



FEBRUARY 2016

PRCP: Pacific Rim College of Psychiatry

President: Professor H Herrman, Melbourne
Secretary: Professor Tsyoshi Akiyama, Tokyo
Newsletter Editors: Prof Graham Mellsop, Dr Susanna Every-Palmer, New Zealand.

Message from the Vice President

Warmest greetings from Los Angeles, USA.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for electing me to serve as a Vice President of the PRCP, what a great honor and privilege for me to be reengaged in the College. Yes, I have returned.

To look back, almost thirty years have passed since I first joined the College; I chaired the Scientific Program, served as Treasurer (1991-1997) and a Board member. These were great years and the beautiful memory has never faded away, it is still vividly fresh in my mind. Set aside the past, it is wonderful to learn that during the past 15 years, many exceptional leaders have carried the torch and made PRCP to grow steadily and shine.

Recognizing our President Professor Helen Herrman's leadership along with the Officers and Board members, undoubtedly PRCP will continue to advance its mission and goals.

While embracing globalization and facing the swiftly shifting landscape of health and mental health in the recent years, such as health care reform, parity rules, advances in neurosciences and technologies, electronic medical records, and fast developments in communication tools, there is an increased need and great urgency to work together in collaboration.

The PRCP is an international organization and

preeminently able to provide opportunities for international exchange, especially in the Pacific Rim Regions quite unlike any other professional organization.

To assume an active and pivotal role in shaping the future in psychiatry in the regions, PRCP members should start thinking about ways to capitalize on this strength. We should encourage PRCP members to talk about the current issues which psychiatrists are encountered with, to take advantage of our differences and underscore our similarities. Together we, PRCP members, will be able to continue our established track records in making significant contributions to advocate for our profession, improve treatment for people who need psychiatric care, exchange educational information to develop the future work forces, and promote research.

We can proudly say that many PRCP members have consistently and continuously been very active in assuming leadership roles on the international scene. The most worthy news to share is that PRCP President Professor Helen Herrman (Australia) is now the President-elect of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

PRCP members from the US who are actively involved in the WPA, include Board member Professor Michelle Riba as the Secretary for Publications, Professor Allan Tasman as the Chair, Section on Education in Psychiatry, and Vice President Professor Edmond Pi as the Representative for Zone 2 (USA) and as a WPA Board member. Other PRCP members include PRCP immediate Past President Professor Min-Soo Lee (Korea) as the Representative for Zone 17 (Eastern Asia) and a WPA Board member, Professors Felice Lieh-Mak (China) and Norman Sartorius (Switzerland) are on the WPA Council



(Past Presidents), Secretary-General Professor Tsuyoshi Akiyama (Japan) is the immediate Past Secretary on Finance.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

Edmond Pi, Vice President of the PRCP

Recent mental health issues in Korea.

Recently, there have been social issues in Korea with psychiatric implications. One of these is the so-called “anger society”. Crimes including violent behavior or homicide without a specific motive (termed the crime of ‘do-not-ask-why’ in Korea) have occurred with increasing frequency. The Korean public has been deeply concerned about being victimized by such crimes. Many speculate this is a complication of the pursuit of rapid economic development. In addition to this outwardly directed anger, the increasing rate of depression and suicide, suggesting inwardly directed anger, also indicates the high level of anger in Korean society. Depression, suicide, and unreasonable crime are key catch words of contemporary Korean society.

On the other hand, there have been some positive changes in psychiatric health insurance system. The limitation that psychotherapy is covered only up to two sessions per week was lifted. The price of closed ward psychiatric admission in University hospital increased slightly. And until now, patients with a history of an F code diagnosis could not be covered by any life insurance. The limitation will be also lifted starting Jan. 2016.

Last year was the 70th anniversary of Korean Neuropsychiatric Association. Korean psychiatrists are directing their views toward society and are trying to contribute their expertise to assist those who are struggling.

Yong Chon Park, M.M., Ph.D., Min-Soo Lee, M.D., Ph.D, Board Directors of the PRCP

More transparency for financial arrangements between pharmaceutical companies and doctors in Australia

In early 2015 the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) authorized a new Code of Conduct for Medicines Australia (representing the larger drug companies in Australia but not generic makers). This 18th Code Edition now includes making public all payments to doctors who speak at drug company events, payments for work on company advisory boards, and the monetary equivalent of gifts from companies to doctors for overseas and local travel, accommodation, conference registration fees and other forms of hospitality.

This move to greater transparency started back in 2009 and culminated last year with the adoption of many of the elements of the US Physician Payment Sunshine Act. Not included in the ACCC authorized Code is payments for food and drink below \$120 per person. Payments associated with industry funded research trials are also not included. The payments will be published for individual doctors on a six-monthly basis on drug company websites accessible to the public.

Doctors are informed the payments will be reported and the doctor can check the payments are correct before publication. The reporting is voluntary for the year 2016 but becomes mandatory from 2017. From then on doctors not wishing to be reported would need to refuse to accept pharmaceutical company offers. Privacy concerns have been managed by making sure all doctors know that accepting these payments or gifts will result in publication of the amounts.

These changes to the Code were hard fought and controversial initially. They have been introduced to overcome perceived or potential conflict of interest concerns when substantial payments (or payments in kind) are made by drug companies to doctors and are kept hidden from public view. It is possible that the financial relationship between the doctor and the company could bias or influence the use or prescribing of pharmaceutical products. This is relevant given the pharmaceutical industry targets key doctor opinion leaders for these payments or gifts.

The amounts involved are significant. For example, Australian pharmaceutical companies



spent \$33.4 million on educational events for healthcare professionals between October 2014 and March 2015 and from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 companies spent a total of \$2.6 million on medical advisory board consultant fees and hospitality.

How these new transparency arrangements will affect the behaviour of doctors and drug companies is yet to be seen. For the psychiatric profession I suspect that a hypothetical 'key opinion leader' might pause to think before accepting the business class airfare, five star accommodations, and registration fee paid offer from a drug company to attend a US or European major meeting. I anticipate that the often-perfunctory 'Disclosures' slide at the start of a keynote speaker's presentation will be more closely scrutinized and will need show monetary amounts against pharmaceutical company names.

The transparency arrangements in the Code are likely to be modified over time. Already there is criticism that the threshold of reporting is set too high at \$120 per person per hospitality event. The theory is that even small gifts influence prescribing practice. Time will tell.

It is worth noting that the policy is now being implemented. A recent invitation received from a pharmaceutical company to attend a launch of a new drug in an interstate capital city with complimentary airfares, accommodation and meals was accompanied by a request to sign consent to public disclosure of this 'payment or transfer of value'.

Professor Philip Morris
Board Director and Distinguished Fellow PRCP

The 17th Scientific Meeting of the PRCP, Kaohsiung, Taiwan: Nov 4-6, 2016.

The 17th Scientific Meeting of the PRCP will be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan from Nov 4-6, 2016, with the theme "*Mental Health in a Dynamic Region: Creating Changes through Partnership*".

The meeting will be held in the newly opened Kaohsiung Exhibition Center (www.kecc.com.tw), a waterfront international exhibition and convention center located in the New Bay Area opposite the iconic 85-storey Skytower hotel. The meeting is endorsed and supported by Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung City Government, Taiwan Society of Psychiatrists, and Taiwan Association of Psychiatric Epidemiology. The last day overlaps with the annual meeting of the Taiwan Society of Psychiatrists.

Located south of the island of Taiwan, Kaohsiung is the second largest city in Taiwan and by area the largest municipality. It has direct flights from over 40 Asian cities, and is a 50-minute flight from Hong Kong and 90 minutes by high speed rail from Taipei.

In 2009, Kaohsiung was the host city of World Games, a multi-sport event primarily composed of sports not featured in the Olympic Games. Kaohsiung has rich resources of the ocean, mountains and forests, take shape a diverse combination and different communities, the formation of a very active and multi-faceted nature of art and culture in the streets of Kaohsiung, everywhere you can see the beauty and grace of its public infrastructure, public art and city architecture (*Wikipedia*). "Dome light" in the concourse of Formosa Boulevard Station of Kaohsiung MRT is one of the world's largest public glass works of art, and it is the public art chandelier representative works in Kaohsiung.

The meeting will provide opportunity for people to exchange ideas, pass on experiences from the older generation to the young, share new information and innovations, and enjoy the hospitality of this city with lovely food and people. The weather is superb at this season with plenty of sunshine and comfortable temperatures. A website www.prcp2016.org has been established and will provide updated information about the meeting. Your participation will certainly make this meeting meaningful and memorable and I look forward to welcoming you in Kaohsiung in November.

Professor Mian-Yoon Chong



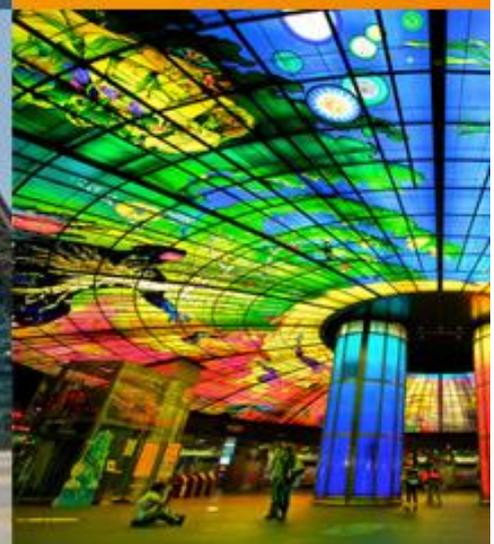
DO NOT FORGET!

**17TH PACIFIC RIM
COLLEGE OF
PSYCHIATRISTS
SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

www.pcrp.org

**NOV 4-6
2016**

**KAOHSIUNG,
TAIWAN**





New members

We welcome new members. If you wish to join the PRCP or to encourage others to join please complete the following application form and return with a **CV** and **one passport photo** to the **PRCP Secretariat** located at:

Department of Neuropsychiatry, NTT MEDICAL CENTER TOKYO
5-9-22 Higashi-godanda, Shinagawa-ku Tokyo 141-8625 JAPAN

Phone: + 81 3 3448 6508 | Facsimile: + 81 3 3448 6507 | E mail: info@prcp.org

Membership costs between USD\$15 and USD150 depending on region (see <http://www.prcp.org/members.html>)

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP DATE: _____
OF THE PACIFIC RIM COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

TITLE: _____ FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ GENDER: _____ COUNTRY: _____

CURRENT POSITION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ OFFICE PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

<p><u>SPECIALIST BOARD: DATE RECEIVED:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PSYCHIATRY: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NEUROLOGY: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><u>CURRENT INTERESTS:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CLINICAL: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TEACHING: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RESEARCH: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CROSS CULTURAL: _____</p>
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SPECIALIST TRAINING: _____

QUALIFICATIONS: _____

YEARS WORKED AS PSYCHIATRISTS: _____

MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: _____

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES: _____
