



**Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and
Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
Annual Report for 2010**

Greetings to all Member Societies of the APFCB and a Happy New Year to all.

The new Executive Board took office on 3rd October 2010 following the elections held in Seoul, Korea. The Executive Board Officers are:

President	Dr Leslie Charles Lai (Malaysia)
Immediate Past President	Mr Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Vice President	Associate Prof Sunil Sethi (Singapore)
Secretary	Dra Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)
Treasurer	Dr Elizabeth Frank (India)
Corporate Representative	Mr Martin Fuhrer (Siemens)

The EB would like to thank the previous Executive Board members for their significant contributions to the APFCB, in particular, Professor Chris Lam (Hong Kong) and Mr Brian Smith (Becton Dickinson) who have now left the APFCB EB after having served the APFCB with distinction.

Following the election of the new EB, a call for nominations went out to all Member Societies for Chairs and Members of the five Standing Committees of the APFCB, namely, Education Committee, Scientific Committee, Laboratory Management Committee, Communications Committee and Congress and Conferences Committee. The Chairs, Secretaries and Members of the five committees have now been appointed. Each Member Society is also invited to have representation on the Committees through Corresponding Members. Many of the Corresponding Members for each committee have also been appointed. The President of the APFCB is an ex-officio member of all the committees.

The Committee membership of the five Standing Committees are as follows:

Education Committee

Chair	Prof Samuel Vasikaran (Australia)
Secretary	Dr Sun Fei (China)
Member	Prof Shu-Chu Shiesh (Taiwan)
Member	Prof Damodaran M Vasudevan (India)

Scientific Committee

Chair	Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)
Secretary	Dr Sucheta Dandekar (India)
Member	Dr Ronda Greaves (Australia)
Member	Dr Chen Wen Xiang (China)

Laboratory Management Committee

Chair	Dr Tony Badrick (Australia)
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Secretary	Marilyn Robles-Atienza (Philippines)
Member	Mr Tran Huu Tam (Vietnam)
Member	Dr July Kumalawati (Indonesia)

Communications Committee

Chair	Prof Praveen Sharma (India)
Secretary	Prof MVR Reddy (India)
Member	Prof Hwan Sub Lim (Korea)
Member	Prof H Weerawarna (Sri Lanka)

Congress and Conferences Committee

Chair	Mr Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Secretary	Dr Marian Tantungco (Philippines)
Member	Eric Martoyo (Indonesia)

Now that the committees have a proper committee structure with competent members and corresponding members it is anticipated that the activities of the APFCB will increase in both quantity and quality.

Report by the Education Committee

A. APFCB Travelling Lectureship

Dr Samuel Vasikaran was the 2009-2010 APFCB Travelling Lecturer. He covered the topics of Osteoporosis, Endocrine Laboratory Service and Interpretative Comments on Laboratory Results. In 2009, he delivered his lecture in India (December 2009), and, in 2010, in Hong Kong (January 2010) and Singapore (March 2010). He completed his travelling lectureship with the first Plenary Lecture held at the APCCB, Seoul, Korea entitled 'Interpretative Comments on Laboratory Results'.

B. APFCB Webinar

The webinar is a newly developed APFCB-Siemens joint activity, sponsored by Siemens. This programme will be an attractive way of delivering lectures with a wide coverage, relatively easy to coordinate, convenient to the participants for not having to travel, can be equally as effective as classroom lectures, and are much more cost-effective than all other traditional educational activities.

The first webinar was conducted on 23 July 2010, with Dr Ken Sikaris as lecturer, on the topic of 'Uncertainty of Measurement'. The total intended participants (names collected for invitation) for the webinar program were more than 600 members, enrolled from 12 member associations: Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Vietnam. For the event which lasted 106 minutes, 95 attended, more than 60% of the attendees stayed until the end or nearly the end, and 40% left after attending 50 minutes or less. A Question and Answer session was provided after the lecture. Not all interested members on the list collated received invitations to follow the lecture, resulting in less than 20% participation.

C. Lectureships planned for 2011/2012

1. APFCB Travelling Lecturer for 2011 – 2012:

Dr Angela Wang (Hong Kong), whose topic is 'Inflammatory Markers in Chronic Kidney Disease', is scheduled to travel to Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China over the two years

2. IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturers for 2011 – 2012:

Dr Gary Myers (USA) is scheduled to travel to China, Hong Kong, Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia. His topic is 'Current Markers for Cardiovascular Diseases'.

Dr Zima (Czech) has been planned to travel to Pakistan, Malaysia and Philippines. Travel plans remain to be confirmed. His topic will be on 'ISO Accreditation'.

Report by the Scientific Committee

A. The 3rd Asian Multi-centre Study on Reference Intervals

The multi-centre study entitled 'Study of regionality in laboratory test results and derivation of reference intervals' was planned jointly with the IFCC Scientific Division (IFCC-SD) and JCTLM in 2008. The major parts of the study were completed in 2009. However, the scientific work associated with the large-scale study continued into 2010. They include the following: analyses for molecular heterogeneity, additional statistical/data analyses and writing up for publication.

1) Further analytical work

- (i) Assays for isozymes (LDH, ALP, and amylase) for the entire available specimens, nearly 3500, were carried out in Yamaguchi University, and were completed in February 2010. The data analyses revealed many new findings.
- (ii) Protein electrophoresis of all the specimens was carried out in Kochi University and was completed in the summer of 2010.
- (iii) High molecular weight adiponectin was measured selectively in 840 specimens in Yamaguchi University to investigate the cause of heterogeneity.
- (iv) The assays for NT-proBNP and heterogeneity analyses are being done in Kumamoto University.

2) Additional statistical/data analyses

- (i) The reference intervals (RIs) which were derived by the centralized assays were converted into each lab's RIs based on the results of cross-check test results.
- (ii) A service of a panel-of-sera-based conversion of RIs was provided to enable secondary participation of commercial labs and establishment of their RIs.
- (iii) The RIs were also expressed and presented in International Units, in addition to the conventional units.

3) Publication

The manuscripts to report the findings of the 2009 Asian study are being written up. These consist of three parts:

- (i) The strategy and major results in derivation of "common" RI.
- (ii) Biological sources of variation for all the analytes measured.

(iii) The validity of the cross-check testing strategy in converting RIs obtained by the centralized assays.

Part one was submitted to the IFCC-SD on 5th November 2010 and is being evaluated by the members of SD. The other two parts will be completed soon in 2011.

Manuscripts on biological sources of variation and association analyses among related analytes are now being prepared as follows:

- (i) Renal function tests: Dr. X. Wang, Beijing University
- (ii) Inflammatory and nutritional markers: Prof. Y Itoh, Asahikawa Medical School
- (iii) Thyroid function tests: Prof. Y Iwatani, Osaka University
- (iv) Folate and Vitamin B12: Prof. H. Ihara, Toho University
- (v) Isozymes and Adiponectin: Dr. Y. Shimizu, Yamaguchi University

The statistical procedures used in the 2009 Asian study were described in the following IFCC document.

Ichihara K, Boyd J. An appraisal of statistical procedures used in derivation of reference intervals. Clin Chem Lab Med 2010; 48(11): 1537–1551.

B. Planning for a new, worldwide study on reference values

Prompted by the success of the 2009 Asian study, a worldwide study targeting more analytes and covering a wider geographical area is currently being planned in collaboration with IFCC-SD and reference labs registered in JCTLM. Three discussion meetings were held in Corfu, Greece, in April 2010, in Anaheim, USA, in July 2010, and in Munich, Germany in December 2010. The study will be implemented region-by-region over the next two to three years.

C. Activities during the 12th APCCB 2010 in Seoul

1. APFCB-sponsored symposium

This symposium was organized by the APFCB Scientific Committee to report and discuss the objective strategy and the results of the 3rd Asian Project. The lectures delivered at this APFCB-sponsored symposium were:

‘The Asian project for collaborative derivation of reference intervals and exploration of diagnostic evidence for laboratory medicine’

Chair: K Ichihara (Ub, Japan)

- (i) The strategy and an overview of the results - regionality and age/sex related changes in test results (K Ichihara, Japan)
- (ii) Influence of environment and nutrition on inflammatory markers (Y Itoh, Japan)
- (iii) Influence of gender and pituitary hormone on steroidogenesis (SC Shiesh, Taiwan)
- (iv) Sources of variation of renal function markers (X Wang, China)

2. Pre-congress Educational Course by the Scientific-Committee

Through experiences in carrying out the 2nd and 3rd Asian Studies, the committee felt more strongly that multivariate analyses are essential tools to draw valid/meaningful conclusions from a vast array of data set. Therefore, the Scientific Committee offered the following paid pre-congress educational course.

Multivariate analyses for laboratory scientists

- (i) Multiple regression analysis for sources of variation in test results.
K Ichihara (Ube, Japan)
- (ii) Multiple logistic regression analysis for evaluation of diagnostic utility of laboratory tests.
H Yamanishi (Osaka, Japan)

Report by the Laboratory Management Committee

A. Planning for workshop on Laboratory Quality (IFCC-APFCB-PAMET) Manila, Philippines 23-25 March 2011

Planning has commenced towards a two-day workshop on Laboratory Quality to be followed (or preceded) by a Seminar on Interpretative Skills in Clinical Chemistry Diagnosis to be held in Manila, Philippines, 23-25 March 2011. The programme will be drafted by APFCB and IFCC in consultation with PAMET. The following speakers have agreed to attend: Janet Smith, Leslie Lai, Elizabeth Frank and Tony Badrick. PAMET will undertake all on-site organizations, including corporate sponsorship with any assistance from APFCB as needed.

The Quality Assurance workshop will cover principles and practice of analytical quality together with the fundamentals of accreditation, quality systems and ISO 15189. The Interpretative Skills Seminar will involve case presentations and discussions to develop interpretative skills among participants.

- ### **B. APFCB–Becton Dickinson Workshop on Pre-Analytical System in the Medical Laboratory**
- This may be a future activity based on the success of 2 prior experiences, the 'Pre-Analytical System in the Medical Laboratory Workshop' held in Sri Lanka, 4 to 6 April 2009 (which was an activity of the APFCB Lab Management Committee together with the IFCC Education and Management Division) and in Indonesia (which was an initiative of IACC) and turned out to be a valuable educational activity. Becton Dickinson has agreed to sponsor this activity.

Report by the Communications Committee

The new Chair of the Communications Committee is also the Editor of the APFCB News. It has been agreed by Council that the APFCB News will in future be produced as an online pdf copy and sent electronically to all members of Member societies. It is anticipated that the 2010 online issue will be distributed to all members at the very latest by the end of February 2011.

The Communications Committee also has the responsibility of developing the APFCB website. Professor MVR Reddy, Secretary of the Communications Committee has agreed to be the Web Editor. It is hoped that the APFCB website will be up and running by the end of August 2011.

This committee will also promote activities of APFCB internationally, regionally and nationally.

Report by the Congress and Conferences Committee

A. 12th APCCB

The congress of the APFCB is the APCCB. The 12th APCCB was held in Seoul from 3rd till 7th October 2010. The congress report that was received from the Organising Committee may be found in the Appendix. A statement of accounts is expected at a later date. The APCCB will in future be called APFCB Congress.

B. APFCB Auspices for Meetings in the Region in 2010

Auspices are provided for meetings in the region upon request. There were two meetings that were held in the region that received APFCB auspices in 2010:

- (i) Asian Pacific Conference of Chromatography & Mass Spectrometry organized by HKSCC-AACB and the Hong Kong Society of Mass Spectrometry, in Hong Kong, 14 to 16 January 2010.
- (ii) IFCC-EMD-IACC Workshop on ISO 15189 Accreditation Awareness, Jakarta, 5 to 8 February 2010.

2 January 2011

Report prepared by Dr Leslie Lai (President) with significant contributions from

Mr Joseph Lopez

Dr Endang Hoyaranda

Prof Samuel Vasikaran

Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara

Dr Tony Badrick

Prof Praveen Sharma

Dr Sun Fei