

Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists

# Newsletter

July-August 2003

Philip Morris, Editor

Bruce Singh, President

## President's Report



**Professor Bruce Singh**

I write this message to you after a most successful meeting of the Board in San Francisco in association with the annual meeting of the APA and a symposium presented by PRCP members. Unfortunately one of the requests we considered, and unanimously agreed upon, was the decision by our President Elect, Prof Helen Chiu, to postpone the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the PRCP until 2004. We will now revert to an even year schedule for future Congresses. Prof Robert Pasnau informed the Board that there was a precedent for this earlier in the life of the College when the 1990 Meeting in Bangkok was postponed. On that occasion the site of the meeting was also moved, from Bangkok to Los Angeles, something that we are not proposing on this occasion. This postponement will mean that I will remain President until the Biennial General Meeting of members at the Congress in 2004.

The sudden and unanticipated outbreak of SARS has played havoc with a number of countries in East Asia but none more than China and Hong Kong. Since making this difficult decision we have heard that the CINP regional meeting that was to be held in Beijing has also been postponed.

One meeting that has kept faith with our Chinese Colleagues is the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Mental Health Leadership Conference which will be held in Beijing in early October of this year. The co-director of this program, A/Prof Harry Minas, is a PRCP Fellow. A/Prof Minas presented details of this program at our recent meeting, seeking the PRCP's endorsement of the program because of its potential relevance to the advance of mental health in the Asia Pacific Region. Although the Board was very interested and supportive of this program it asked the Secretary General in conjunction with A/Prof Minas to prepare guidelines as to the circumstances under which the PRCP would provide such endorsement. Details of this discussion are available in the minutes of this meeting posted on the PRCP website:

[www.prcp.org/agenda\\_minutes.html](http://www.prcp.org/agenda_minutes.html)

The symposium at APA was chaired by Prof Francis Lu and involved Prof Ching-Piao Chien, who shared some memories of his period as the first Secretary General, Prof Robert Pasnau, who presented the first version of his history of the PRCP (available on the PRCP website), and myself, who presented a vision for the future role of PRCP. During discussion the issue of the perceived inactivity of the organisation was raised. There is considerable hope that the Education, Service Development, Research, and Psychotherapy Working Groups might fill this gap. In addition I will be writing to Board members inviting them to prepare a brief piece on psychiatry in their region to go into the newsletter. Dr Kyu Hang Lee has since written to me giving notice that he will be standing down from the position of Chair of the Service Development Working Group. We are now seeking a new convenor for the group (see p. 4).

An important principle was established by the Board of Directors, namely, to make the call for a President Elect a separate issue from that of the location of the next Congress. Finally, I hope all of you will continue to support the work of the College.

## Secretary-General's Report

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**Associate Professor Eng-Seong Tan**

The transfer of the Secretariat of the PRCP to Melbourne, Australia, was completed over a year ago, and although a few issues remain to be sorted out, the administration of the PRCP is now functioning smoothly.

The PRCP website is up and running well. The College newsletter is now posted on the website so Members and Fellows can access it easily. Hard copies of the newsletter are now sent

only to Members and Fellows who do not have e-mail addresses or whose e-mail addresses we are not aware of. This change has saved the College a significant amount in printing costs, postage and other administrative expenses.

We have not been able to claim full tax-free status with the Australian Tax Office, as we cannot be registered as a charity organization. However subscription fees will not be subject to an income tax as members are part of the organization and the organization cannot tax itself. Tax may be levied on donations and gifts to the College.

At the May 2003 Board Meeting in San Francisco, the decision was made to write off outstanding dues of three years or longer, it is

disturbing that out of a total paying membership of 186, only 72 members are up to date with their 2002 dues, and only 36 with their 2003 dues. One of the reasons there is such a failure to pay is the fact that we do not have the current addresses of a number of members and we cannot contact them. In the last couple of newsletters we have developed a list of members who we cannot contact, and requested other members to inform us if they know the new contact details for any of those listed (see p.4). Part of this lack of information may be due to the transfer of the Secretariat to Melbourne, but with regard to outstanding dues there have been a large proportion of defaulters who have ignored our multiple reminders.

## President-Elect's Report

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**Professor Helen Chiu**

The 11<sup>th</sup> PRCP Congress "Innovation and Development in Mental Health in the Pacific Rim" was scheduled to be held on 27-30 October 2003, and preparation for

the Congress was well under way. Unfortunately, the unexpected outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Hong Kong since March has disrupted our plan.

Because the SARS outbreak has affected a number of countries and cities in the Pacific Rim Region, delegates may be hesitant to attend the conference in October of this year. Although the SARS outbreak is being brought under control in Hong Kong and most places in the

Pacific Rim region, delegates may feel more comfortable attending the conference in 2004. So we have decided to postpone the 11th Congress until mid or late 2004.

We shall inform our Fellows and Members of the date as soon as possible and the information will be available on the PRCP website. We are very sorry for the inconvenience. We look forward to your continued support and hope to welcome you at the conference in 2004 in Hong Kong.

## Editor's Report

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**Professor Philip Morris**

Colleagues, welcome to the second newsletter for 2003. This newsletter is being prepared under less threatening circumstances than those of the March 2003 newsletter. Although the most recent source of anxiety, the Gulf War in Iraq, is over, our awareness of security has been heightened by a succession of international outrages (September 11 attacks, Bali bombing), frequent terrorist attacks and diplomatic tensions involving our Pacific Rim. Whilst it is often difficult to put these things out of our minds, life does go on and for our College there is much to be grateful for and look forward to.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the recent Board Meeting of the PRCP and be in the audience at the PRCP Symposium. Material from these two meetings is included in this newsletter and will also be added to the November newsletter later this year.

From my observations at the Board meeting I was impressed by the commitment of the

Members to advancing the aims and objectives of our College and developing a diverse and informed membership base. In addition, a number of discussion items took my interest. The College President (Prof Bruce Singh) will be contacting the Chairs of the College subcommittees (Service Development, Education, Research, Psychotherapy) to get progress reports on the activities of these important working parties in our College. One of these reports appears in this newsletter (see p. 4). The College also plans to commission articles for the newsletter from members involved in new programs and new advances in psychiatry and mental health.

I was impressed with the presentation from A/Prof Harry Minas (University of Melbourne) on the University of Melbourne-Harvard University collaboration that has produced the International Mental Health Leadership Program. This program provides education and training experiences to promote leadership skills in younger psychiatrists from the Pacific Rim in the field of psychiatric service development. Students participating in the course will be invited to attend the PRCP Congress as part of the coursework experience.

I found the PRCP Symposium on the "Meaning of Pacific Rim Psychiatry for World and American Psychiatry" a very informative session. It was attended by psychiatrists from a

variety of countries. A lively discussion period followed the presentations which not only reviewed the development of Pacific Rim psychiatry and the role that the College has played in this but also explored exciting new developments. A report on the PRCP history project being conducted by Prof Robert Pasnau appears in this newsletter and a summary of Prof Pasnau's presentation on the "Brief History of the PRCP 1980-2000" will be published in the next edition of the newsletter. A full version of this paper is available on the PRCP website:

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

Information on the postponed congress will also be published on the website and in the newsletter when it comes to hand.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to make a contribution to the newsletter through either a letter to the editor or a brief article (100-400 words) on any topic. Please forward contributions to the Secretariat:

PRCP Secretariat  
Department of Psychiatry  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Charles Connibere Building  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Victoria, Australia 3050  
Fax: + 61 3 9347 3457  
E-mail: [info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org)

The email chat list continues and can be accessed at:

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/prcp>

Please enjoy this newsletter!

## Report from the Working Group on Research

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The PRCP Working Group on Research has generated two research proposals which will utilise the existing collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Prof Helen Chiu), Departments of Psychiatry in Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Changsha and Nanjing. The two proposals are as follows:

### 1. Study of depression in the physically ill elderly

This proposal was prepared by Dr. Zheming Lim as a multicentred study. The process of seeking resources to support this study is currently under way

### 2. Development of a rating scale for neurasthenia

The Working Group is awaiting WPA approval for the Technical Report on Neurasthenia with the specified clinical factors of this

syndrome. Once approval is given for the report, the Working Group will proceed to develop a rating scale based on these clinical features. The scale will be tested for its psychiatric properties and then made available to other parts of the world for further field trials. Prof Helen Chiu is allocating a number of her staff to coordinate this effort.

**Prof Edmond Chiu**  
**Chair, Research Working Group**

## Service Development Working Group

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Dr Kyu Hang Lee, Past President of PRCP, has stepped down from the position of Chair of the PRCP Working Group on Service Development. Consequently the Working Group is now seeking nominations for someone to replace him in this position.

Some of the areas of interest to this group are:

- Resource reality in the Asia Pacific region
- Cultural issues, their strengths and weaknesses in psychiatric practice

- Forensic psychiatric care in the region
- Barriers to the access to mental health care in the region
- Travel scholarship for psychiatrists in underdeveloped countries in the region

Other members of this working group are:

Dr Kunihiko Asai (Japan)  
Dr Kazuyoshi Yamamoto (Japan)  
Prof Christopher Chung (USA)  
Dr Marvin H Firestone (USA)  
Prof Lanny Snodgrass (USA)  
Dr Susan A Harris (New Zealand)  
Prof Winston W Shen (Taiwan)

Any PRCP Fellow interested in Chairing this group should forward a letter to the Secretariat.

**E-mail:** [info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org)

**Fax:** +61 3 9347 3457

**Post:** PRCP Secretariat  
Department of Psychiatry,  
University of Melbourne, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Charles Connibere Building, Royal  
Melbourne Hospital, Victoria,  
Australia 3050.

**A/Prof Eng-Seong Tan**  
**Secretary General**

## Important Notice on PRCP Membership

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The decision was made at the May 2003 Board Meeting held in San Francisco, to announce an amnesty on members who currently have outstanding arrears prior to 2001.

The decision to waive these fees depends on the prompt payment of 2003 dues. This is strictly a once off solution and will not be further extended. If payment is not

received by the end of 2003, these members will be dropped from the PRCP.

We are aware that part of the problem maybe due to obsolete contact details for some members because of the Secretariat's shift from the USA to Australia. We urge anyone who is aware of new contact details for the following

members to let us know.

A/Prof Kyung Joon Min (Korea)  
Dr Won-Sum Hahn (Korea)  
Dr Dong-Yul Oh (Korea)  
Dr Ton-That Niem (USA)  
Dr Richard J Forde (USA)  
Dr Duane Q Hagan (USA)  
Dr Koock-Elan Jung (USA)

**A/Prof Eng-Seong Tan**  
**Secretary General**

## Financial Summary

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### Expenditure & Income Statement

National Australia Bank Account, AUD\$.	
Balance as of 31/03/03	\$53,109.96
Income since 31/3/03 from subscriptions	\$9,996.34
Tax refund	\$370.00

Expenditure	
Registration with WPA	\$211.63
website	\$44.00
printing	\$1,761.04
bank charges	\$316.20
<b>total</b>	<b>\$2,332.87</b>
<b><u>Balance as of 20/06/03</u></b>	<b><u>\$61,143.43</u></b>

## The PRCP History Project

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**Prof Robert Pasnau**

### **‘A Land Without Memories is a Land Without History’**

These words written 125 years ago by the poet and philosopher Abram Joseph Ryan may soon apply to the PRCP. As our Founding Fellows and early members age and pass on, we may lose our collective memories and our history.

Although it was the intent to preserve our historical documents, the founding fellows did not elect an Archivist-Historian whose task would be to save the programs, photographs, minutes, reports, and other documents for historical purposes. Recognizing the need to

preserve as much of our history as possible, our president, Prof Bruce Singh, asked me to pull together all available sources to prepare a brief history of the first 20 years of the College.

Alas, when I began my task I became aware of the virtual lack of documents. The programs were scattered, the reports destroyed, and the photographs diffused through the albums and scrapbooks of members. In fact, I went to my files for some of the early programs and photos, only to find that many were missing.

My presentation to the 2003 meeting of the American Psychiatric Association entitled: ‘A Brief History of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists’, was based on only a few available documents and letters plus my own fading memories.

Upon my report to the Board of Directors on 20 May 2003, the Board asked me to assume the

responsibility of College Historian with the task of collecting all available information and photographs from the members. I will contact all the past presidents directly. I have already received invaluable photos from Drs Ching-Piao Chien and Edmund Pi, as well as some material from recent meetings. I am most anxious to receive programs and photos from the early meetings of the College, particularly from the 1980s. I urge any member who is willing to look through his or her files to do so and send me anything that we may use to construct our archives. I would also appreciate your memories from the early days of the college. My presentation is available on the College web site: [www.prcp.org/publications.html](http://www.prcp.org/publications.html)

Please feel free to email me with ant contributions at: [rpasnau@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:rpasnau@mednet.ucla.edu)

As we move on to an exciting future it is not too late to preserve our history.

## PRCP Workshop at APA



**Professor Ching-Piao Chien**

### **‘The Meaning of the Pacific Rim for World and American Psychiatry: The Perspective of a Taiwan Psychiatrist’**

On 22 May 2003, at the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, a workshop entitled ‘The Meaning of the Pacific Rim for World and American Psychiatry’ was presented by Fellows of the PRCP. The session was co-chaired by Dr Francis Lu and Prof Bruce Singh. Prof Robert Pasnau presented on the history of the PRCP and I presented my view of Pacific Rim and its meaning to the world and American Psychiatry.

The Pacific Rim region includes all the countries and islands situated adjacent to or within the Pacific Ocean. Economically there are more developed and lesser developed countries. Many different languages and religions exist in this vast region. The rapid industrialization, economic globalization, and massive immigration have inevitably produced much stress. The necessity of paying attention to mental health issues has become more important than ever. We, as

21<sup>st</sup> Century psychiatrists, live in a rich cultural and psycho-socio-biological laboratory, we can explore and better the quality of life for the people in this region, if not for all of humankind. The PRCP is the only psychiatric organization constituted of psychiatric leaders and future leaders from this region.

I was born in Taiwan when it was a Japanese colony. I received my earlier education in the Japanese system, which was then abruptly shifted to the Chinese system when Taiwan was returned to China at the end of World War II. After finishing medical school and a neuropsychiatric residency training in Taiwan, I went to the US and received advanced training as a resident and a fellow. I passed the American Psychiatric Specialist Board and gradually moved up to hold a professorship in the US for over 26 years. I specialised in psychopharmacology, community psychiatry and transcultural psychiatry. Needless to say, I was fairly acculturated to the American culture.

I returned to Taiwan like salmon fish returning to their birth place, to serve my homeland.

Reviewing my career, I am much indebted to so many colleagues from the Pacific Rim region and can truly appreciate being raised in such a rich cultural laboratory. Similar to my life experience, there are hundreds of thousands of young psychiatrists who came to the US from Pacific Rim countries for various reasons.

America was criticized at one time for the ‘brain drain,’ but it is now being appreciated for its intellectual nurturing of its neighboring countries.

Taiwan psychiatry, as an example, owes a lot to American psychiatry over the last half century. More than a dozen of Taiwan psychiatric leaders were trained in the US for different periods of time in various fields. They have returned to Taiwan and contributed to the modernization of psychiatric services, education, training, policy making, etc. Many milestones in Taiwan psychiatry such as the fifteen-year plan of the National Psychiatric Network (1985), Hospital Accreditation (1985), Specialist Board Certification (1987), Continuing Medical Education (1989), Mental Health Law (1990), War on Drugs (1993), Compulsory Evaluation of Sex Offenders (1994), National Health Insurance (1995), and the Disability Welfare Act (1995), were established in Taiwan within a decade, while in other countries it has taken half or one century.

From 1961 to 2003, ten out of twelve Presidents of the Taiwan Society of Psychiatry received their earlier training in the US before returning to Taiwan. These Presidents have taken up important leadership roles in their homeland for the advancement of psychiatric services.

American psychiatry can proudly receive its credits from the grateful Taiwan psychiatry.

## PRCP Symposium at APA

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The PRCP symposium at APA was attended by about 25 people. This relatively low attendance rate was undoubtedly due to the unfortunate fact that the organizers of the APA Scientific Program scheduled the symposium at the same time that

Prof Masahisa Nishizono was giving his response to receiving the Kun-po Soo award. This meant that those interested in mental health in the Asia Pacific were divided between these two events. However, from those who did

attend the PRCP symposium there was a good response.

**A/Prof Eng Seong Tan**  
**Secretary General**

## Pictures from Symposium

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Dr Francis Lu initiated the idea for this symposium in which he was able to bring together speakers who elaborated on the purpose and goals of the PRCP.



Prof Bruce Singh presented on his view of future directions for the PRCP.

## PRCP Delegates at the APA Conference

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**From left to right**

**Front row:** Dr Francis Lu, A/Prof Eng-Seong Tan, Prof Bruce Singh, Dr Christopher Chung.

**Back row:** Dr Robert Pasnau, Prof Masahisa Nishizono, Prof Philip Morris, Prof Allan Tasman, Prof Sung Kil Min, Prof Edmond Pi.



**PRCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the PRCP Secretariat by fax: +61 3 9347 3457 or post: PRCP, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Charles Connibere Bldg, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria, Australia 3050

I.....(Name in block letters) being a Member/ Fellow of the PRCP nominate .....who is a Fellow of the PRCP for election to the Board of Directors.

Signature ..... Date .....

Seconded by ..... Member/ Fellow of PRCP.

Signature ..... Date .....



PLACE  
PHOTO  
HERE

**APPLICATION FORM FOR  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
PACIFIC RIM COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS**

**Please return to:**  
University of Melbourne Department of Psychiatry, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Charles Connibere Building  
Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria, Australia 3050. Fax: (+61 03) 9347 3457

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL QUALIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

POST GRADUATE QUALIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT INTERESTS:

CLINICAL: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHING: \_\_\_\_\_

TRANS-CULTURAL: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE (abbreviated version acceptable) AND ONE PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH. We will also need two letters of recommendation from Members of the College

SIGNATURE X \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation Fee: AU\$400.00      Annual Subscription: (Member) AU\$150.00      (Fellow) AU\$200.00