iups2013.org/index.html>.

There is currently a call for suggestions for plenary and key-note lecturers. The organization would appreciate as many suggestions as possible from FEPS members."

For detailed information of the IUPS congress check their website [www.iups2013.org](http://www.iups2013.org).



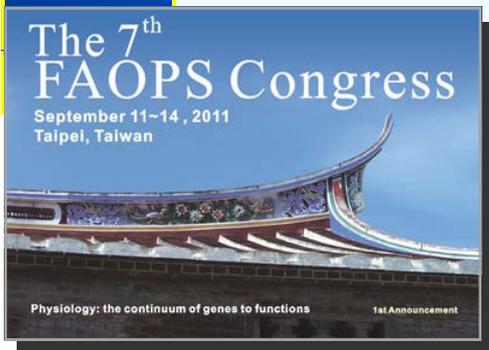
**IUPS** 2013  
21-26 July 2013 Birmingham, UK

UK FEPS will actively participate in the International Union of Physiological Societies (IUPS) congress to be held in Birmingham, UK from July 21-26, 2013.

The IUPS 2013 organizing committee is chaired by professor Bridget Lumb. The International Scientific Programme Committee is chaired by professor David Eisner, who is informing us about the call for suggestions for plenary and keynote lectures:

"As many readers will know, the international Union of Physiological Sciences holds its meetings every four years. The most recent meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan in 2009 and was a resounding success.

## Congress Reports



The 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress was successfully held in Taipei on September 11-14, 2011. A total of 747 participants from 35 countries attended the meeting.

**The Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception:**

The Congress was officially opened on September 11 by the President of FAOPS, Professor Yasunobu Okada. The Secretary General, Professor, Xiong-Li Yang, and the Chairperson of the Congress Organizing Committee, Professor Julie Y.H. Chan, also delivered their opening remarks. This was followed by congratulatory addresses by the Honorary Chairman of the Congress, Professor Shu Chien, and the Minister of National Science Council of Taiwan, Professor Lou-Chuang Lee. A Welcome Reception followed immediately after the Opening Ceremony, with cultural displays and performance of traditional Chinese music.

**The Scientific Program:** The scientific program of the Congress included 4 plenary lectures, 16 special lectures, 15 symposia, 2 colloquia and 4 workshops, together with 48 oral presentations and 403 poster presentations. In addition, 28 oral presentations by the recipients of the Young Investigator Award, sponsored by the FAOPS, were presented. 3 satellite symposia were also held in conjunction with the Congress. The

quality of the work presented was superb, and the contents befit the theme of this Congress, "Physiology: the continuum of genes to functions".

**The Closing Ceremony:** In addition to congratulatory remarks by Professors Yasunobu Okada and Shu Chien, and an emotional closing address by Professor Julie Chan, the highlight of the Closing Ceremony was the presentation of Young Investigators Award and Travel Awards. In addition, Dr. Wattana Watanapa from Thailand extended a warm welcome for all delegates to the 8<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, to be held in 2015 in Pattaya, Thailand.

Personal thoughts and acknowledgments from the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee: First, I think we have a great meeting. During the 3-day Congress, we have been treated with an intellectual feast in the form of plenary lectures, special lectures, symposia, workshops, oral presentations and poster presentations. I am sure that all delegates would agree with me that the quality of the work presented is superb, and the contents befit the theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress, "Physiology: the continuum of genes to functions".

Second, I think physiology in Asia and Oceania is thriving. I am thrilled to note the large number of young physiologists who participate in this Congress. I am particularly impressed by the enthusiasm that they showed during their presentations, during discussions, and during the workshops. In short, we have a continuum in physiology as a discipline.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Profes-

sors Yasunobu Okada and Xiong-Li Yang, President and Secretary-General of FAOPS, for their guidance during every stage of the planning for this Congress; and Professors Shu Chien and C.Y. Chia, our Honorary Chairmen of the Organizing Committee, for their unfailing support and advice. Once again, my deepest appreciation for the great efforts of all members of the Organizing Committee, and the efforts of the many students and staff who have worked very hard behind the scene to make this Congress run smoothly. To all the sponsors from the private and public sectors, I offer my sincere thank you. Last but not least, my heartfelt gratitude to all the speakers, participants, exhibitors and guests. Your partaking is what makes this Congress an event to remember.

**Julie Y.H. Chan, PhD**

**Chairperson, 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei**



## The 20<sup>th</sup> Iranian Congress of Physiology and Pharmacology (ISPP 2011, Hamadan)



The meeting was held at October 10-14, 2011 in Hamadan, a historical city in the western part of Iran. This meeting was organized by the Iranian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology (ISPP) and Hamadan University of Medical Sciences. 1275 physiologist and pharmacologist from all over the country gathered at the meeting venue which was mainly the meeting hall and 4 amphitheatres of the university. Few attendances joined from US, Australia, Japan and Iraq. Opening ceremony was held on October 10 in city hall with reports from the congress president, ISPP president and the congress secretary and also appreciation of seven pioneer outstanding Iranian physiologists and pharmacologists. Thereafter, we had traditional music performance. The Scientific program covered all areas of physiology and pharmacology. During the congress, 818 papers were presented as 9

invited speakers, 232 oral presentations in 33 symposiums, and 577 posters. Accepted papers sorting by number in different areas revealed that the main topics were from the field of neuroscience, specially learning and memory, pain, epilepsy, anxiety, addiction and neuropathy. The next ratings were traditional medicine and herbal drugs, cardiovascular physiology, hormone- metabolism, and renal physiology respectively.

During the congress, we had the ISPP general assembly in which new council members of the society were elected for the next two-years term.

On October 14, the program was ended with the closing ceremony and election of the best oral and poster presentations by young scientists who received the Prof. Guitti's award for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Abdolrahman Sarihi, PhD**

**Congress Secretary**



# Congress Reports

## Briefing of FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education in 2011

### Goal

Our intension on Education Symposium in 2011 was to provide a potential solution of Physiology Teaching to the changes of classroom setting and student mindset during medical education transformation in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. To initiate brainstorming and invite various inputs from participants, the symposium setting was designed to meet the current concept of participant-centered symposium and maintain the tradition of FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education.

### Action Plan

Our first phase started in 2009. After the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress of IUPS in Kyoto, Ann Sefton shared an important collection of Physiological Education Symposium supported by IUPS in the past decades and pointed out the unique features of these educational activities on interpersonal interaction. Penny Hansen and Xian Wang provided valuable suggestions on regional presentation in Education Symposium and how IUPS offered the financial supports to FAOSP Education Symposium. Accordingly, International Advisory Committee of FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education was formed. With the input from the International Advisory Committee, we were able to invite Philip Poronnik as an invited speaker for Special Lecture in the main Congress of FAOPS 2011.

Organizing committee was formed in the second phase. Some members in this region who actively participated in Education Symposium during IUPS were invited as speakers in FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education 2011. In addition to giving a speech, these invited speakers offered their experience and express potential contribution to the Symposium. Our preliminary plan for the Symposium was completed.

Local executive committee was established in the third phase to execute our action plan. The central theme of the Symposium "Preparing Educators for Neo-Millennial Learning" was finalized. To exercise the idea



of participant-centered symposium, local executive committee agreed to shorten each presentation to about 10 min and leave much more time for discussion and brain storming. With the endorsement of Chumpol Pholpramool and Tony Macknight, we were able to secure the financial support from ADInstrument.

### Major Events

To draw attention of FAOPS participants on Physiological Education, various forms of education-related activities have been designed and integrated to the main congress of FAOPS in addition to FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education on September 10. The major activities are summarized as follows:

On September 10, a total of 63 participants from 17 countries joined this symposium, including 10 local participants via on-site registration.

On September 11, both council meetings and general assembly were held. Overseas participants including their companies joined the tour to National Palace Museum and Taipei 101 with the coordination of Professor Paul Poon (Co-chair of this Symposium).

On September 12, two colloquia followed by a symposium of Innovative Teaching in Physiology were held. The delegates from Uzbekistan Physiological Society, Myanmar Physiological Society, and Physiological Society of Thailand also joined the colloquia and Education symposia in the main congress. MH Esmaeli (awardee of Young Investigator Award) from Iran also participated in the symposium. Irfannuddin (awardee of Travel Award in Physiological Education) from Indonesia presented his work in Colloquium I.

On September 13, AD Instrument offered a workshop around lunch time and provided an opportunity for us to re-consider how to use Web-based cases to

improve learning effectiveness in Physiology Laboratory. In addition, Special Lecture was given by Philip Poronnik in the afternoon. Some participants who did not register for FAOPS Satellite Symposium on Physiological Education joined the section of Special Lecture on Physiological Education.

### Reflection

On behalf of audience, Philip Poronnik was willing to provide their inside of post-symposium reflection. Overall impression: Condition - Fair, Prognosis - Good (with appropriate intervention)

### Organisation

The day was very well organized with the model of a number of short talks followed by very lively and vibrant discussions involving all the participants. The day was MCed by a medical student and the closing remarks provided by a medical student. This was a very valuable activity for both the students and participants.

### The main features of the day were

- A fascinating coverage of medical school reform in the region – of particular interest was the exponential increase in medical schools in some countries such as Pakistan – and the obvious challenges that such trends
- A debate on the "decline of physiology"
- Presentations on learning styles/preferences
- Workshops in e-learning
- In more details see FAOPS web page

Mei-Ling Tsai and Philip Poronnik

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan and RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia



# The Inter-Medical School Physiology Quiz (IMSPQ)



The IMSPQ was initiated in 2003 with a small beginning and the annual event was also in honor of the late Professor A Raman (1936-1998) who was the first Malaysian Professor of Physiology at the University of Malaya. The IMSPQ has developed and expanded much beyond the initial 7 Malaysian medical schools who came for the 1st IMSPQ.

1st IMSPQ, 2003: 7 Malaysian universities

2nd IMSPQ, 2004: 10 Malaysian universities

3rd IMSPQ, 2005: 13 teams including National University of Singapore

4th IMSPQ, 2006: 14 teams including newcomers, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan and Chinese University of Hong Kong.

5th IMSPQ, 2007: 14 universities

6th IMSPQ, 2008: 36 universities, more than half the teams from overseas, including Australia, Philippines, Brunei, Sri Lanka, China and India.

7th IMSPQ, 2009: 31 universities

8th IMSPQ, 2010: 41 universities from 15 countries, including a first team from Cambodia, Saudi Arabia and Romania

9th IMSPQ, 2011: 48 universities from 18 countries including newcomers, Edinburgh University and a team

each from Pakistan, Iran and UAE.

The initial 1st - 5th IMSPQ was a one day event, with teams competing before a live audience facilitated by a Quiz Master and a panel of judges. With the sudden leap in the number of participating teams at the 6th IMSPQ in 2007, the IMSPQ evolved into a 2-day affair. On Day One, all team members take a Written MCQ test and the average score of each team is computed and a ranking order generated. The team ranking is used to format the Day Two IMSPQ competition when teams again are quizzed before a live audience. There is no elimination of teams after the Written Quiz and all teams are given the opportunity to compete in the exciting, adrenaline-releasing, live competition. One highlight of the 2 - days IMSPQ event is the IMSPQ Concert on the evening of the Day One where cultural presentation from diverse international teams are enjoyed by all. Prof Tsai Mei Ling and Prof Shirley Li from National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) joined the 4th IMSPQ in 2006 and NCKU team became the regular team each year from Taiwan. As Secretary -General of the 7th FAOPS Congress, Taiwan, Mei Ling took the initiative to invite me to talk on the IMSPQ activity as a stimulus and catalyst for promoting Physiology learning and teaching in member countries and globally. In addition



to the 260 plus students representing 18 countries, at the 9th IMSPQ, July 2011, there were more than 60 accompanying Physiology educators at the 9th IMSPQ in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The IMSPQ is now a good platform for academic physio-dialogue besides stimulating interest and enjoyment in learning Physiology. With a proposed IMSPQ-FAOPS initiative discussed at the FAOPS Council in Taipei, I look forward to more exciting and enriching developments in high profiling Physiology together across the globe.

**IMSPQian,**

**Professor Cheng Hwee Ming,**

**University of Malaya,**

**Kuala Lumpur,**

**Malaysia**

**chenghm@ummc.edu.my**

## Contribute your news!

Did your society host a conference or event?

Do you have a physiology meeting that would be of interest to other FAOPS members? The FAOPS e-newsletter is a perfect way to communicate your news with other members.

We are also interested in your suggestions for features or spotlights on research, on educational outreach, to be included in the FAOPS e-newsletter.

Submit an article – make sure to include photographs, if possible:

**Submit news now.**



# Meeting Calendar 2012



19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience (ISDN 2012)

11 - 14 January 2012 - Mumbai, India

<http://www.isdn-conference.elsevier.com/index.html>

The 6<sup>th</sup> World Institute of Pain congress (WIP 2012)

February 4-6, 2012, Miami Beach, Florida, USA

<http://www2.kenes.com/wip/Pages/Home.aspx>



16<sup>th</sup> Pan Arab Conference on Diabetes

27-30 March 2012, Cairo, Egypt

<http://www.idf.org/16th-pan-arab-conference-diabetes-pacd16>

15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Endocrinology and 14<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Endocrinology (ICE/ECE 2012)

5-9 May 2012, Florence, Italy

<http://www.ice-ece2012.com/>



8<sup>th</sup> Forum of European Neuroscience (FENS)

14-18 July 2012, Barcelona, Spain

<http://fens2012.neurosciences.asso.fr/>



The Eleventh International Symposium on Neurobiology and Neuroendocrinology of Aging

July 29–August 3, 2012, Bregenz, Austria <http://www.neurobiology-and-neuroendocrinology-of-aging.org/>

[www.neurobiology-and-neuroendocrinology-of-aging.org/](http://www.neurobiology-and-neuroendocrinology-of-aging.org/)

14<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Pain

Milan, August 27-31, 2012

[www.iasp-pain.org/Milan](http://www.iasp-pain.org/Milan)



11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry and 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Neurochemistry (APSN/JSN 2012)

Kobe, Japan, Sep 29-Oct 2, 2012

[http://www.apsneurochem.org/apsn2012\\_01.htm](http://www.apsneurochem.org/apsn2012_01.htm)



25<sup>th</sup> European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress (ECNP congress)

Vienna, Austria, 13-17 October 2012

<http://www.ecnp-congress.eu>



2nd International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care 2012 (IMFPC 2012)

22-25 November 2012, Florence, Italy

<http://www.imfpc.org>



## New category on FAOPS e-newsletter

⇒ **Pre- and post-graduate student applications:** Students looking for physiological research and clinical positions abroad

⇒ **FAOPS newsletter intends to facilitate the exchange of pre and post-graduate students within the Asian and Oceanic region.** To facilitate the exchange, FAOPS newsletter has opened a new category by the title: **“Student application”**

⇒ Pre-and post-graduate students are entitled to email an application (free of charge) to FAOPS newsletter for participating in a scientific and/or clinical setting abroad.

⇒ Team leaders are invited to browse through these applications and contact the students by email to host a foreign student in their institute.



## FAOPS e-newsletter



P.O. Box 14115-116, Tehran, Iran

Telefax: +98 21 82884520

Email: [faopsletter@gmail.com](mailto:faopsletter@gmail.com)

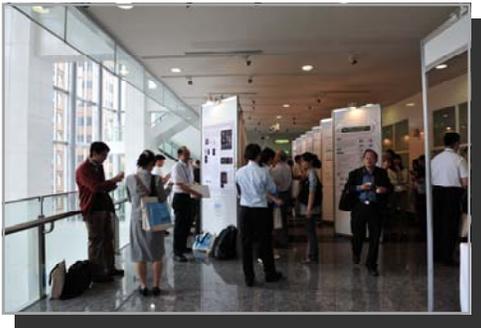
[ssemnan@modares.ac.ir](mailto:ssemnan@modares.ac.ir)



# Selected photos from The 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei



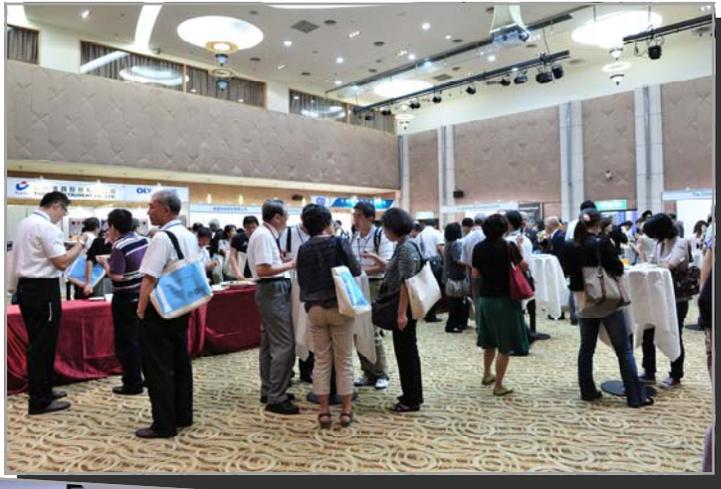
# Selected photos from The 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei



# Selected photos from The 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei



## Selected photos from The 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress, Taipei



To see all the 7<sup>th</sup> FAOPS Congress of Taipei photos, please visit FAOPS website:

<http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/faops/>