

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists 14th Scientific Meeting
28–30 October 2010, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia**

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Conference Report

The 14th Scientific Meeting of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia from 20–30 October 2010 was a great success.

Three hundred and fifty participants attended the meeting:

Australia: 161
Canada: 10
China: 18
Czech Republic: 39
Denmark: 1
Fiji: 3
Hong Kong: 4
India: 2
Israel: 1
Japan: 20
Kiribati: 1
South Korea: 38
Malaysia: 2
Netherlands: 2
New Zealand: 25
Niue: 2
Norway: 1
Papua New Guinea: 1
Poland: 2
Samoa: 2
Singapore: 8
Solomon Island: 1
Taiwan: 1
Thailand: 2
United States of America: 10
Vanuatu: 2

Well over half the participants came from countries other than Australia. Ten internationally recognised keynote speakers presented at the meeting covering topics including mental health policy, recovery from mental illness, new paradigms in psychiatric practice, catastrophe, climate change and disaster psychiatry, the role of family carers, pharmacology of depression, smoking and schizophrenia, challenges for psychiatry across the Pacific Rim, the validity of depression diagnosis, and suicide in indigenous Australians. Twenty-seven symposium and workshop sessions were presented including a full day symposium on the diagnosis and treatment of the epilepsies. In all 81 speakers presented talks in the symposium and workshop sessions. A further 40 speakers presented talks in the free paper sessions. Forty-five posters were displayed at the meeting. All sessions were well attended.

On the first day of the meeting the PRCP Board of Directors met and the new executive officers of the College were elected. Prof Fumitaka Noda handed the presidency over to Prof Kua Ee Heok. The outstanding leadership contribution of Prof Noda was acknowledged at the Board meeting. Prof Akiyama continues as secretary-general and A/Prof Chee Ng continues as treasurer. Prof Min Soo Lee is our new president-elect. Five new members were added to the Board of Directors complimenting the 12 continuing members of the Board. These changes were all approved by the AGM on Friday 29 October. Under Prof Kua Ee Heok's leadership the PRCP looks forward to an exciting program of activities and meetings leading up to the next Scientific Meeting in 2012.



The PRCP journal, *Asia-Pacific Psychiatry*, is building an important role as the voice of scientific communication for psychiatry within the Asia-Pacific region.

Conference participants enjoyed a lively Welcome Reception hosted by Queensland Health. At this function the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health of Queensland, Mr Paul Lucas, formally opened the meeting. Meeting participants attending the Gala Conference Dinner sponsored by AstraZeneca enjoyed an outback-Australian setting with indigenous music and jazz band. During this function Prof Min Soo Lee invited all delegates to attend the 15th Scientific Meeting of the PRCP to be held in Seoul, Korea in late October 2012.

As conference convenor I was delighted to be involved in such a rewarding meeting. I would like to thank the conference organizing committee, the scientific program committee, the international advisory group, session chairs, and the conference managers Mr Peter Sugg and his colleague Ms Sarah Hoekwater for all their help. I also acknowledge the generous assistance of the meeting sponsors and exhibitors.

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