

**PACIFIC RIM COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2001
HILTON HOTEL, MELBOURNE**

1. Call to Order by President

The new President, Professor Bruce Singh, called the meeting to order.

2. Notes from the Previous Meeting (attached)

Prof Chung distributed notes from the previous meeting.

3. Past President's Report

Dr Lee stated that this conference has been a valuable gathering in terms of exchanging information, and he thanked the organizing committee members, participants and presenters.

Dr Lee outlined the PRCP events that occurred during his presidency: the 9th Scientific Meeting, and four Executive Committee Meetings. He reported that account for the 9th Scientific Meeting had been finalized in May 2000, as was the decision to relocate the central office to Melbourne. In the January Executive Committee Meeting there was a revision of the By-Laws of the PRCP.

During Dr Lee's presidency four Newsletters x 500 copies were published and distributed to members and other psychiatric associations in different countries. The format of the Newsletter was upgraded and printed in colour and carried scientific papers.

Dr Lee thanked all for their support during his presidency.

4. President's Report

Prof Singh thanked those supporting the organisation of this conference in which there are 240 delegates from 15 countries. Prof Singh outlined the main themes of the conference:

- Big picture issues in the region effecting mental health
- Money and Funding and mental health
- Leadership and mental health

The program was designed to be relevant to those living and working in the region. Prof Singh explained that he sees the PRCP as moving into a new era. He outlined some of the administrative changes, including the move of the secretariat to Melbourne and the introduction of a credit card facility to make payment of dues easier. Prof Singh also announced that the Executive Committee has decided to waive the initiation fee for people who join the PRCP at the conference, they will only pay the membership/fellowship fee. There are also special prices for Economic Category C and D countries. Hew emphasized that the PRCP is a small organisation with a big job and increasing membership must be a priority.

Prof Singh introduced the topic of a PRCP Journal and asked A/Prof Minas to speak. A/Prof Minas reported that after discussions with publishers it became apparent that a journal exclusively for a small organisation such as PRCP was not viable. However publishers were interested in establishing an International Journal o Mental Health in Low Income Countries which would look at mental health developments, policy and research in regions that have little access to international

journals. The need for such a journal is clear but a viable structure for such a journal needs to be explored. In addition, sponsorship will be required to carry out such a project but it is not appropriate for these to be pharmaceutical companies.

Prof Singh reported that from the information available at this stage in the conference the PRCP should not make a financial loss from the congress despite the reduced number of delegates.

Prof Singh reported on the Board's decision to hold the next college congress in Hong Kong and the possibility of the subsequent one being held in Taiwan. He then introduced the new President Elect, Professor Helen Chiu. Professor Chiu is Professor of Psychiatry at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, SAR of Hong Kong, People's Republic of China.

5. President Elect's Report

Prof Chiu reported that the 11th PRCP Congress would be held in Hong Kong in October/November 2003. She welcomed all to attend the rich program of lively academic exchange and the excellent conference and accommodation facilities.

6. Secretary General's Report

A/Prof Tan reported that these are exciting times for the PRCP with the transfer of the secretariat from the US to Australia. He outlined the difficulties encountered in relocating the secretariat such as the transfer and organisation of files.

He reported that the PRCP now has a website which will carry scientific papers and the College Newsletter. He stated that there will be one more Newsletter printed and distributed in hard copy form and after that the Newsletter would be in electronic form as this saves the PRCP the considerable cost of printing and distribution. The PRCP secretariat is also currently in the process of applying for tax-free status to reduce the costs of the secretariat.

A/Prof Tan reported that the PRCP now has two bank accounts, one in US dollars and one in Australian dollars which has a credit card facility attached. The secretariat has tried to make payment as easy as possible for members. A/Prof Tan urged all members who still owe subscription fees to the secretariat to pay them as soon as possible, the secretariat has the credit card facility set up at the conference so people can pay any time during the conference.

A/Prof Tan also asked that all members who have not provided the secretariat with their up to date e-mail addresses to do so in order to make communication easier, faster and cheaper. Members will also be forwarded a membership update form to ensure that secretariat files (many of which were out of date or missing) contain correct and up to date information on college members.

7. Treasurer's Report

A/Prof Tan outlined the financial status of the PRCP on behalf of Dr Francis Lu.

Summary of PRCP finances

AUD account:	AUD\$13,076.97
USD account:	USD\$6,890.00
Account in the USA:	USD\$4,300.00
Outstanding subscription fees:	AUD\$42,095.00
Costs owing for 2001:	AUD\$12,393.57
Costs estimated owing for 2002:	AUD\$23,440.00

8. Membership Committee's Report

Prof Chung outlined the definition of Life Membership i.e., a candidate must be approved by the Board and then s/he pays the amount of USD\$1000.00 and has membership for life with no further subscription fees. Prof Chung reported that of the 203 members of PRCP 181 are fee paying.

Prof Singh announced that as Dr Kazamatsuri is retiring, Dr Asai will replace him as Board Member. The duration of membership of the Board is a maximum of 10 years, 5 terms of 2 years.

Prof Singh also reported that Dr Yeh will retire from the Board at the Board Meeting of the 11th Congress in 2003 and it was proposed that Professor Winston Shen should replace him.

There is a total of 8 Board Members in addition to the President, President Elect, Secretary General and Treasurer. The 8 includes the Membership Secretary.

8.1 Induction of New Members

Prof Chung welcomed the new members of the PRCP. A certificate of membership will be forwarded to these people.

Fellows

Associate Professor David Ames
Professor Jambur Ananth
Professor Pierre Beumont
Professor Graham Burrows
Associate Professor Ed Chiu
Professor Ian Hickie
Associate Professor Harry Minas
Professor Philip Morris
Professor Barry Nurcombe
Professor Sadanand Rajkumar
Professor Allan Tasman

Members

Dr Peter Tucker
Dr Can Tuncer

9. New Business

9.1 11th PRCP Congress

See item 5.

9.2 Foundation of Working Groups

Prof Nishizono's proposal for the formation of 3 Working Groups and the people that will Chair them were announced.

- i. Education/Training Chaired by Prof Nishizono
- ii. Psychiatric Service Development Chaired by Dr Lee
- iii. Research Committee Chaired by A/Prof Chiu

The meeting of these groups will be convened on Tuesday 9 October at 1-2pm and anyone interested in one of these areas should meet with the Chair of that group.

Prof Nishizono stated that the idea of Working Groups is to co-ordinate and facilitate activities relevant to the future of the PRCP so that the organisation can grow and utilize the range of expertise it contains. The work of these groups is to be reported in the Journal and on the website.

Prof Beumont suggested that the PRCP membership should include some people from Singapore. Discussion followed and there was general agreement with this comment. Prof Kua will be approached by A/Prof Edmond Chiu.

Prof Tsuang asked whether all of the USA is considered Pacific Rim and if not where the border is. Discussion followed and it was generally agreed that the whole of the USA should be included here.

Prof Tsuang also stated that he considered the PRCP to be moving in a good direction and that he is keen to continue as part of the organisation.

10. Other Business

Prof Morris suggested the possibility of an e-journal rather than or until a paper journal is organized. It is cheaper and will have broader accessibility. A/Prof Minas agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that the current PRCP website should host a newsletter and that this might market the PRCP more effectively to younger psychiatrists. There was general agreement with these statements.

Prof Singh reported that there is a new category of member for PRCP: Member in Training. This category has a reduced rate (50% of members rate i.e., USD\$37.50 or AUD\$75.00) and is intended to encourage younger psychiatrists to join. The need to open the PRCP membership up to a younger membership was generally agreed.

Prof Yeh suggested that there is a need to clarify criteria for membership/fellowship/member in training and what the benefits of each category are. There was general agreement with this statement and the relevant articles of the updated By-Laws containing this information will be published on the PRCP website.

11. Next Meeting

October/November 2003 in Hong Kong.