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APSID had the first Executive Board Meeting on 1st May 2016. APSID is committed to organizing biennial scientific congress, and the next one will be hosted by mainland China in 2018. Two PID Schools will be held every year, with the upcoming Autumn School to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI) and Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respirology & Immunology (APAPARI).

The Chairperson of each Working Party presented and affirmed the action plans and targets as discussed with their members in the 2015 Osaka Meeting. The ultimate goal is not just to connect PID centers in the Asia Pacific Region to develop clinical care protocols, to promote education and training, and to set up patient registries, but also to establish inter-professional collaborations with geneticists and transplant physicians to improve diagnostics and HSCT for PID.

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**From Conception to Delivery: 
The Birth of APSID**

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**The 4 Key Missions of APSID are:**
1. To care and cure patients with PID
2. To share our PID experience so as to promote collaboration & education
1. To improve PID management through understanding its genetics & pathogenesis
2. To advocate and advance the care of PID patients through engaging governments, patient organizations & industry

The Inauguration Ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof Andrew Cant, President of the European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID); Prof Luigi Notarangelo, immediate Past President of the Clinical Immunology Society, USA; Prof Hans Ochs, adviser of APSID since the time of conception in 2015; and Mrs Jose Drabwell, President of the International Patient Organization for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI), together with the Overseas Organizing Committee and over 150 participants of the APSID Congress.

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Clinical Care and Therapy for PID

Genetic heterogeneity in CVID and hyper-IgM syndromes, and their implications on diagnostics and management, were discussed by Prof Asghar Aghamohammadi (Iran) and Prof Kohsuke Imai (Japan), respectively. The patient population studied by Prof Aghamohammadi, with high rate of consanguinity, revealed a significant proportion of CVID patients diagnosed with LRBA deficiency. On the other hand, Prof Imai identified over 20 patients with activated P3 kinase delta syndrome (APDS) with CVID / hyper-IgM phenotype.

Prof Xiaodong Zhao (China) and Prof Surjit Singh (India) reported the recent achievements in PID development in mainland China and India, the two most populated countries in the world. There remains lots of challenges in improving the outlook of PID patients, including access to specialist care, diagnostics, therapies including immunoglobulin replacement and HSCT. Public health resources and health insurance policies are major issues to be tackled.

Prof Hirokazu Kanegane (Japan) discussed the current recommendations on immunoglobulin (Ig) replacement for PID patients, and discussed the benefits and drawbacks of intravenous (IV) and subcutaneous (SC) Ig. SCIG can be administered by the patients at home, is efficacious and offers a better quality of life. Patient’s choice and lifestyle should be taken into consideration.

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APSID General Assembly

The First APSID General Assembly was held on 30th April 2016. 142 delegates registered as Founding Members of APSID and participated in the General Assembly. The Constitution, which had been proposed and discussed at the 2015 Preparatory Meeting in Osaka, was approved. Prof Yu-Lung Lau, the Convener of the APSID Preparatory Meeting in Osaka and the APSID Inaugural Congress, received unanimous support to be the President of APSID for a 4-year term. Together with the President, the following members constituted the Executive Board:

Secretary: Prof Surjit Singh
Treasurer: Prof Godfrey Chan
Chair, Cellular Therapy and Transplant Working Party: Prof Kohsuke Imai
Chair, Clinical Care Working Party: Prof Xiaodong Zhao
Chair, Education and Training Working Party: Prof Shigeaki Nonoyama
Chair, Genetics and Genomics Working Party: Dr Pamela Lee
Chair, Registry and Research Working Party: Dr Woei-Kang Liew

In addition, the APSID Juniors Working Party was formed to empower young PID trainees and fellows to be future leaders. The APSID Juniors are led by two enthusiastic PID trainees, Dr Alric Mondragon (Philippines) and Dr Youjia Zhong (Singapore) who participated in both the Hanoi Winter School and the Hong Kong Spring School. The APSID Juniors will be involved in organizing APSID Schools, and will be represented in the Executive Board.

The APSID Registry and Researching Working Party in Action

A symposium on ‘PID Registry and Regional Network’ was held on Day 2 of the APSID Congress. Dr Nizar Mahlaoui, Chair of the ESID Registry Working Party, introduced the history, structure and recent developments of the ESID Patient Registry. This was followed by talks on the current status of PID Registry in Japan, Iran, Thailand and the Southeast Asia PID (SEAPID) by Prof Kohsuke Imai, Prof Nima Rezaei, Dr Wasu Kamchaisatian and Dr Narissara Suratannon. An interactive discussion with the audience was led by Dr Woei-Kang Liew, Chair of the APSID Registry Working Party.

Education and Training: The APSID Spring School

Following the success of the APSID Hanoi Winter School in Nov 2015, the APSID Spring School was held on 28-29th April before the Main Congress. The Spring School was attended by 51 enthusiastic trainees from 16 countries and regions, as well as over 50 APSID delegates who joined the Spring School as observers. 27 oral and 26 poster presentations were delivered by the trainees, covering a wide spectrum of PID with challenges in diagnosis and management.

The Spring School consisted of educational lectures delivered by the Faculty, including Approach to a Child with Neutropenia (Prof Amos Etzioni), SCID — Classification and diagnosis (Prof Luigi Notarangelo), Use of Flow Cytometry in PID Diagnosis (Prof Hirokazu Kanegane), Antibody Deficiency Syndromes (Prof Hans Ochs), Illustrated Guide to Infection in PID (Prof Andrew Cant), and ABC guide to HSCT — The Asian Perspectives (Dr Pamela Lee). Each lecture was followed by oral presentations given by the trainees, who were required to identify 3 key learning issues for discussion. Each trainee was assigned to an adviser (Prof Reinhard Seger [Switzerland], Prof Bee-Wah Lee [Singapore], Dr Woei-Kang Liew [Singapore], Dr Jonie Santos-Occampo [Philippines], Dr Hsin-Hui Yu [Taiwan] and Dr Narissara Suratannon [Thailand]) who assisted them with preparing their presentations, so the learning process actually started well before the School. At the Spring School, the Faculty offered suggestions on further investigations for cases with a definitive diagnosis yet, and comments on practical management issues. The setting of the Spring School was conducive to collaborative learning, and the audience actively participated in the discussion.

The Spring School ended with a sharing session ‘From “Nothing” to “Something” — My Journey in PID Development’ by Prof Surjit Singh, Prof Bee-Wah Lee and Prof Yu-Lung Lau. Trainees were deeply impressed by their enthusiasm and passion, and their remarkable stories of how they built the foundation for PID care, research and education in their countries inspired and empowered the younger generation of doctors to strive for a better future for PID patients.
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