



## PRCP Newsletter January/February 2025

*Please join*

*The 21st PRCP WACP Joint Congress in Tokyo on 25-28 September 2025*



*Where the Pacific Rim meets the World; the hope to integrate culture into psychiatry  
25-28 September, 2025*

Hamamatsucho Convention Hall & Hybrid Studio, Tokyo, Japan

Register from [here](#)

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### 1. President's Message



Dear Colleagues of PRCP,

First and foremost, I would like to share with you the exciting news that the 2025 PRCP Meeting will be successfully held, thanks to the meticulous preparations of Dr. Itsuo Asai and Tsuyoshi Akiyama. Moreover, the collaboration with the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry is sure to spark great interest among many mental health professionals.



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Numerous programs have already been arranged, and there will be a wealth of engaging content, making it an exciting academic conference. I would like to express my gratitude to our Japanese colleagues for their efforts in organizing this event. Additionally, Tokyo is a beautiful and vibrant city, full of attractions that make it a place you can visit over and over again. Beyond the conference, the 2025 PRCP will provide ample opportunities to explore and experience the city. Meeting old friends and making new connections in a fresh setting will undoubtedly further stimulate our academic interests.

Although there is still a long time until September 25, 2025, the thought of that day already fills me with anticipation. I look forward to meeting you all, greeting new colleagues, catching up with old friends, and engaging in meaningful academic exchanges. These interactions will not only deepen our scholarly insights but will also foster personal growth, broadening our perspectives.

The world today is fraught with global conflicts and wars that leave us worried, disoriented, and often saddened. It is heartbreaking to witness the persistence of such turmoil. However, throughout human history, darkness has often coexisted with the emergence of new hope and joy. Even after the sun sets, it rises again the next day, and despite storms and tempests, peace and calm will eventually return. People may pass away, but new life continues to be born, a beautiful reminder that nothing in this world remains still.

On a personal note, South Korea has recently endured an unimaginable crisis in its healthcare system over the past year. The pain and sorrow brought on by political populism have disrupted the medical system. However, I believe this too shall pass. While it is a source of personal shame, I would like to share this painful experience with my PRCP colleagues, discuss potential solutions, and exchange our individual circumstances. Medical students are still unable to attend classes, and it is uncertain whether new students will even be admitted. The chaos in the educational system when new students do arrive is unimaginable at this point. Interns and residents are also unable to join hospitals and are engaged in a battle against government policies. Senior colleagues are providing financial and emotional support to them, but it is a situation that brings much sadness. South Korea's medical education system is currently in deep turmoil, but I remain hopeful that, with time, dawn will break, bringing brighter days ahead.

Dear PRCP colleagues, I hope to share these experiences with you in a more uplifting and constructive manner when we meet in Tokyo in September 2025. There is an old saying that one should not send letters written at night, but I have intentionally written this letter late in the evening to reach out to you. I may feel embarrassed later, but my desire to connect with you all more closely has motivated me to do so. I look forward to seeing you in Tokyo on September 25, 2025.

## 2. Progress Report PRCP WACP International Congress

(The 21st PRCP Congress in 2025)

Report received from Convenor Dr. Itsuo Asai and Co-Convenor Prof. Tsuyoshi Akiyama:

### More than 100 planned symposiums

The 2025 PRCP WACP International Congress in Tokyo is becoming a scintillating success. The preparation of more than 100 planned symposiums with a wide variety of themes and high-quality presentations is in progress. We plan to show the symposium's line-up on the congress website soon.

<https://www.prcpwacp2025.com/index.html>

### Heartful Art Festival as a side event



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The Heartful Art Festival looks for paintings by patients (photos of the paintings will be posted on the website, at the venue, and on the prominent pedestrian deck). We would appreciate it if you could inform the concerned facilities.

<https://heartfulart.net/>

### **Free oral or poster presentations: tourism information**

Please inform your colleagues and friends about the Congress and encourage them to submit free oral or poster presentations. The participants enjoy a combination of inspiring academic congress and rich opportunities for tourism in Japan. <https://www.prcpwacp2025.com/travel.html>

**For further information and updates, please visit the official website below:  
PRCP WACP International Congress 2025 Tokyo ([prcpwacp2025.com](http://prcpwacp2025.com))**

Congress Secretariat:

Convention Linkage, Inc.

2 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075, Japan

E-mail: [prcpwacp2025@c-linkage.co.jp](mailto:prcpwacp2025@c-linkage.co.jp)

### **3. Asia-Pacific Regional E-Training (APRE Training)**

Report received from Prof Chee Ng:

The E-Training program provided Introductory Child and Adolescent training for specialist paediatricians, psychiatrists, medical officers and health professionals in Cambodia at the National Childrens Hospital (Phnom Penh) and other hospitals. Altogether 11 online sessions were delivered which included clinical information, resources, and opportunities to discuss clinical case examples. In total, 92 people registered, with 87 people attending at least 1 session. The attendance ranged from 77 to 30 participants, averaging 53.7 people per session over the training period. Most participants endorsed that participating in this course improved their work or confidence in their work with children. A follow up 3-month evaluation survey will be conducted.

### **4. Asia Pacific Psychiatry Journal report**

Prof Chee Ng was appointed as the new editor-in-chief after Prof Allan Tasman resigned. The new PRCP - EiC agreement was signed on January 2, 2024 . The term of the Editor, the Associate Editor and the Editorial Board shall be five years with the possibility of one consecutive reappointment. Prof Chee hopes to contribute to the continued success of APPSY. WILEY - Marketing Plan 2024 and Publishers Report received from Wiley can be viewed from the link below:

[The Asia-Pacific Psychiatry Marketing Plan 2024](#) and [2023 Publishers reports](#)

### **5. Finance Report (2024 Actual, 2025 Budget)**

Reported by Treasurer PRCP Prof Philip Morris AM

In 2024 PRCP came in with a small deficit of USD\$2,173. This was about \$1,000 less than the 2024 Budget projection due to an increase in the APPY Royalty of about \$1,000. This is a good result. The PRCP continues to have a strong balance sheet. Our total assets on 31 December 2024 are \$103,563 (held in cash at two bank accounts). Please see detailed financial report 2024 [here](#).



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The PRCP Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed budget submitted by the Treasurer. We should expect similar income from membership fees, a Royalty payment of about \$2,600 from APPY, and a similar interest payment. In 2025 there will be no Congress income. If the Tokyo Congress makes a profit, the income from that Congress would need to be included in the 2026 Budget. We expect our expenditure on personnel (salary and travel) and website would remain similar. Also, expenditure on credit card fees, bank transfers, office expenses, travel, Fellowship Award, and meeting expenses would remain similar. If we wish to provide Fellowship Awards for the Tokyo Congress, we have this money available in our Fellowship Award Fund. In 2025 we do not have an expenditure of about \$11,300 for the E-training program. Since the Congress in 2025 will be held in Tokyo we may need to include in the expenditure side of the budget an amount for PRCP secretarial support for the Congress (\$500). Then, there would be a planned deficit of about \$2,290. See [here](#) for the breakdowns of 2025 budget with Treasurer's comments.

### 6. Reports from PRCP Secretariat

#### Introducing our New Secretary General



Dear members of PRCP,

It is my honor to introduce myself as Secretary General of PRCP. Because of resignation of Dr Alan Teo from the role of Secretary General, I'll start my role in the middle of our term. It'll be my pleasure to serve as Secretary General of PRCP.

I express my gratitude to immediate past Secretary General, Dr. Alan Teo, for his valuable contributions. Also, I specially appreciate past Secretary General, and also President-elect, Dr. Tsuyoshi Akiyama, for giving me a clear way to become a diligent Secretary General of PRCP. And I acknowledge President Yong Chon Park and other board members who nominated and approved me for this special position. It is my real pleasure to work with Ms. Toshiko Hano, the staff of PRCP Secretariat.

There will be PRCP and WACP Joint International Congress 2025 Tokyo. I hope many PRCP members can meet each other and make great academic success in this congress. I'll do my best to support the congress as a member of the secretariat.

Thank you again and I'm happy to serve as a little piece for advancement of PRCP.

Narei Hong, MD, PhD

Secretary General, Pacific Rim College of Psychiatry

Director, Daon Clinic

#### PRCP Website Related

Information updates

Board of Directors page, <https://www.prcp.org/board-of-directors> with updated information

PRCP Conference page, <https://www.prcp.org/conferences> to post 2025 Congress

PRCP Membership Fee page, <https://www.prcp.org/membership> with updated rates in Yen to reflect current exchange rate (no affect on US rates charged via website)



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You can quickly and easily use the updated PRCP website and visit our membership page (<https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment>). Click on the “Buy Now” icon that matches your category, and complete your payment. If you are unsure or have difficulty with payment or use of PayPal, please write to PRCP Secretariat Toshiko Hano, email: [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com).

### Asia Pacific Psychiatry Journal Access for Current Active PRCP Members

Secretariat is working with Wiley to update the PRCP current active members access for the Asia Pacific Psychiatry Journal. If you have not received a notification from Wiley on your access, please let us know. If your email address registered with PRCP is changed or you have other preferred email addresses that you have not reported to PRCP, please update your contact information with PRCP Secretariat ([info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org), cc: [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com)).

### 2024 New Members

The following members joined PRCP during 2024. (in the order of joining):

Dr Antonio Sison (Philippines) Prof Shinsuke Kondo (Japan) Dr Fairuz Nazri Abd Rahman (Malaysia)  
Dr Datin Sharmilla Kanagasundram (Malaysia) Dr Chhit Sophal (Cambodia) Dr Dmitry Romanov (Russia)  
Dr Benedict Francis (Malaysia)

### **Introducing Our New Members Joined in 2024:**

#### **Dr. Antonio C. Sison, Philippines**



Board Member  
Philippines  
Psychiatry and Dermatology  
Associate Professor (retired), Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine,  
University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital  
2022 President of the Philippines Psychiatric Association(PPA)  
2023-2024, Treasurer of the Philippine Dermatology Society (PDS)

“Becoming a Board Member to the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatry (PRCP) was an opportunity provided by Professor Tsyoshi Akiyama. I am very grateful for this. I see my role as Board Member is to build connections with other psychiatrists to PRCP. I look forward to a vibrant PRCP in the future.  
- Antonio C. Sison, MD”

#### **Prof. Shinsuke Kondo, Japan**



The University of Tokyo Hospital  
Department of Neuropsychiatry  
Seishin Hoken Shiteii qualified by the Ministry of Health  
Board-certified psychiatrist qualified by the JSPN  
Board-certified liaison psychiatrist qualified by the JSGHP



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“Hi, everyone!

I am delighted to join the PRCP that unites us psychiatrists in this increasingly divided society. Looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo 2025!!

- Shinsuke KONDO, MD, PhD “

### Dr. Fairuz Nazri Abd Rahman, Malaysia



Dr. Fairuz Nazri Abd Rahman is an Associate Professor in the Psychiatry Department, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and senior consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at the UKM Specialist Children’s Hospital in Kuala Lumpur. Her research interests are in the scope of child & adolescent psychiatry and support for their parents, specifically in developmental disorders, children in residential homes, and infant mental health. She has published articles in various high impact journals. She has successfully supervised many postgraduate students, including Drs in Psychiatry (UKM). She has been a member of research groups which received internal and external grant related to research in autism spectrum disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, mental health among the orang asli children, non-suicidal self injury and psychospiritual issues in disasters.

### Dr. Sharmilla Kanagasundram, Malaysia



Consultant Psychiatrist  
Department Of Psychological Medicine  
Faculty Of Medicine  
University Malaya  
Jalan Profesor Diraja Ungku Aziz Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

“Thank you for the appointment to the post of Distinguished Fellow. I am honored and look forward to contributing to your esteemed organization.”

- A. Prof Datin Dr Sharmilla Kanagasundram

### Dr. Chhit Sophal, Cambodia



Director  
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
Minister of Health Cambodia  
Has collaborated with:  
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists; 2. St Vincent Mental Health, Melbourne; 3. KAISEIKAI, Japanese Association; 4. Mental Health, Japan;  
5. Centre Hospitalier le Vinatier, Lyon; 6. Jhpiego, USA; 7. University of Washington, USA



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### Dr. Dmitry V. Ramanov, Russia



Dr. Dmitry V. Romanov is PRCP's newest member. He is a Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychosomatics, Sechenov First Moscow Medical University (Sechenov University) and a Leading Research Fellow at the Department of Boundary Mental Conditions and Psychosomatic Disorders, Mental Health Research Center, Moscow, Russia. He also works as a consulting psychiatrist in the International Institute of Psychosomatic Health, Moscow, Russia.

His major interests are in the field of psychiatric disorders in medical conditions (particularly dermatological, neurological, and endocrinological), biological mechanisms of mental disorders, relation of biological markers to clinical presentations, and treatment in psychiatry and general medicine. He has clinical expertise in the above-mentioned fields in psychosomatic and non-psychotic

psychiatric disorders (affective, anxious, somatoform etc). He is a well-known expert nationally in the clinical and research fields of psychoendocrinology and neuropsychiatry, as well as a known European expert in psychodermatology.

### Dr Benedict Francis, Malaysia



Dr Benedict Francis is a consultant psychiatrist and a senior medical lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and was selected for the Brightsparks scholarship to pursue his Masters in Psychological Medicine at his alma mater, the University of Malaya. Dr Benedict is one of the research leads at the Psychological Medicine Research Unit and has been involved as principal investigator and sub-investigator for several international, multi-centre clinical trials including the ESCAPE-TRD, REMISSIO, ASPIRE, SUSTAIN-3, ROUTE 6, and CONNEX-2 trials. He has also published in several international and regional peer-reviewed journals and presented in international congresses.

Dr Benedict has and continues to exhibit stellar leadership in his field. He was part of the Ministry of Health's National Advisory Board committee that drafted the guidelines for prescribing and dispensing Esketamine, a novel adjunct antidepressant treatment. In addition, he has been part of several steering committees that paved new directions in mental health. For example, he was appointed to be part of the Southeast Asian steering committee to develop a patient decision aid for people living with schizophrenia. He is also part of the regional Asia Pacific steering committee to develop a module for cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS). In 2023, he received the Excellent Service Award from the University of Malaya in recognition of his contributions. Dr Benedict is regarded as a Key Opinion Leader in the field of treatment resistant depression and schizophrenia and is a regular invited speaker at both local and regional events. He is actively involved in several associations at various levels. He is a life member of the Malaysian Psychiatric Association and a corresponding member of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology. He is also a member of the Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Recently he was inducted as Fellow of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists.

## 7. PRCP Executive Committee and Board Reporting Cycle in 2025

**January/February:** EC reporting (finance 2024 actual/budget 2025) **April/May:** EC/Board reporting

**July/August:** EC reporting



## PRCP Newsletter January/February 2025

**September 25 - 28:** EC /Board meeting and General Assembly at the 21st PRCP Congress in 2025 (PRCP WACP Congress)

### 7. Renew your PRCP membership for 2025 through our website

Please visit our website page: <https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment>



# 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  
\$150

Category B  
\$95

Category C  
\$50

Category D  
\$25

Other Categories:

Fellow Category A \$110 Category B \$70 Category C \$30 Category D \$15

Member Category A \$55 Category B \$35 Category C \$15 Category D \$7

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). Then, determine which World Bank economic category your country of residence falls into. If you are renewing your membership and have not paid your membership fee, this information is provided in your reminder email. 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.

The membership payment link is: <https://www.prcp.org/membership-payment> If you are unsure, have difficulty with payment, or prefer a different payment method than the one on the PRCP website via PayPal platform, email us at [info@prcp.org](mailto:info@prcp.org) and cc: [hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com](mailto:hano.toshiko2022@gmail.com)

Those who have not paid 2024 membership, please pay with the invoice sent directly to you from the Secretariat. Again, if you have any issues, please consult with PRCP Secretariat.

Thank you for being part of the PRCP family!





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### 8. 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)