



## PRCP Newsletter December 2023

*Thank you for your support to the great success to  
20th PRCP Congress in Kuala Lumpur on 13-15 October 2023*



### **Summary Report Received from 20th PRCP 2023 Organizing Committee**

The 20th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrist brought together mental health professionals from all over the world, from the most part of Asia Pacific to the vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur from 13th to 15th October 2023. The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrist (PRCP) and Malaysian Psychiatric Association (MPA) organized the congress.

The theme of the congress was 'Building Mental Health Resilience Across the Lifespan'. People's mental health has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic's unparalleled disruption. It also effectively conveyed the crux of global difficulties affecting humanity specifically in Asia Pacific. The congress focused on mental health experts exchanging ideas about assisting the community in rebuilding and strengthening resilience to address these critical challenges impact on mental health.

Renowned speakers from around the world imparted their knowledge and research findings over the course of three days. Experts addressed the audience with cutting-edge insights and current understanding of mental health. Delegates contributed by sharing their experiences and points of view at the several planned symposiums.

To not forget, President of PRCP, Prof Chee Ng (2021 -2023) for his confidence and assistance throughout the congress planning process towards the Malaysian Psychiatric Association. The President of Malaysian Psychiatric Association, Prof Ahmad Hatim Sulaiman played a crucial role for the significant triumph of the congress as the Organising Chairman. Recognizing the local Scientific Committee Chairperson, Dr Aili Hanim Hashim and Treasurer of the Congress, Prof Ng Chong Guan are of utmost significance.

Over 473 delegates from over 20 countries attended this hybrid conference both virtually and in person. Two PRCP Past Presidents, Prof Helen Herrman and Prof Mian Yoon Chong were in attendance as well. Over the three days, there were a total of 16 Plenary Lectures, 3 Special Lectures, 23 Symposiums, 16 Oral Presentations and 37 E-Poster Presentations.

International delegates were cordially invited to explore Kuala Lumpur and other Malaysian cities during this visit. Kuala Lumpur prides itself on its well-developed infrastructure and diverse array of attractions, including historical and contemporary landmarks, as well as delectable cuisine. It is a multicultural



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metropolis, emblematic of the multifaceted nature of Malaysia. Delegates have the privilege of attending the conference while simultaneously immersing themselves in the cultural, gastronomic, and visual delights of Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia.

The congress was the perfect opportunity and ideal occasion to reestablish contacts with colleagues while also forming new connections and interacting with international professionals in mental health.



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### 1. Editor's introduction



Dear PRCP Colleagues, this is the first Newsletter since our successful 20<sup>th</sup> PRCP Congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 13-15 October this year. Time marches on and now we are at the end of another productive year for the PRCP. I would like to wish all my PRCP Colleagues and their families a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year and much success for 2024.

In this edition of the Newsletter you will see reports and photos from the Congress, messages from our senior office holders including our President, our new President Elect and General Secretary, and our immediate Past President. We have a number of new Board Members and we thank them for their generous participation in our College. Recently we have welcomed new Fellows to the PRCP. All this activity indicates our College is a growing organization with renewed vigor and focus on the future.



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One important activity to look forward to is our next Congress to be held in Tokyo, Japan in 2025. Our President Elect, Prof Tsuyoshi Akiyama, has already started organizing this meeting. The timing will be in the second half of 2025. Please keep a lookout for the final date to be announced soon and place it in your diary. We hope to see you in Tokyo in 2025!

This newsletter is the informal way members of the PRCP can communicate with each other. In order to make this method of personal connection with colleagues more effective please send short reports or articles on items of interest and photos of yourself and colleagues for publication in the newsletter. I look forward to your contributions.

Please invite your psychiatric colleagues to join PRCP. Joining is easy – just go to our PRCP website page: <https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment>

**Prof Philip Morris AM**  
Newsletter Editor

### 2. Immediate Past President's message



#### **Report at the 2023 PRCP General Assembly on Oct 15, 2023**

##### **The 20th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP) Congress**

The 20th PRCP Congress was held at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the 27th Malaysian Conference of Psychological Medicine (MCPM). Foremost, I would like to congratulate the Local Organising Committee of the PRCP Congress and MCPM for preparing a highly successful congress attended by over 470 participants on-site and 70 online participants. The Congress was very privileged to have an impressive range of eminent speakers featured in 16 plenaries, 3 special lectures, as well as 21 symposia, 16 oral presentations and 35 e-posters. Special thanks to the local organizing committee Chair: Prof Ahmad Hatim, Co-Chair Dr. Mohd Fadzli Isa, Treasurer: Prof Ng Chong Guan, Secretary, and Scientific Committee Chair, Dr Aili Hanim, and her highly capable team, all the local and international committee members, all the plenary and symposium presenters, and the sponsors for their support.

##### **Key PRCP Activities:**

The PRCP Journal, Asia-Pacific Psychiatry has grown to be a leading academic journal in the region. According to the released 2022 Impact Factors, Asia-Pacific Psychiatry's Impact Factor is 3.5, a decrease from its previous year of 3.78. However, our ranking has improved from last year to 60/144 from 64/142 in the Social Science Citation Index category.

One of the flagship training activities of the PRCP in the last 2 years has been the Asia-Pacific Regional E-Training (APRE). In 2021 the APRE training included 10 online sessions on the "Introduction to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPSS) Telehealth" which provided information, resources, and opportunity to explore clinical practice in using digital health tools to provide mental health care. This was followed by with a series of three workshops in 2022, with international speakers, information, global and local resources, for Cambodia mental health professionals to explore best practice guidelines for Cambodian mental health practice. The key stakeholder included Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse,



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Ministry of Health Cambodia with training partners from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, and the NGO sector.

PRCP has been also actively engaged with inter-organisational collaboration with several peak psychiatric organisations globally. These included World Psychiatric Association (WPA), Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association (AFPA), Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN), Korean Neuropsychiatric Association (KNPA), Malaysian Psychiatric Association (MPA), Indonesian Psychiatric Association (IPA), and others.

### **Future Meeting:**

I am delighted to announce that the 21st PRCP Congress will be held in Tokyo in 2025. For the first time, the PRCP Congress will be held jointly with the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP). We look forward to seeing all PRCP members and other colleagues at this excellent congress in Japan, and we hope that your participation will enrich the academic and cultural exchange among colleagues from the Pacific Rim region and other parts of the globe.

### **Acknowledgement:**

Finally, I would like to thank the PRCP Executive Committee and Board Members during my tenure. In particular, I am grateful to President Elect, Prof Yong Chon Park and Immediate Past President, Prof Mian-Yoon Chong for their advice and guidance, the Vice Presidents, Prof Tao Li, Prof Edmond Pi, and Prof Ahmad Hatim Sulaiman for their support with the executive decisions, Secretary General, Prof Tsuyoshi Akiyama for his key role in operating the PRCP Secretariat, Treasurer, Prof Philip Morris for overseeing the PRCP finances, of course all the PRCP Board Members for their consistent and invaluable backing on the PRCP activities.

### **Professor Chee Ng, MBBS, MD, FRANZCP**

President, PRCP (2021-2023)

Healthscope Chair of Psychiatry, The Melbourne Clinic

Professor of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne

## **3. President's message**



Hello, members of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP),

I am deeply honored to assume the role of President of this esteemed institution. It is with great enthusiasm and dedication that I step into this position, and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

Our journey ahead is one filled with opportunities and challenges in the ever-evolving field of psychiatry. The PRCP has a rich history of promoting excellence in mental health care, and I am committed to upholding and advancing this tradition.

Together, we will strive to foster collaboration among our members, encourage innovation in research and clinical practice, and promote mental health awareness and education throughout the Pacific Rim region. Our



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collective efforts will contribute to the well-being of countless individuals and communities.

I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. Together, we can achieve great things and make a lasting difference in the world of psychiatry.

Thank you once again for this tremendous opportunity. Let us embark on this journey with determination, compassion, and a shared commitment to mental health.

### **Yong Chon PARK**

Professor

Department of Neuropsychiatry

College of Medicine, Hanyang University

President, Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists

#### **4. President Elect's message**



Dear PRCP members

In October 2023 I had an honor to be elected as President Elect of the PRCP. As you know PRCP has a long history of commitment to improve psychiatry and psychiatric care in the pacific region. We can be where we are thanks to the great efforts of our predecessors. The history needs to continue and develop. So I will try my best that our generation not only to succeed the inheritance of the previous generations, but also to add our efforts so that we can leave some progress for the next generations.

Personally I am a believer in values that can be added by synergy. Synergy will come primarily from the diversity in the region. As Prof Yong Chon Park said in his greeting for Kuala Lumpur congress, we can and should learn from each other. I also have had experiences with the World Psychiatric Association and the World Federation of Mental Health. So I want to convey what the PRCP can contribute to the global psychiatry and mental health and bring in the inheritance from other regions in the world to the PRCP.

Our next congress will be held in Tokyo in collaboration with the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP). Again there can be a great synergy between these two organizations, since the PRCP has always included cultural diversity as an important issue in discussion on general psychiatry, mental health care, education and research. The quality of the activities of the PRCP is warranted as can be seen in the programs of the biennial congress and the journal. During my tenure I will collaborate with my colleagues to expand the activities by increasing the number of the PRCP members.



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I look forward to working and walking with you for two years as President-elect and then two more years as President.

### **Tsuyoshi Akiyama**

Director of Departments of Neuropsychiatry and Psychosomatic Medicine

Director of Department of Quality Improvement

NTT Medical Center Tokyo

President Elect, PRCP

### **5. Secretary General's message**



I am writing to express my appreciation for being selected to serve as Secretary General of PRCP. As of 2024, I realize it will be 10 years that I have served on PRCP's Board of Directors. How time flies! It is now an added honor to now serve a two-year term as Secretary General.

I am particularly grateful to take on this position in the footsteps of our outgoing Secretary General, Dr. Tsuyoshi Akiyama, who has tirelessly and ably guided PRCP for many years. I am excited for his transition to President-Elect, and I am committed to doing the best I can to serve as his successor and to serve PRCP as a whole. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the PRCP staff. Ms. Toshiko Hano has been a great support in this transition, and I am lucky to have the ongoing support of her and Dr. Akiyama. I am committed to working closely with them to ensure that PRCP continues to thrive.

Thank you again for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I am excited to work with all of you to advance the mission of PRCP!

### **Alan Teo, M.D., M.S.**

Secretary General, Pacific Rim College of Psychiatry

Associate Professor, Oregon Health & Science University

Director of Education, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care

President, Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture

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Under the tenure of Prof Chee Ng, the Executive Committee and the Board have met regularly, and the secretariat has supported the meetings and follow-ups.

The Executive Committee has met on:

October 21, 2021

January 27, 2022, April 28, 2022, July 21, 2022, and October 6, 2022

January 12, 2023, April 20, 2023, July 27, 2023, and October 14, 2023 (at Kuala Lumpur Congress)

The board has met on:



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October 21, 2021  
April 28, 2022 and October 6, 2022  
April 20, 2023 and October 14, 2023 (at Kuala Lumpur Congress)

The principal agenda of these meetings were  
The 19th PRCP congress 2021, 8-10 April in Seoul – Report of the great success  
The 20th PRCP Congress in 2023, 13-15 Oct in Kuala Lumpur  
The 21st PRCP Congress in 2025, in Tokyo  
Asia-Pacific Psychiatry Journal  
PRCP website  
The APRE-Training  
Collaboration with the 22nd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Bangkok, 3-6 August 2022  
Publication in Nature Medicine  
Collaboration with AFPA

Please get in touch with the secretariat if the PRCP members have any input about the agenda or other issues.

### 6. General Assembly

The PRCP General Assembly was held on October 15, 2023. Slate of new board members and officers was announced as follows:

#### Slate of New Board Members

From the previous board, the following members will continue to serve in the new PRCP board:  
Mian-Yoon Chong, Susan Shur-Fen Gau, Helen Herrman, Narei Hong, Chonnakarn Jatchavala, Takahiro Kato, Samuel Law, Andi Tanra, Huali Wang, John Chee Meng Wong

#### Slate of Officers

President:	Yong Chon Park
President Elect:	Tsuyoshi Akiyama
Vice Presidents:	Tao Li, Edmond Pi, Ahmad Hatim Sulaiman, Itsuo Asai, Susanna Every-Palmer, Kang Seob Oh
Immediate Past President:	Chee Ng
Treasurer:	Philip Morris
Secretary General:	Alan Teo

### 7. Asia Pacific Psychiatry Journal report

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a great honor and intellectual pleasure to serve as Editor in Chief of our journal. It is a role that I never expected to hold when I formulated the plan to implement the journal when I was PRCP President Elect back in the early 2000's. Major thanks go to EH Kua and Ed Chiu who served as the first editors. Their foundational work ensured the ongoing success of the journal. Fate, however, does have a way of intervening in our plans, and this year marks the tenth year of my tenure as Editor in Chief.



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I have been very gratified by the progress of the journal, and I will review some of what I believe are the most important accomplishments. Before doing that, however, I'd like to announce that this tenth year mark of my tenure is an appropriate time for me to transition to the role of Emeritus Editor in Chief, and to turn over active leadership to another person at the end of this calendar year. While our formal process is that the Editor in Chief has the responsibility and authority to appoint other members of the editorial leadership, including any deputy or associate editors, the members of the editorial board, and reviewers, the PRCP Board has the authority to appoint the Editor in Chief. It is my strongest possible recommendation that the Board appoint Chee Ng as the next editor in chief. He has performed exceptionally well in all responsibilities as Deputy Editor for a number of years. He easily meets the standards for excellence in every aspect of importance for service as the Editor in Chief.

I have attached [the annual publication report](#) from our publisher, Wiley, which reviews another very successful year for the journal. I'd like to highlight just a few points from that report plus some other topics from the years of my tenure:

**1** My original concept for the journal was that it would serve as an English language international journal which could provide an intermediate level of publication opportunity between national language country or region centered articles, and some of the most competitive international journals such as the American Journal of Psychiatry or the British Journal of Psychiatry. We have been highly successful in this regard. Acceptance for indexing was accomplished, with the help of Wiley, within the first two years of our application, and now we rank in the *second quartile* for the second year in a row. This is especially meaningful given the young age of our journal and the fact that we ranked in the lowest quartile for some years after our inception.

**2** The Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA) was being formed around the same time our journal was being established. At that time both the PRCP and AFPA Boards supported my initiative to include AFPA as a sponsoring organization. While AFPA leadership was enthusiastic and participated in the initial planning for almost two years, just before we were to sign the contract with Wiley, now Wiley/Blackwell, they decided to form their own journal. After some years, however, that journal failed, and the then president of AFPA approached me about our becoming the official journal of AFPA. After several years of discussions and negotiations, and important support from Wiley/Blackwell, we were able to agree that Asia Pacific Psychiatry would become not only the official journal of both PRCP and AFPA fulfilling our original aim. While more work needs to be done to fully implement the collaboration, I have no doubt this can occur, fostering an enhanced scope and quality of the journal.

**3** The impact of the COVID pandemic has adversely affected both the quantity and quality of submissions to many journals. For example, an extremely well regarded international journal, which is a monthly publication, last year received only about the same number of submissions as our journal, which is, as you know, a quarterly publication. Even with the pandemic effect, our percentage of submissions accepted for publication has continued to stay at a very low level, less than 10% last year, which means we are very competitive. This trend has continued to evolve in this desirable direction over the course of my editorship leading to the improvement in our indexing level.

**4** The original contract, which I negotiated with Wiley, had two very important components in addition to the usual agreements for collaboration. First, we agreed there would be no cost to PRCP for publishing the journal, an unusual contract term. Further, the contract called for a return of profits to the PRCP. These terms are not typical, especially when there is no publication charge, and continue to bring in a meaningful revenue stream to PRCP.





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**5** Our readership and submissions sources reflect a diverse array of countries from all over the world. This includes countries well beyond the initial focus of the journal, which essentially included only the countries of original focus of PRCP. This expansion reflects the increasing awareness of the journal as an important source of psychiatric knowledge. This perception of the journal is also reflected by the fact that I was approached by external organizations asking us to sponsor several special issues of the journal. Recent important topics for such issues have been suicide prevention, from the World Federation for Mental Health, and child and adolescent psychiatry, from the World Psychiatric Association. We also have been asked to publish abstracts or articles for special issues based on annual congresses from national or regional psychiatric associations.

To conclude, my sincere appreciation and thanks go to the large number of our own members and others who have served as members of the editorial board and reviewers of submissions. Their work has ensured the ongoing increase in the journal's quality. I leave my position as Editor in Chief with a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction, knowing that a strong foundation for ongoing success and growth has been well established.

**Allan Tasman, MD**

Editor in Chief

### **8. Dates for upcoming PRCP Executive Committee and Board meetings in 2024**

**January:** EC meeting date: January 18, 2024

**April:** EC/Board meeting - proposed dates: April 11 or 18 (TBA)

**July:** EC meeting only - proposed dates and venue will be discussed: July (TBD)

**October:** EC /Board meeting: proposed dates and venue will be discussed: October (TBD)



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### 9. Renew your PRCP membership through our website



# MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT

Use this page to pay your annual membership dues. First, scroll to your membership type. Then, select your country's World Bank Economic Category to pay the correct amount.

Distinguished Fellow			
Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
\$150	\$95	\$50	\$25

Have you received your membership renewal reminder but not responded yet? Or do you have a colleague interested in joining PRCP?

You can quickly and easily use the updated PRCP website to help. All you need is to visit our membership page (<https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment>). Once there, find your category of membership (Distinguished Fellow, Fellow, or Member). If you are renewing your membership, this information is provided in your reminder email. Then, determine which World Bank economic category your country of residence falls into. If you are unsure, that information is listed here (<https://www.prcp.org/world-bank-economic-categories>). Click on the “Buy Now” icon that matches your category, and complete your payment. That’s all.

If you are unsure, email us at [info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org) and cc: [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com). Those who have difficulty with payment, please contact Ms. Hano at [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com). The 2024 membership payment link is: <https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment>

Those who have not paid 2023 membership, please pay with the invoice sent directly to you from the Secretariat.

Thank you for being part of the PRCP family!



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### 10. Application for membership

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

DATE

TITLE

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

COUNTRY:

GENDER:

CURRENT POSITION

MAILING ADDRESS

HOME PHONE :

FAX:

OFFICE PHONE

E-MAIL

SPECIALIST BOARD: DATE RECEIVED:

PSYCHIATRY

NEUROLOGY

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

CURRENT INTERESTS:

CLINICAL

TEACHING

RESEARCH

CROSS CULTURAL

SPECIALIST TRAINING:

--

QUALIFICATIONS:

--

YEARS WORKED AS PSYCHIATRISTS:

MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

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### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Please return this form with your CV and one passport photo to the PRCP Secretariat located at:

Department of Neuropsychiatry, NTT MEDICAL CENTER TOKYO

5-9-22 Higashi-gotanda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8625, JAPAN

E mail: [info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org) cc: [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com)