Report from Regional Chair: Professor Keith Hill

Hello everyone. This is the first newsletter that the Region has produced for several years. I am hoping that it will be a regular avenue to share communication of activities occurring throughout the Region, so that we can increase opportunities for sharing, networking and collaborating across the Region.

This newsletter will only be as valuable as the contributions that members in the various countries throughout the Region make to it. So please forward information you would like included in the newsletter to myself or Dr Tony Coles (email details at the end of this newsletter).

The Asia / Oceania Regional Council of IAGG met at the Seoul IAGG Conference in June. At this meeting, outgoing Chair Professor Du Peng from China handed over to me as the incoming Chair. The Council also thanked Professor Yasuyoshi Ouchi from Japan, for his role as Immediate Past Chair for the past four years, and four years prior to that as Regional Chair. The meeting reviewed a number of activities planned for the Region over the next few years. In particular, planning was further advanced for the Gary Andrews Academy for Education and Training in Gerontology and Geriatrics, which is intended to support training in geriatrics and gerontology in countries within the region. Workgroups at the meeting developed initial frameworks for draft curriculum that could be utilised for an academy workshop in any of the four streams of focus for IAGG. It is anticipated that the first of these will run in 2014. The other main focus of the meeting was receiving an update on the next Regional Congress, being planned for Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2015. Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul (Congress Chair), Dr. Siriphan Sasat (Congress Secretary) and Professor Prasert Asantsa discussed planning regarding speakers, symposia, programming, and associated activities. This looks to be a wonderful conference in a great destination, so we look forward to meeting many friends from across the Region and outside the Region at this Congress in 2015.

Update: Launch of Gary Andrews Academy at AAG conference
Ms Ruth Inall OAM officially launched the Gary Andrews Academy at the recent Australian Association of Gerontology Conference in Sydney, Australia. The Academy has been registered in Australia, and will soon be circulating information to Regional country members offering options for Academy training programs, with the first planned for 2014.

IAGG award to Ms Ruth Inall
At a special presentation at the IAGG Congress in Seoul in June, new IAGG President Professor Bong Cha made a special presentation to Ms Ruth Inall from Australia for her outstanding efforts in supporting Regional activities over many years. Ruth’s contributions to the region include working with others in developing the Region, and preparing for our first conference in 1980. Congratulations to Ruth on this Award.

Successful IAGG Conference in Seoul, South Korea
Congratulations to Professor Bong Cha and colleagues on the Organising Committees for hosting a very successful IAGG conference. They had a large and diverse program of invited and submitted symposia, free papers and poster presentations, providing excellent opportunities for sharing new knowledge, discussing ageing issues in cross cultural and international perspectives, and networking. We look forward to the next IAGG conference in San Francisco, in 2017.
IAGG Master Class on Ageing

In October 2013, the 4th IAGG-Master Class was held in in Kyoto, Japan. The program presenters included 2 European, 3 Asian, and 8 Japanese presenters. Prof. Bong Cha, IAGG President was kind enough to provide an excellent special lecture to the Master Class.

Thirty delegates from nine countries across the Region attended, including 9 from Japan, 6 from Korea, 6 from Taiwan, 2 from Hong Kong, 2 from Singapore, 2 from Thailand, 1 from Indonesia, 1 from Malaysia, and 1 from India.

The program for the master class included presentations on nutrition, multidisciplinary home care, diabetes management, gerotechnology, falls and fracture prevention, sarcopenia and frailty, and drug related geriatric syndromes. Congratulations to the organisers of this very successful Master Class. including Professor Hidenori Arai and Professor Yasuyoshi Ouchi.

Regional Conferences 2013-2014

DECEMBER 2013

• 16th Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International. December 11-14 2013. Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong. Website: http://www.aprc2013-hongkong.com
• IOF Regional 4th Asia-Pacific Osteoporosis Meeting. December 12-15, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong. Website: http://www.iofbonehealth.org/hongkong-2013

MARCH 2014


MAY 2014

• Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine (ANZSGM) Annual Scientific Meeting - Circulating the Evidence”. May 28-30 2014, Melbourne, Australia. Website: www.anzsgm2014.org.au

JUNE 2014

• International Federation on Ageing 12th Global Conference on Ageing – “Health, Security and Community.” June 10-13 2014. HICC Hyderabad, India. Website: www.ifa2014.in

NOVEMBER 2014

• Australian Association of Gerontology Conference. Nov 26-28, Adelaide Australia – Website: www.aag.asn.au
• 9th Pan Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation / Annual Congress of Gerontology - “Rewinding the Aging Clock”. Website: http://www.rs.polyu.edu.hk/pccr/2014

2015 Regional Congress—Bangkok Thailand

Mark your diary for October 19-22 2015—to join colleagues from across the Region and other parts of the world. For regular updates, check the congress website: http://www.iagg2015bangkok.org/index.php.

You can also contact the congress organizers to be on an email update list, so that you won’t miss important timelines such as dates for symposia and abstract submissions.

Regional update - Julie Byles

During the past six months I have been involved in a special studies program sponsored by the University of Newcastle. The program has involved working with international organisations to understand how research activities can drive change and development. A large component of this time has been spent with the World Health Organisation, working with governments across The Asia Pacific Region, and in Ghana, to use research evidence in setting priorities and responding to the needs of their ageing populations. This work has also involved collaborators from AgeUK, and HelpAge International, two large and effective philanthropic organisations that promote research and the use of evidence in service provision.

One particular project was undertaken on behalf of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila, and examined data on health and ageing from several countries across the region. Data on older people were obtained from international databases including World Health Organization, United Nations, and country specific surveys such as SAGE (China), INDEPTH (Vietnam) and KLOS (South Korea). A meta-survey of data sources across the region identified strengths and gaps in data coverage, and available data were presented so as to provide an important regional resource for development of policy related to ageing and health. Additional fact sheets prepared for each country provide information on population trends, life expectancy, and burden of disease (DALYS). The full report and fact sheets will be published in the near future.