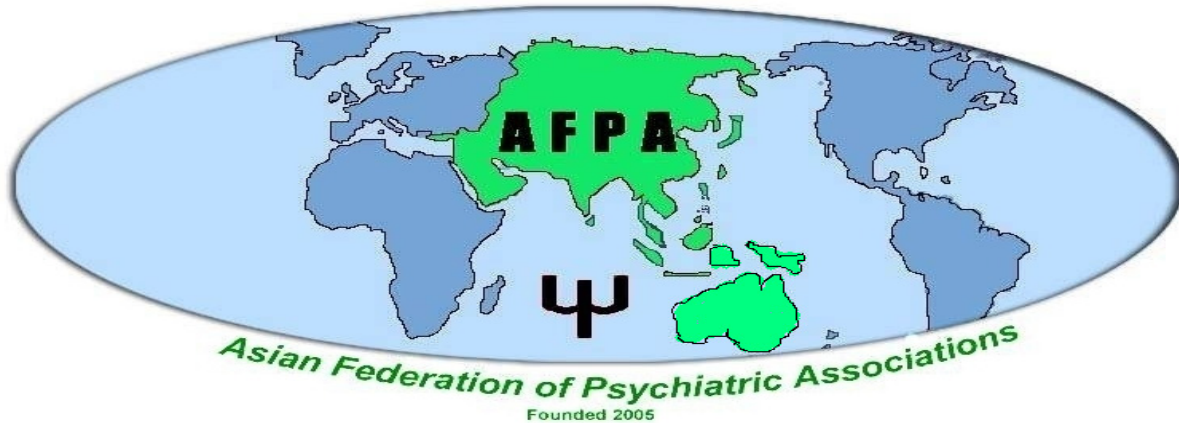


# The Bulletin of the AFPA

## The Summer 2020 Issue



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### AFPA President's Messages



I want to welcome you to the 2020 summer edition of *The Bulletin of the Asian Federation of Asian Psychiatry (AFPA)*, a newsletter of the AFPA. It is a real pleasure to be able to communicate with everyone at this time of marked isolation for all of us across the region. I am very aware that although the COVID-19 pandemic has effected the member nations of the AFPA unevenly, the inability to travel and to meet face-to-face has sadly affected us all. I would in particular note the recent appropriate decision to postpone the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) World Congress in Bangkok due to be held later in 2020 to 10-13 March, 2021. It is my understanding that the programme will be essentially

the same, including the WPA-AFPA symposium as previously planned.

Given the predominance of the pandemic on all our lives, I thought it may be helpful to reflect on what we seem to know at this stage about its potential effects on mental health and how this may have an impact in how we deliver care to our patients and give advice to our governments. There is now a considerable body of evidence available, well-reviewed recently by Rogers et al. in the 2020 *Lancet Psychiatry* that shows rates of acute mental health syndromes including delirium, depression and anxiety are high in individuals infected by COVID-19, particularly those who become physically unwell. There is some emerging evidence that severe COVID-19 infection may be associated with longer lasting organic sequelae such as those due to hypoxia or possibly due to the central nervous system (CNS) involvement in the infection, as suggested by some of the sensory changes. Based on data from other coronavirus pandemics MERS and SARS there is good reason to suspect that a higher incidence of disorders like depression, anxiety, and PTSD will continue to impact on the infected individuals well after their initial infection has fully resolved.

Of course, the degree to which the direct mental health consequences of COVID-19 infection will impact on service delivery, will depend on how high the rate of infection is in each of our communities. It does appear however that none of our nations will be spared the economic impact of COVID-19 and it may be that



## The Bulletin of the AFPA

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December, 2016.

ultimately this may have an equal or greater mental health impact at the population level. This can of course be initially complicated by the mental health consequences of isolation and it is interesting for all of us to consider what advice we would offer to governments about such issues in terms of mental health. There can be no doubt that the economic impacts will result in increased prevalence of common mental health disorders like depression and anxiety in our communities, impacting

on all age groups. Long established evidence also points to the risk of an increase in suicide in our communities during times of economic downturn or recession. I would thus feel strongly that here is a need for us to advocate for the availability of adequate resources to deal with the scale of these heightened problems, noting the burden that is likely to be faced by primary care in those countries where a strong primary care system exists and the critical need for good mental health promotion and on line and virtual supports.

These are indeed challenging times for us all and I encourage the members of the AFPA to come together as needed to support each other and share ideas and resources about how best to respond. I do wish everyone well and hope you stay personally safe.

### Reference

1. Rogers JP, Chesney E, Oliver D, et al. : Psychiatric and neuropsychiatric presentations associated with severe coronavirus infections: a systematic review and meta-analysis with comparison to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2020; 7: 611-27.

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(Editor's note: Hopwood is the AFPA president,  
2019-2021.)

## FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETIES

### Reports from the RANZCP

The past six months have brought untold challenges for Australia and New Zealand. A volcanic island erupted in New Zealand in late 2019 leaving many dead and injured, devastating bushfires swept across much of Australia during the summer followed by the COVID-19 pandemic which we are all experiencing to varying degrees. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has recognised the impact the pandemic may have on its members and on other frontline health professionals and produced short videos to support them on maintaining wellbeing, managing anxiety and other helpful topics.

The RANZCP also partnered with a leading

Australian mental health organisation to develop The Essential Network – a mobile app supporting health professionals. The app is a one-stop resource and help centre providing self-assessment, self-management and treatment for stress, anxiety and symptoms of depression. The app facilitates a streamlined referral process for telehealth consultations with RANZCP psychiatrists.

The RANZCP has also created a COVID-19 information hub which contains information on RANZCP activities and provides regular updates on the RANZCP response to the pandemic.

As at late June, most states in Australia have low or no active cases of COVID-19. In New Zealand, there are low numbers of active cases and they have moved to Alert Level 1 which means that people can fully participate in social activities without any restrictions; however, strict border measures remain in place.

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## Report of Annual National Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society

The Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) held its 72nd annual national conference at ITC Bengal and ITC Sonar, Kolkata, India, 22 - 25 January, 2020. The theme of the conference was “Smart Psychiatry in Digital Era.”



The ceremony of lighting the inauguration lamp  
 From left: R.R.Ghoshroy, Helen Herrman (Australia), P.K. Dalal, Mrugesh Vaishnav, Hon. Ex Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Guru Atmapriyanandji, and Gautam Saha



Helen Herrman (Australia) received a medallion at the annual national conference  
 From left : R. R. Ghoshroy, Mrugesh Vaishnav, Helen Herrman, Gautam Saha, and Vinay Kumar .

The conference was attended by 5,500 delegates from India and abroad. In this four-day conference,

presidents or office bearers of more than 17 international psychiatric societies, including World Psychiatric Association, Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association, American Psychiatric Association, Royal Colleges of United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and Canada, Societies/Associations of Thailand, Russia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, etc. were present. There were 55 international faculties, 350 Symposia, 175 Workshops, 500 Papers, Public awareness activities and networking events.

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*(Editor's note: Shri Ranjan Gogoi is the Hon. Ex-chief of Justice of India. Helen Herrman is the president of the World Psychiatric Association (2017-2020). Vaishnav and Dalal are president and president-elect, respectively, of the Indian Psychiatric Society. Ghoshroy and Saha are chairman and secretary, respectively, of the annual national conference of the IPS.)*

## PAT Supported Health Care Workers Facing Stress and Burnout during the Outbreak of COVID-19

The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand reported the increasing number of new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in March 2020. People in affected areas were requested to remain inside their houses and to limit physical contact. Many health care providers, especially the frontline staff did not go home and did not meet their families since they were aware of the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Stress and burnout in health care workers had become a rising concern; therefore, the Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT) decided to provide mental health support for health care providers who might face difficult situations related to their work during COVID-19 situation through social network platforms as the following:

- Video clip: a senior consultant psychiatrist gave some advice about how to deal with psychological distress in crisis situation
- Infographic giving information for organizational leaders and health care providers to cope with burnout
- Hotline for health workers provided by trained staff to assist them cope with emotional crisis and stress from the workplace

These strategies have been well-accepted and could encourage a number of health care providers to reach for help. PAT has also organised some online meetings with staff providing mental health services to reflect on their work and to support one another.

On 24 June, 2020, there have been no reported cases due to local transmission in the past four weeks in Thailand. People have returned to work and adopted new ways of living. PAT will continue to monitor and response to possible mental health issues in the long run.

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## Empowerment of e-Mental Health Activities by MPA during COVID-19 Pandemic

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysian was put under the Movement Control Order to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus on 18 March, 2020. Since then Malaysian Psychiatric Association (MPA) has resorted to using various online platforms to provide mental health information and services.

The term electronic mental health (e-mental health) refers to the use of the internet and related technologies to deliver mental health information, services and care including the utilization of social media. The e-mental health activities not only intended to create awareness to the public on the psychological impact of the pandemic and Movement Control Order but also to provide a platform to MPA members for continuing medical education (CME).

Empowerment of e-mental health is crucial in this time of pandemic as social distancing are important and the need to reach the public on a larger scale. Among the e-mental health activities done by MPA were:

### Online meetings

MPA monthly committee meeting was conducted through Microsoft team to enable planning of activities to be done.

### Educational webinar series

Webinar series were collaborated with Malaysian Medical Association enabling participants to collect CME points. Among the webinar events conducted were:

- Scientific Experts Working Towards Advocacy and recovery in mental disorders online CME
- Psychiatry Webinar Lecture Series-Depression: Let's Talk

### Releasing a press statement for online news

On 31 March, 2020, MPA has released a press statement regarding impact of pandemic and MCO on mental health. It was published in various Malay and English online news such as *The Star Online*, *Bernama News*, *The Sun Daily*, *Sinar Harian*, and *Astro Awani*.

### Mental health promotional activities through social media such as Facebook (FB) live, Instagram (IG) live

MPA committee members have been actively participating in social media platforms to promote mental health awareness during the pandemic. The advantage of conducting a live session through FB or IG is that the public could interact with the speaker by posing questions or comments online. Among the topic of the sessions included:

- Disorder during pandemic: how do we deal with it? With Hazli Zakaria, as one of the speaker through FB live on 16 May, 2020
- Mental health issues during Movement Control Order with Firdaus Abdul Gani, as a speaker through IG live on 9 June, 2020.

### Mental health promotional activities through articles published in online news portal

We wrote few articles in Malay language related to be the pandemic and were published on *Astro Awani* online news in the columnist section. Among the topics written were:

- Psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, published on 14 March, 2020
- Mental health wellbeing when working from home during Movement Control Order, published on 28 March, 2020
- Why domestic violence increased during MCO? published on 3 April, 2020



A photo of MPA committee online meeting

Top from left: Aili Hanim Hashim, and Ng Chong Guan

Bottom from right: Fadzli Mat Isa



A photo of an FB live programme featuring, Hazli Zakaria, as one of the speakers.

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 (Editor's note: Hazli Zakaria and Firdaus Abdul Gani  
 are president and the secretary, respectively, of MPA)

## The KNPA Spring Annual Meeting Was Held on 10 July in Seoul

The Korean Neuropsychiatric Association (KNPA) delayed the spring annual meeting from previous dates to 9-10 July, 2020 in Seoul. Due to COVID-19 pandemic situation, the congress was in semi-virtual way. We had 2 plenary lectures, 2 special lectures, 29 symposia, 4 workshops, 2 continuing medical educations, and 3 oral presentation sessions.

The KNPA encouraged safe and fruitful academic activities of Korean psychiatrists through online participation. During this two-day meeting, 1,336 members registered. Only 387 members visited the meeting venue in person and others participated in online.

In the meeting place, all the participants at the venue were checked their body temperatures and asked about other symptoms and traveling history. After checking process, we gave "safe stickers" badges. We

installed acrylic box for presenters and chairpersons, and the chairs for participants were arranged in safe distance. All the participants wore masks and there were thorough disinfection and preventive measures throughout the congress.

Also the KNPA has cooperated with Korean government for psychological management for COVID-19 pandemic. We have provided psychiatric services for COVID-19 patients in quarantined hospital or treatment center and published general guideline for psychological prevention about COVID-19 pandemic situation. (The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)



Yong Chon Park at the podium of the general assembly meeting at the KNPA spring annual meeting.



Seon Cheol Park at a symposium of the KNPA spring annual meeting.

Yong Chon Park<sup>§</sup>  
 Narei Hong<sup>†</sup>

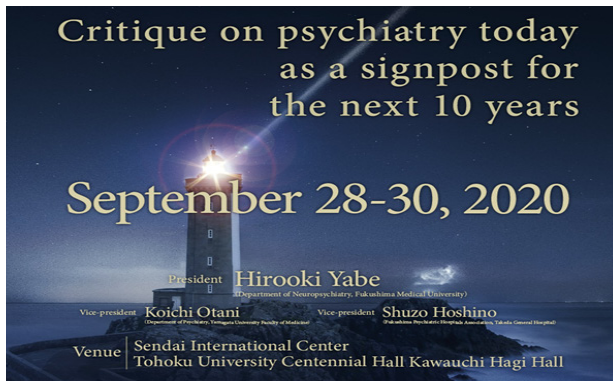
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 of communication and strategy committee, respectively,  
 of KNPA, 1 January, 2020 – 31 December, 2021.)

## The 116th Annual Meeting of the JSPN



The 116th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JAPN) has been officially re-scheduled to 28-30 September (Monday-Wednesday), 2020. The venue is unchanged at Sendai International Center/Tohoku University Centennial Hall Kawauchi Hagi Hall as originally planned.

In response to the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and the emergency declaration made by the Japanese government, we regret to announce that after careful consideration, postponement of the meeting is the only option in light of these sudden changes. We ask for your understanding that further changes to the programme may still be required. Considering the current situation, it is unpredictable how long the effects of COVID-19 will continue. For this reason, we will first aim to continue with local meetings with less than half the capacity of participants to keep social distance, but are preparing to hold online or hybrid-style meetings in case of the worst. Depending on the status of the infection, we may seek to hold combined on-site lectures, on-demand broadcasting using video and PowerPoint recordings, and live web broadcasts so that all may attend and the obstacle of acquiring specialist doctor units is eliminated.



SuperExpress Shinkansen train

This train has not been canceled even under the state of emergency due to Covid-19

Even in light of this pandemic, we will continue striving to serve as a signpost for psychiatry, medical

care, health, and welfare over the next 10 years. We appreciate your continued support throughout our endeavours. Last but not least, we hope that the COVID-19 will be under control as soon as possible and that we will be able to see you in Sendai quite soon. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this announcement.)



Soma Nomaoi

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(Editor's note: Yabe is the president of the 116th annual meeting of the JSPN, 2020.)

## The Care4ALL Programme and Mental Health Survey by the HKCPsy

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists has launched a volunteering programme named "Care4ALL" meaning "The Hong Kong Spirit: the Programme of Helping Together." This programme is to provide assessment and consultation for people who are suffering from mental health issues triggered by social unrest in Hong Kong or COVID-19 outbreak and who need financial assistance.

Eligible participants for the programme are those with suspected mental health problems, directly related to the recent social events (including social unrest and COVID-19) and those in need of psychiatric assessment and care. Eligible participants would receive a maximum of 8 psychiatric consultation sessions and a medication subsidy of up to HK\$6,000. The programme was initially scheduled to last for six months from August 2019 to February 2020. It has now been extended until December 2020. The locations of consultations can be in the private clinics for private psychiatrists and the offices of the

non-government mental health organisations for public psychiatrists.

In addition to psychiatric consultations, the College has also initiated a Mental Health Survey to understand the mental health needs of different groups in the population. The objectives of this online survey are to assist the participants to understand their current mental states, to assess the mental health impact of the recent COVID-19 outbreak and social unrest on those working in affected industries. The results of this study will inform the development of mental health interventions and the allocation of mental health resources. The data collection period will take appropriately two months and the preliminary results of the survey shall be released by the end of 2020. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)

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*(Editor's note: Ng is the president of the Hong Kong  
College of Psychiatrists, 2018-2020. He is also the  
secretary for education of executive council of the World  
Psychiatric Association, 2017-2023.)*

## The World Congress of Psychiatry Has Been Rescheduled to 10-13 March, 2021

According to the situation of COVID-19 pandemic around the world, the 20th World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP) has been changed to new dates of 10-13 March 2021 since health safety is a top priority. This meeting will still be held at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center (BITEC), Bangkok, Thailand. The abstract submission is re-opening with extended submission deadline to 20 October 2020.

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration considered the lockdown relaxation to take effect throughout Thailand in June 2020. All shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores, parks, banks, salons, and pharmacies have been allowed to reopen. The Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha have also been reopened with recommendations to keep physical distancing and to wear a mask. The officials will continue to hold a regular meeting to consider the next phase of lockdown easing.

Since the COVID-19 situation in Thailand tends to be under control, the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA) and the Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT) would like to invite all member societies

and associations to participate the 20th official congress of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). You can expect fascinating sessions, opportunity to meet world's authorities in the fields you interest, and networking with new colleagues from all over the world. You can also enjoy sight-seeing in Bangkok and other parts of the country since Thailand is famous for food, shopping centres, markets, temples, and natural attractions. So, please come and join us at WCP in Bangkok.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude for your understanding and support during this difficult time. We will try our best to keep you informed and to ensure safety in response to the pandemic situation.



The Giant Swing located near Wat Suthat Thepwararam, a first class royal Buddhist temple in Bangkok



Wat Benchamabophit, also called "The Marble temple," one of the most beautiful temple in Bangkok

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## FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA-ALLIED SOCIETIES

### The 8th Cross-Strait Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

The 8th Cross-strait Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry was successfully held at College of Social Sciences at National Taiwan University, 2 November, 2019.

Based on the theme “Challenges of Current Children and Adolescent Psychiatry: From Psychosocial Disability to Well-being through Integration and Implementation,” the inspiring scientific program included a number of eminent keynote speakers with their interesting topics:

- Wei-Tsuen Soong (Taiwan) “The adaptation and implementation of World Health Organization’s caregiver training skills in Taiwan”
- Yufeng Wang (China) “The deficits of executive function in attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and its corrections”
- Susan Shur-Fen Gau (Taiwan) “Altered functional and structural connectivity as imaging endophenotype for neurodevelopmental disorders”
- Xiaoyan Ke (China) “A study of high-risk autism spectrum disorder based on a still-face paradigm”
- Cheng-Fang Yen (Taiwan) “School bullying”

The conference was stimulating lively and enthusiastic discussion on every aspect of our topics. The topics covered latest research and treatment advances on several fields-caregiver training skills of autism spectrum disorder, executive function of ADHD, school bullying, psychoanalytic psychotherapy, and autistic spectrum disorder, etc. The participants were about 150 from across the straits, and nearly 70% of them were child psychiatrists.



A photo at the stage at the opening ceremony of the 8th cross-strait conference

From left: Chi-Yung Shang (Taiwan), Shih-Kai Liu (TW), Wen-Jiun Chou (TW), Kuo-Ping Li (TW), Chen, Ying-Sheue Chen (TW), Ju-Chin Lee (TW), Helen Cheng (TW), Sophie Hsin-Yi Liang (TW), Yufeng Wang (China), Wei-Tsuen Soong (TW), Iris Chih-Tsai Chen (TW), Susan Shur-Fen Gau (TW), Xiaoyan Ke (CN), Yiguo Shao (CN),

Yen-Nan Chiu (TW), Hao-Wei Wang (TW), Ambrose Huan-Zhao Chen (TW)

Our cross-strait conference was first proposed by Dr. Soong, Wei-Tsuen (TW) and Yi Zheng, (China) in 2005 at Nanjing. Both sides of straits held the cross-strait conference on child and adolescent psychiatry regularly and alternatively once every two years since. The aim of the cross-strait conference on child and adolescent psychiatry is to strengthen the cooperation and communication between cross strait psychiatrists.

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(Editor’s note: Chen is the president of Taiwanese Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.)

### The JYPO Held Its 19th Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan

The 19th Course for Academic Development for Psychiatrists of the annual conference of Japan Young Psychiatrists Organization (JYPO), held 14-16 February, 2020 in Kyoto. We confirmed that all participants were healthy before starting the course, and we found that no participants were infected with COVID-19 after the conference.

Concerned about the infection, Norman Sartorius (Switzerland) did not come to Japan, and Naotaka Shinfuku also cancelled his participation in the venue. Instead of coming to Japan, Sartorius participated by through Zoom every evening and gave us many thoughtful comments and encouragement. We had the opportunity to realise the progress of technology and think about the future development of the conference.

Because the number of patients with COVID-19 has increased in April 2020, most Japanese people voluntarily refrained from attending meetings, reception parties and travels, though the government just said “Please pause your activities . . . but we cannot say you must be prohibited.” The medical care system in Japan has been dramatically changed, and some hospitals (including my hospital) changed their psychiatric wards to COVID-19 wards. When I saw and heard such



situation, I was disappointed that those hospitals were neglecting the care for the patients on psychiatric wards.

I imagine that many people with mental illness in the world have lost their treatment opportunities due to COVID-19 pandemic, but I can get a few information about them in another countries. What's going on in your country?

Since June 2020, citizen activities have resumed, but now we must be careful of the infection. It seems that it will take some time to get back our daily lives. We would like to announce that the 20th Course for Academic Development for Psychiatrists will take place at Chiba 11-13 February, 2021. We would like to hold the Course as usual style, at the same time we discuss the way how to hold the meeting-face-to-face, online, or hybrid-style meeting. I hope to see you again and strongly hope you in good health! (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this report.)

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(Editor's note: Oya is the president of the JYPO, a certified non-profit organization in Japan. The website address of the JYPO is [www.jypo.org/en/](http://www.jypo.org/en/).)

## "Child Mental Health Matters" International Seminar on Child Mental Health, Autism and Learning Disabilities 22, February 2020. Lahore, Pakistan

The World Psychiatric Association Working Group on Capacity Building 2021-23 Action Plan, Pakistan Psychiatric Research Centre, Department of Psychiatry Sidra Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine (Doha, Qatar) as well as Child and Family Psychiatry Department, King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan organised an International Seminar on Child Mental Health, Autism and Learning Disabilities in Fountain House Lahore, Pakistan on 29 February 2020. The meeting was attended by many mental health professionals along with office bearers of Pakistan Psychiatric Society and faculty members from Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Qatar, Canada, and the United States of America.

The seminar was inaugurated by President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi. He stated that despite the universal recognition of the importance of child and adolescent mental health for societies, the human and

economic resources needed to meet the need are scarce and therefore population health approach incorporating promotion, prevention, and treatment is the need of the day.

Afzal Javed (Pakistan) highlighted that there is recognition of a wide gap between the burden of child and adolescent mental health problems and available resources/services in child mental health field. To bridge this gap, he stressed that there is need to promote the mental health of all young people, whether or not they are suffering from mental health problems.

The meeting was well-attended with presence of senior consultants, paediatricians, postgraduate trainees, psychologists, and students. Khalid Mufti (Pakistan) and Khalida Tareen (Pakistan) were the guests of honour on the occasion.



Javed was at the podium giving an address at the seminar

From left: Afzal Javed (Pakistan), Begum Nasara Iqbal (Pakistan), Dr Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, Amjad Saqib (Pakistan) and Waqar Azeem (Qatar)

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(Editor's note, Afzal Javed and Khalid Mufti are president-elect, 2017-2020 and a zonal representative, 2017-2020 of the World Psychiatric Association.)

## The 2nd International Conference of REBAMP Took Place on Three Saturdays in July 2020

The Second International conference of Research and Education Center of Bridging Asian Mental Health and Psychiatry (REBAMP) of National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan took place online at 11: 30- 16: 00

through Webex on three Saturdays, 11, 18 and 25 July, 2020.

On those three Saturdays, the programme had four keynote speeches: "Covid-19: An approach from Psychiatry and Society in Vietnam," presented by Nguyen Van Tuan (Vietnam); "Organizational Management in Mental Health," presented by Samai Siritongthaworn (Thailand); "A History of Psychiatry in Taiwan," presented by Winston W. Shen (Taiwan); and "Love and Sex in the Time of COVID-19," presented by Mrugesh Vaishnav (India), followed with parallel programme of young psychiatrist sessions and poster sessions, and three parallel symposia in each day.



Winston W. Shen (Taiwan) left, and Huai-Hsuan Tseng (Taiwan) before the lecture on 18 July, 2020



Li-Chung Huang (Taiwan) left, and Mrugesh Vaishnav (India) on the screen during the keynote lecture on 25 July, 2020

The conference had more than 200 registrants with international attendees coming from Indonesia (n = 85), Taiwan (n = 52), India (n = 32), Thailand (n = 14), Malaysia (n = 13), Nepal (n = 5), Bangladesh (n = 2), Australia (n = 2), etc.

The Third International Conference of REBAMP conference is expected to take place in April 2021, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan. The exact dates and the submission for symposium and poster presentation will be announced at the end of 2020, and printed in the winter 2021 issue of the Bulletin of the AFPA. The persons who are interested in attending should contact the official e-mail of REBAMP at rebamp.

tw@gmail.com for further details. (The authors declare no conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)

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## TSBPN Takes Part in Taiwan Societies for Neuroscience (TSfN 2020) Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Congress

In 2019, Taiwanese Society of Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology (TSBPN) joined the Taiwan Neuroscience Alliance (TNA). The TNA includes 16 society members of Taiwan Neuroscience Society, TSBPN, Taiwan Pain Society, Taiwan Society for Neuro-Oncology, Taiwan Society of Cognitive Neuroscience, Taiwan Dementia Society, Taiwan Magnetic Resonance Society, Taiwan Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research, Taiwan Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Taiwan Neurological Society, Taiwanese Society of Biomedical Engineering, Society for Neurological Rare Disorders-Taiwan, Taiwan Society for Stereotactic Functional Neurosurgery and Radiosurgery, Taiwanese Society for Computational Neuroscience, Taiwan Neurosurgical Society, and Taiwan Neurotrauma Society.



Da Dao Cheng Wharf (photo courtesy of Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

TNA is going to have the first Taiwan Societies for Neuroscience (TSfN) congress in this coming September. The alliance includes 16 member societies list above. The congress will be held at Academia Sinica, Taipei, 11-13 September, 2020. The scientific programme is posted at [www.tsfm.neuroscience.org.tw/](http://www.tsfm.neuroscience.org.tw/). The TSBPN will have the general assembly on 13 September, 2020 at the venue of TSfN congress.



National Concert Hall (photo courtesy of Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

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(Editor note: Huang in the secretary of the TSBPN.)



The 19th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP 2021) is to be held 8-10 April, 2021 in Seoul, Korea. Under the theme “Towards effective, safe and equitable mental health care for all,” PRCP 2021 promises to be a great occasion to present advanced academic achievements and exchange information, valuable scientific researches, and cases in the field of psychiatry. A large number of eminent speakers and delegates will share their expertise, remarkable accomplishments, and most recent findings. The scientific program will propose high quality sessions that will provide deeper knowledge and new perspectives in the field.

In addition, PRCP 2021 aspires to serve as vital platform that will allow for the exchange of valuable

ideas in the Pacific Rim region and beyond, offering opportunities to socialize and interact with colleagues and friends from all parts of the world.

The host city Seoul is a place full of character. Throughout its 2,000-year history, it has been a thriving center of the peninsula’s traditions and culture, and attracts many international visitors every year. Now a global megacity, Seoul is a unique city where Korea’s rich cultural and historical heritages blend seamlessly with modern technologies.

We are confident that PRCP 2021 will bring innovation and further advancement to the scientific level and quality of the field of psychiatry, and extend our heartfelt invitation to you to join us at PRCP 2021 in Seoul. We will keep bring the information of the IC of the PRCP 2021 up to date to you in the future issues of the Bulletin of the AFPA. (The author declares no conflicts of interest in writing this announcement.)



Bukchon Hanok Village in Seoul (Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organisation)



Gyeonghoeru Pavilion in Seoul (Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organisation)

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(Editor’s note: Park is chairman, organising committee  
of PRCP 2021 and president of Korean Neuropsychiatric  
Association, 1 January, 2020 – 31 December, 2021.)”



## Summarised Activities of the AsCNP

This report is a summary from my seventh (July 2020) presidential correspondence of the Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP). The previous correspondence can be found on our website at [www.ascnp.org/publications/pastPC.html](http://www.ascnp.org/publications/pastPC.html).

Humans are still facing various COVID-19-related problems. Torgny Svensson (Sweden), a leader in the field of neuropsychopharmacology, succumbed to COVID-19 on 12 June, 2020. While expressing our deepest condolence to his family, I would like all AsCNP members to maintain our own health and continue to avoid and to lessen COVID-19-related mental health problems.

AsCNP Congress 2021 will be held at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre, 22- 24 October, 2021. AsCNP Congress 2023 will be held in China, most likely in September, together with the annual meeting of the Chinese Society of Psychiatry. The date and city will be decided later in 2021.

The AsCNP executive committee meeting was held through Zoom video conference on 31 May, 2020, and the AsCNP board meeting was also held through Zoom on 12 June, 2020. AsCNP executive committee will meet once every 2 or 3 months, and the next AsCNP board

meeting will meet in December 2020.

The AsCNP guideline committee will be launched soon. The chair of the committee is Andi J. Tanra (Indonesia). Therapeutic guidelines are intended to improve the quality of therapies and have been established in several Asian countries. The guidelines committee will collect those established guidelines for pharmacotherapies for neuropsychiatric disorders in Asia, and discuss newly proposed guidelines.

I encourage you to visit the AsCNP website ([www.ascnp.org/index.html](http://www.ascnp.org/index.html)), which is frequently updated. The AsCNP executive committee has started discussions about renewing the website. I would like to hear ideas about the new AsCNP website from AsCNP members. Stay safe and healthy, as we continue to combat COVID-19 and learn from this virulent virus. (The author declares no potential conflicts of interest in writing this feature.)

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(Editor's note, Ikeda is the AsCNP president, 1 January  
2019 - 31 December, 2020.)

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