

# BULLETIN

AUGUST 2008

TSUYOSHI AKIYAMA, EDITOR

ALLAN TASMAN, PRESIDENT

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Summer is upon us, and the heat is rising. A different kind of heat is rising in the PRCP- the excitement of the coming year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the WPA World Congress in Prague in September. The program will be as interesting as the city. But, for PRCP, Prague will also mark a special moment. There, with our publishing partners at Wiley, we will have the official launch of our new PRCP journal. Our editors EH Kua [pcmkeh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:pcmkeh@nus.edu.sg) and Ed Chiu [e.chiu@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:e.chiu@unimelb.edu.au) are already busy as they begin to contact colleagues who may be interested in serving on the editorial board or submitting articles.

Please let either of them know if you would like to learn more. We are in the final stage of contract review, and expect the first issue to be published mid year in 2009. Thanks to all those who have had faith in the project and who have contributed to its development.

The other exciting news is that our next PRCP Congress in Tokyo is now only several months away. We will meet at the Toshi Center in Tokyo Oct 30-Nov 2. Our colleagues in Japan, under the direction of Professors Noda , Inoue, Akiyama, and their outstanding committee are putting the final touches on the scientific program. I have been following closely their activities, and I know this meeting will be our best ever. Please begin to make your plans to attend this meeting where the delight of Tokyo

in the fall season will match the quality of the program. Further information is available on the PRCP website.

Special thanks go to PRCP past President Helen Chiu, and her team of colleagues, who have been working closely to provide mental health planning and program assistance to China, as they try to cope with the devastating aftermath of this spring's earthquake. Helen has begun to think about developing a standing disaster response program, and I know she will welcome participation from all of you who are interested.

As always, if you have ideas for new PRCP activities or initiatives, please contact me at [allan.tasman@louisville.edu](mailto:allan.tasman@louisville.edu)

**Prof Allan Tasman**  
**President PRCP**

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT



Recently, the PRCP Board and Executive Committee unanimously agreed with the proposal by Prof Tsuyoshi Akiyama to host the PRCP secretariat in Kanto Medical Center, Department of

Psychiatry in Tokyo, Japan. The Board has carefully considered the requirements for the transfer of the secretariat and Prof Tasman, our President has requested that I coordinate the transfer from the Melbourne secretariat to Tokyo with Prof Akiyama. We hope to complete the process by September this year, and that the new secretariat will be fully

operational by the time of the PRCP Scientific Meeting in Tokyo.

Recently two major disasters has struck our region: the Nargis cyclone in Myanmar which left 120,000 dead, and a devastating earthquake in Sichuan, China with more than 80,000 dead and 245,000 injured with many involving children. In the week post disaster in China, I had the opportunity to have discussion with key Chinese psychiatrists who are involved with coordinating the psychosocial response nationally. As part of their disaster mental health plan they have trained over 300 workers on standby and set up 2 psychosocial response teams which have been dispatched to the disaster stricken region. The PRCP Board has offered to assist in

appropriate ways to help with the psychosocial relief efforts and sought guidance from Prof Zeping Xiao, and other Chinese colleagues.

Prof Helen Chiu, myself and others have also been working on consolidating the Asia-Pacific Disaster Mental Health Network to prepare for current and future disasters. PRCP was involved with the initial set up of such network following the Tsunami disaster in 2004. This reformed network could involve the PRCP and other related organisations to share the information and resources in times of need. We would continue to keep the PRCP updated with further progress.

**Associate Professor Chee Ng**  
**Secretary General**

# EDITOR'S REPORT



The readers will find this issue full of invigorated energy of summer. President, Prof Tasma announces the official launch of our new PRCP journal. ASEAN region. Dr. Eric Cheung announces that "The First Joint International Conference of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists" will be held on 13 – 15 December 2008 in Hong Kong.

Secretary General, Prof Chee reports the engagement of our PRCP colleagues in the recent two huge disasters in Asia.

Prof Soma Ganesan reports on emergency psychiatric services in Vancouver, which aims at the swift management of patients through consultation with clinicians and service provides. Prof Char-Nie Chen introduces the Social Enterprises in Hong Kong, which train and employ recovered clients, raise their individual self-esteem and restore social functioning, leading to a more independent and positive way of life.

Prof Udomratn announces that the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Federation for Psychiatry and Mental Health will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in Bangkok. This will be a great opportunity to learn the development of psychiatry in the

From this issue, I also include a number of reports on the past meetings in the region. Dr. Philip George reports on the 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Conference on Psychological Medicine and the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, which was held June, 2007. Though the meeting took place last year, I included this report for us to understand how the progress has been made in Malaysia. Prof Donna Stewart reports on a successful Third International Congress on Women's Mental Health was held in Melbourne, Australia March 17-20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The meeting was a roaring success in every aspect and the participants look forward to another meeting in the near future.

Dr Kim reports on "Today and Tomorrow of Psychiatry" Korean Neuropsychiatric Association Meeting held at Gyeongju in April. The meeting

was not only extremely productive academically, but also 60 members of KNPA volunteered for the charity event "Healthy Walking." Prof Lu reports on American Psychiatric Association 161<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in May. The APA is seriously dealing with internal issues such as insurance coverage as well as global issues. Dr. Vikram Patel delivered an eloquent lecture on the Lancet Series on Global Mental Health at the presidential dinner.

The secretariat of PRCP is transferring to Tokyo. With Mrs. Mari Sato, capable office administrator, I started to prepare for a smooth transition. I look forward to assisting to realize a further development of the PRCP and seeing you all at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, October 30 – November 2, in Tokyo.

**Dr Tsuyoshi Akiyama**  
Editor

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN THE REGION

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISES:

### A NEW LOOK AT COMMUNITY REHABILITATION FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Traditionally psychiatric patients have been given occupational therapy with the hope that they may return to normal working environment. However, many continue to suffer from secondary handicaps because of poor adjustment and low self-esteem through discrimination and tertiary handicaps with poor education, job training, and impairment in interpersonal relationships, ending up in poverty. Community care facilities like sheltered workshops, halfway houses, hostels rely upon financial support from government or charity organizations. With an increase in clients, many countries, especially the developing ones, find it financially

impossible to provide adequate care facilities.

A new social movement of active community participation is steadily growing. Many countries in Europe and America have seen the mushrooming of social enterprises. For example, it was estimated in the United Kingdom that there are now at least 55,000 functioning social enterprises with a combined annual turnover of £27 billion ([www.voiceofsocialenterprise.co.uk/](http://www.voiceofsocialenterprise.co.uk/)).

In social enterprises profits are not individually owned and the purpose is to benefit the community and to promote self-reliance of mentally ill clients. There are a few steps to develop a social enterprise. First, a

sound business action plan is needed to guide the way and to convince the project granting body. Second, seeding money is required to start the business. Third, staff in the team must have the skills to run the business. Fourth, the team must be aware of the local community's needs. Fifth, it is useful to establish partnership with other community organizations. Sixth, there must be a good accounting system.

In Hong Kong, as at the end of January 2006, there are 186 social enterprises that cover 37 types of businesses. These social enterprises are run by 46 non-governmental organizations. For example, Mental Care Connect Limited is established within the Mental Health

Association of Hong Kong. The seeding money comes from: (1) Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Government, through 'the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project'; (2) Community Inclusion and Investment Fund (CIIF); (3) Hong Kong Jockey Club Trust Foundation; and (4) Community or Charity Foundations including Keswick Foundation, Oxfam Hong Kong, etc. Mental Care Connect Limited began in April 2004. By 2006, its annual turnover reached HK\$12.3 million or about US\$1.6 million. For Hong Kong as a whole, as at 2006, social enterprises provided 623 jobs (and 787 training

posts) for recovered mentally ill clients, and 314 jobs for healthy staff. Thus, social enterprises generate more profits, which have been re-invested in more projects in order to train or employ more clients. Although social enterprises are business ventures initially for the poor and unemployed, it is time for mental health professionals to be aware of such development. With social enterprises, recovered clients can be trained or employed in these projects. This will raise their individual self-esteem and restore social functioning, leading to a more independent and positive way of life. Besides, no country

or nation including the developed ones can fund all the community after-care services and facilities, especially in the field of mental health.

**Char-Nie CHEN**  
**OBE, JP, MB, MSc, FRCPsych,**  
**FRANZCP, FAPA(International),**  
**FHKCPsych, FHKAM(Psychiatry),**  
**DPM**

**President, Mental Health Association of Hong Kong**

1. Formerly, Foundation Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Head, Shaw College, Chinese University of Hong Kong; President, Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists; President, Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists; and Chairman, Action Committee Against Narcotics, Hong Kong.

## OVERVIEW OF EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES WITHIN THE METRO-VANCOUVER AREA

In this article I will present an overview of emergency psychiatric services within the Metro-Vancouver Area which encompasses the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH), which includes Vancouver Acute (VA) and Vancouver Community Mental Health (VCMH); Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA); and Providence Health Care (PHC).

At the community level, several programs exist to support emergency psychiatric care. The Car 87 program, which pairs a Vancouver Police constable with a registered nurse or a psychiatric nurse to provide immediate on-site assessment and triaging of people with mental illness. Working as a team, the police officer and nurse assess, manage and determine the best course of action. To date, Car 87 has received more than 13,000 calls with 382 hospitalizations. The Car 87 program is operated in conjunction with a telephone crisis line run by nursing staff who assist callers by providing situation-appropriate triage and resource information. The program has recently been expanded with the addition of Car 88 which covers all crisis interventions on a 24/7 yearly basis. Venture is a community-based, short-term residential care for people who are mentally ill and in crisis. Venture offers inpatient observation, psychiatric assessment, supportive counselling,

treatment, and stabilization for clients of VCMH.

SAFER (Suicide Attempt Follow-up, Education and Research). focuses on reducing the risk of suicide among people in crisis. SAFER provides individual counselling, advocacy, hospital liaison services, psycho-education and support to family members of completed suicide cases and also runs a 24 hour suicide hotline. At the hospital level, several institutions and clinical units are involved. The British Columbia Children's Hospital under PHSA which administers the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Emergency Unit (CAPE). CAPE is a 3 bed short-term inpatient psychiatric care for children and youth experiencing acute psychiatric problems. Patients are referred via hospital emergency departments within Metro-Vancouver. Similar to Car 87 and 88, the Car 86 program often works in conjunction with CAPE. St. Paul's Hospital ER administered under PHC provides assessment, consultation, and treatment follow-up for patients who are experiencing psychiatric illness.

Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) provides services through the Psychiatric Assessment Unit (PAU) and the Brief Intervention Unit (BIU). The PAU is a 20 bed, emergency psychiatric unit with an average stay-length of five

days. The clinical profile of this population includes suicidality, psychosis and concurrent disorder.

The BIU at VGH is a short-term, 12 bed inpatient psychiatric unit for people who require assessment, stabilization, medication, brief interventions, and a comprehensive discharge plan. Typical stays average four to ten days. The BIU clinical make-up generally consists of psychotic disorders, concurrent disorders, personality disorders, affective disorders, and anxiety disorders. Both the PAU and BIU beds are available on a 24/7 basis.

Adjunct emergency psychiatric services in Metro-Vancouver include detox services run through VCMH which provide community based safe and supportive environments for individuals withdrawing from the acute effects of alcohol or other drugs, and emergency shelter services which provides 144 emergency short stay residences also run through VCMH.

In Metro-Vancouver, the role of the psychiatrist in emergency psychiatry at the community and hospital level is the swift management of patients through consultation with clinicians and service providers and to ensure that the patient receives relevant and adequate treatment during the emergency, and appropriate aftercare, and follow-up.

**Prof Soma Ganesan**

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT



1st Joint International Conference  
of  
the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK)

*Advancing Psychiatric Care in the Emerging World:  
East meets West*

Date: 13 – 15 December, 2008



The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists is one of the 15 constituent colleges of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, which is the statutory body in Hong Kong responsible for overseeing the provision of specialist training and continuous medical education. The forerunner of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists was the Hong Kong Psychiatric Association (founded in 1967). The College was founded in September 1990 following the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine with the following objectives:

(1) To promote the study and advancement of the science and practice of psychiatry and ancillary sciences and branches of medicine  
(2) To contribute to the improvement of mental health care for Hong Kong citizens through the provision of specially trained psychiatrists  
(3) To ensure the highest professional standard of competence and ethical integrity in Psychiatry  
The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists holds its Annual Scientific Symposium annually, usually in December of each year. This year, in collaboration with

the UK Royal College of Psychiatrists, we would be organising "The First Joint International Conference of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists" on 13 – 15 December 2008. The theme of the symposium is: "Advancing Psychiatric Care in the Emerging World: East meets West". Details of the symposium can be found at the website: [www.psychconference.org.hk](http://www.psychconference.org.hk)

**Dr. Eric Cheung**

## "TODAY AND TOMORROW OF PSYCHIATRY" REPORT ON 2008 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF KOREAN NEUROPSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION AT GYEONGJU

From 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, last April, more than 900 psychiatrists and psychiatric residents of Korea gathered at Gyeongju to attend the "2008 Annual Spring Meeting of Korean Neuropsychiatric Association (KNPA)." The objectives of this meeting were to provide the patients with more advanced mental health services in the future by looking back current and past realities in psychiatric field. Gyeongju, an ancient city of more than 1,000 year history, couldn't be a more appropriate venue for this theme.

Starting with the chairperson's welcome address, the arguments regarding the recent biological diagnostic criteria and biomarkers in psychiatric field followed. Symposia on the relationship of religious beliefs and psychopathology, and the topics on language disorder and linguistics were also held. Three industry sponsored symposia under the titles of "When bipolar patients relapse again: regaining the patient," "Management of anxiety disorders" and "Aiming at core and co-morbid

symptoms of depression" were held and the audiences were able to get the state-of-the-art information about the psychopharmacological treatment of mood disorders and anxiety disorders. Six symposia were held in the afternoon sessions. In particular, the symposium about "How to Write Scientific Papers" was the focus of attention of young psychiatrists and psychiatric residents. Topics on future diagnostic systems such as the DSM-V or the ICD-11, and symposium on the quality of life and well-being of depressed patients were also opened. Practical guidelines on geriatric psychopharmacology and consultation-liaison psychiatry were also held. The plenary lecture by Dr. Lee Zuk-Nae on "Psychiatry and Buddhism" offered a valuable chance to reappraise the buddhistic view on human mind.

On Saturday morning, more than 60 members of KNPA volunteered for the charity event "Healthy Walking," and gladly donated for the mental health fund. After an ISS on a recently

launched antipsychotic, symposia on the updated Korean pharmacogenetic data, and the case reviews on the attitudes of psychotherapist were presented. In addition, 2 public hearings for the clinical practice guideline in depression and the policy for optimal psychotropic use were held. As a whole, this Gyeongju meeting was an academic festival abundant with fresh opinions and hot discussions on the development of the system for better psychiatric service, standardized psychiatric management, the newest biological and psychopharmacologic research data, and in-depth psychotherapeutic and psychosocial approaches for mentally ill patients.

**Dr Seong-Yoon Kim**  
Director, Scientific Committee



# THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MALAYSIAN CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE AND THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

**Organised by the Malaysian  
Psychiatric Association  
7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2007  
Parkroyal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Conference on Psychological Medicine and the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Child & Adolescent Psychiatry was held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007 at the Parkroyal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Pre-conference workshops were held on Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007 and the conference proper lasted for 2 days from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The main theme for the Malaysian Conference on Psychological Medicine was "Sharing the Care of Mental Illness". This was also the first time a Child & Adolescent Psychiatry conference was held in conjunction with the main conference, and the theme was "Young children at risk – The Malaysian Scene". The conference was an opportunity for the participants to bring forth new ideas and engage in discussions about the latest views on how to improve the psychiatric services in Malaysia, focusing on general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry.

The conference was officially opened by the Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia, the Honourable, Dato' Faizah Mohd

Tahir. In attendance for the Opening Ceremony was also the Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Women & Family development, Dato' Hajah Shamsiah Abdul Rahman. Together with the President and Organizing Chairman, Prof Hussain and Co-Chairperson, Assoc Prof Zsmani, the Chief Guest also launched the Malaysian Psychiatric Association E-Journal.

This year's conference was attended by approximately 350 participants who participated in the numerous Plenary, Symposia, Concurrent Sessions and Lunch & Dinner Symposiums that were held. Among

the invited speakers included, Dr. Paul Robertson, Dr. Andrew Wake, Prof Tim Lambert, Dr. Phil Lee and Dr. Bernardo L. Conde. The conference came to a close on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 with awards for best free paper being given away. Overall the conference was a great success and a first in many areas for Psychiatry in Malaysia.

Photo:  
Malaysian Psychiatric Association committee

**Dr Philip George**



13th PRCP  
**13th Pacific Rim College of  
Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting**

Recent Changes in Pacific Rim Psychiatry:  
Evolution of Multicultural/Multidisciplinary Mental Health

**30 OCTOBER—  
2 NOVEMBER 2008  
TOKYO JAPAN**



# THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

A successful Third International Congress on Women's Mental Health was held in Melbourne, Australia from March 17-20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Participants came from 50 countries, including many from the Pacific Rim, and posted list by country, facilitated wonderful informal networking.

The Congress was held under the auspices of the International Association for Women's Mental Health (IAWMH), whose President was Professor Donna E Stewart MD, (University Health Network and University of Toronto, Canada), Chair of the Scientific Program and President-elect of IAWMH was Professor Susan Kornstein MD, (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Local Arrangements Chair was Professor Jayashri Kulkarni MD, (Monash University and Alfred Psychiatric Research Centre). Supporting organizations were the World Health Organization, the World Federation of Mental Health, the World Psychiatric Association, the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists, the Marce Society, the International Menopause Society, the North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology, Alfred Psychiatric Research Centre, Monash University, Beyond Blue, the Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's Health, and the Royal Women's Hospital, Victoria.

Keynote presentations by 15 international experts were divided into 7 themes: International perspectives on women's mental health, Women's mental health in the perinatal period, Estrogens and women's mental health, Interface with other specialties, Women's mental health in the menopausal transition, Women's mental health in times of conflict and disaster, and Advances in the management of mood disorders in women.

The Symposia dealt with a diversity of topics in keeping with the theme that women's mental health is inextricably linked to their physical, psychosocial, and cultural contexts.. Topics included International perspectives on sexual and reproductive rights and mental

health, Objectification in eating disorders, Women's mental health in refugee, immigrant and displaced persons, Drug abuse treatments from lab to clinic, Hormones, mood, sleep and cognition, The Australian longitudinal study on women's mental health, Women in war and disasters, Culture as a rationalization for abuse of women, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in girls, Multiple perspectives on abortion, and The implication of culture on women's mental health.

Workshops included a CBT Clinicians Manual for women coping with fibromyalgia, Dialectical behaviour therapy from a feminist perspective, Safety of women in psychiatric units, The impact of motherhood in mental illness, Prevention of eating disorders, Juggling the disjunctions in career paths, Managing high-risk pregnant women with dual diagnoses, Some consumer perspectives on treatment

issues, Aftermath of torture and war trauma in the treatment of women refugees and immigrants, and Responding to the experience of childhood sexual assault.

The social and local components, ably organized by Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, included an Aboriginal welcome, a consumer talk, and numerous presentations of Australian musical and dance talent. The congress gala was a roaring success with excellent local entertainment and good fellowship.

The International Association for Women's Mental Health Membership Meeting was held on Wed, March 19, 2008, at which time Dr. Donna Stewart stepped down as President and was

succeeded by Dr Susan Kornstein. Several able volunteers offered to lead various committees of the organization.

The Fourth International Congress will be held in 2011 and venue bids are now open. As our past three meetings have been held in Europe, North America and Australia, we are open to suggestions for locations that are accessible and will draw new members.


The program evaluations were excellent and the overall meeting is best summed up by one participant who wrote, "This meeting was the best I have ever attended! It was nourishing, with excellent speakers on vital and controversial women's health topics, all covered in a very thoughtful manner. The relaxed atmosphere contributed to deeply meaningful discussions. Please do it again soon!"

**Professor Donna E Stewart**

American Association  
for Geriatric Psychiatry's  
*2009 Annual Meeting*  
March 5 - 8, 2009  
Hilton Hawai'ian Village  
and Hawai'i Convention Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii

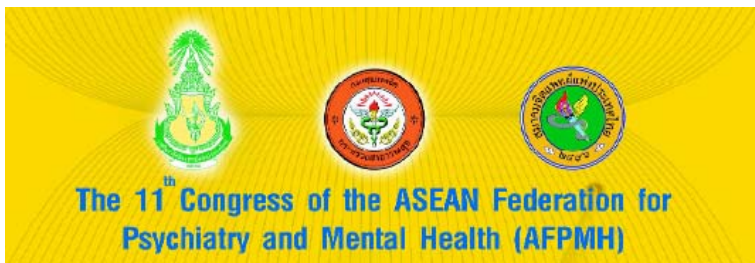
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**IMPORTANT DEADLINES**  
General Symposia: June 2, 2008  
Industry-Supported Symposia:  
June 2, 2008 or until filled  
Posters: October 1, 2008  
Early Investigator Posters:  
October 15, 2008



*Preparing for A Rising Tide*  
The Changing Face





The Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT) was established in 1953, so this year we are celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PAT. One of the events to celebrate this special occasion is to organise the largest annual academic meeting in the history of PAT. Fortunately, the current President of PAT also now serves as the President of the ASEAN Federation for Psychiatry and Mental Health (AFPMH). Therefore, the 2008 annual meeting of PAT will be conjoined with the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of AFPMH which will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at the Royal Paragon Hall Exhibition & Convention Centre, 5<sup>th</sup>

centres and entertainment complexes in Asia. The theme of the congress is "Mental Health toward 2020: Working Together for a Better Mental Health in Asia". With many keynote speakers such as Dr. Benedetto Saraceno, Prof. Norman Sartorius and many more, we believe that participants will hear about the latest developments and strategies in practical psychiatry as well as the future for the next two decades in the unique City of Angels (Krung thep) or Bangkok. Moreover, the local organising committee plans to organise many

floor of the Siam Paragon Bangkok. It is one of the biggest shopping centres and entertainment complexes in Asia. The theme of the congress is "Mental Health toward 2020: Working Together for a Better Mental Health in Asia". With many keynote speakers such as Dr. Benedetto Saraceno, Prof. Norman Sartorius and many more, we believe that participants will hear about the latest developments and strategies in practical psychiatry as well as the future for the next two decades in the unique City of Angels (Krung thep) or Bangkok. Moreover, the local organising committee plans to organise many

academic programmes as well as poster presentations covering all areas of psychiatry and mental health. For more details of this congress, please visit our website at [www.afpmh.net/congress/](http://www.afpmh.net/congress/)

On behalf of the President of AFPMH and PAT, I would like to invite PRCP members to come and share their experiences with both senior and junior psychiatrists and other mental health colleagues from both inside and outside Asia.

**Prof. Pichet Udomratn, M.D.**  
**President, Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT)**  
**and ASEAN Federation for Psychiatry and Mental Health (AFPMH)**

## AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION 161<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Between May 3 and 8, 2008, the American Psychiatric Association convened its 161<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting with about 18,000 in attendance. The Presidential theme of "Our Voice in Action: Advancing Science, Care, and the Profession" portrayed the many aspects of the Association's work. President Carolyn Robinowitz, MD, opened the meeting on May 4 calling for the Association to continue its advocacy on behalf of patients and the profession. She reviewed the focus areas of her presidency: organizational development, public information, legislation, diagnosis and treatment, and alliances with other health and mental health organizations. Of particular interest was the ongoing development of DSM-V. A press release with Workgroup members was released on May 1, and several symposia and a forum focused on DSM-V, which is scheduled for publication in 2012 ([www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org)). The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) sponsored a research track showcasing new research. APA also held several meetings with international psychiatrists including one that featured Vikram Patel, MD, lecturing on the Lancet Series on Global Mental Health calling for the application of knowledge to leverage real action in improving mental health

in low and middle-income countries. The new President of APA is Nada Stotland, MD, and the next APA Annual Meeting will be May 16-21, 2009, in San Francisco. The call for submissions will soon appear on the [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org) website with deadlines in early September. I would encourage Pacific Rim College members to make submissions and attend this meeting. If I can be of assistance, please contact me at [francislumd@aol.com](mailto:francislumd@aol.com).

**Francis Lu, MD,**  
**Professor of Clinical Psychiatry,**  
**UCSF**

## PRCP MEMBERSHIP



Visit the PRCP Website for a list of current Members, Fellows, Distinguished Fellows and Emeritus as well as an application form to join the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists

[www.prcp.org/members.html](http://www.prcp.org/members.html)