

IAGG Asia / Oceania Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

NEWSLETTER

March 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Report from Regional Chair	1
Vale – Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul	2
Regional congress photos	3
New President-elect	4
Call for Scientific sub-committee Chairs	
2019 Congress Conferences	
IAGG Council of Student Organisations	5
Prof Hal Kendig presentation	6
Gary Andrews Academy Forum:	
• Oct 2015	
• July 2016	
Indian Academy of Geriatrics	7
Indonesia 2015 International Day of Older Persons	
Regional items	8

Report from Regional Chair: Professor Keith Hill

Hi everyone. Welcome to 2016, on behalf of the Regional Council.

The year started off with some very sad news, for the Regional Council, for all those involved in geriatrics and gerontology in Thailand, and more broadly internationally, with the sudden passing of Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul in January. For all involved in the organisation and in attending the very successful IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress in Chiang Mai in October 2015, you would be aware of the outstanding contributions of Professor Jitapunkul, and seen and heard his eloquent welcome and closing activities, and all that went behind the scenes. Our thoughts are with our colleagues in geriatrics and

gerontology in Thailand as they work through this sudden loss. A vale and tribute to Professor Jitapunkul is included overpage.

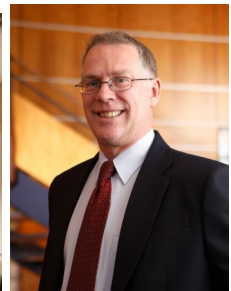
The Thailand Society of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine have elected Professor Prasert Assantachai to be the new President of their Society, and to be President-elect for the Region. I look forward to working with Professor Assantachai in this role.

At the Regional Conference, the Regional Council had the opportunity to meet to discuss

regional business. Some of the items discussed are included elsewhere in this newsletter, including the decision regarding hosts of the 2019 Asia Oceania Regional Congress. This Conference will be held in Taipei, Taiwan. We look forward to working with the Local Organising Committee to ensure that the 2019 Asia Oceania Regional is another strong success.

Professor Keith Hill,

President, IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Council



2015 Regional Congress—Chiang Mai Thailand A truly successful conference

The IAGG Asia Oceania Conference, held in Chiang Mai Thailand in October 2015, was a great success. It brought together 1,113 delegates from 47 countries, and included 48 invited speakers for plenaries and invited symposia.

Special thanks to the Organising Committee for their dedication and hard work over the past several years to ensure the success of this conference.

There are details and photos of some of the activities at the conference throughout this newsletter.



Chiang Mai



Vale: Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul

The gerontology and geriatric medicine community in Thailand and those who know Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul both academically and personally locally, nationally and internationally were in great sorrow to hear of the sudden passing of Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul on the morning of 16th January, 2016 at the age of 58 years. He was the most important person behind the beyond-expected success of the recent 10th Asia-Oceania IAGG conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, last October, 2015, as Chair of the Conference Organising Committee, and President-elect for the Asia Oceania Region.

Professor Jitapunkul was born and raised in Bangkok, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, and had been trained in geriatric medicine in London Hospital, Medical College, the United Kingdom. He was among the key people involved in the founding committee of the Thai Society of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine established in July 1996. With his excellent talent in research and teaching, he was soon promoted to be the first Professor in Geriatric Medicine in Thailand.

Professor Jitapunkul's works on the pioneering research in demographic trends of Thai older people contributed to the awareness of urgent needs of both medical and social services specially designed for Thai older people. Also, his pioneering research in mental assessment and epidemiology of fall prevention paved the way for subsequent research in geriatric medicine in Thailand. He was the only doctor of medicine selected to be the member of the National Committee for Older People and the President of Thai Society of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine for two consecutive terms.

Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul will be greatly missed and remains in the hearts and souls of all Thai scholars in gerontology and geriatric medicine, and his friends and colleagues internationally

By Professor Prasert Assantachai



Photos and highlights from the Regional Congress (Chiang Mai, Oct 2015)



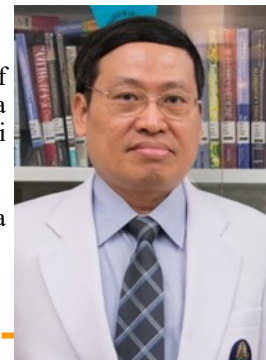
More photos at <http://iaggchiangmai2015.com/news->

New Asia Oceania Region President-elect

Professor Prasert Assantachai has been appointed to the position of President of the Thailand Association of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and nominated to the position of President elect for the Asia Oceania Region, following the untimely passing of Professor Sutthichai Jitapunkul in January. Professor Assantachai is a geriatrician at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Professor Assantachai had a key role as Chair of the Scientific Committee for the 2015 IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress in Chiang Mai.

We welcome Professor Assantachai to his new roles in Thailand and in the Asia Oceania Region.



Call for Regional Scientific Chairs: Biological Sciences, and Social Research & Planning

Due to retirements, there are two vacant Regional Scientific Sub-Committee Chair positions available:

- Biological Sciences Sub-Committee, and
- Social Research and Planning Sub-Committee.

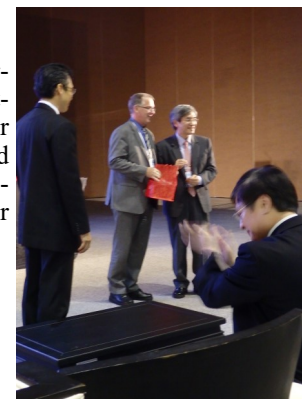
Nominations will be called in the near future for these two vacant positions through the IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Council members. Anyone who would like further information about these positions, or information regarding nominating for one of these positions, please contact James Beckford Sanders (Executive Officer) - jbeckfordsanders@aag.asn.au

Destination for Asia/Oceania Regional Congress, 2019

At the Council meeting in Chiang Mai, two strongly competitive bids were presented for the hosting of the next (2019) IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional Congress, one from the Taiwan Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, and one from the Indian Academy of Geriatrics in partnership with the Association of Gerontology India.

We are pleased to announce that the 11th IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress will be held in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Chair of the Conference Organising Committee will be Professor Cheng-Chieh Lin, and Secretary of the Organising Committee will be Dr Chia-Ming Li.



Other Conferences in the Region 2016

MAY 2016

- **Gerontological Society of Singapore**, Singapore. 5 May. (Theme - Good news of Ageing). <http://www.gs.org.sg/>

JUNE 2016

- **The Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine Conference**, Cairns, Queensland Australia. June 1-3. (Theme—The AGender Paradox). <http://www.anzsgmconference.org/>

JULY 2016

- **Thai Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics Conference**, Bangkok, Thailand. July 13-15. Theme: Geriatrics and Gerontology for Primary Care Practice

AUGUST 2016

- **8th Conference of Asia Pacific Society for Men's Health and Ageing**, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. August 18-20. <http://www.apsmha2016.org/>

SEPTEMBER 2016

- **New Zealand Association of Gerontology**, Wellington, New Zealand. (Theme—Making active ageing a reality). <http://confer.co.nz/nzag2016/>

NOVEMBER 2016

- **Australian Association of Gerontology Conference**, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia. (Theme—Capitalising on the ageing dividend). November 2-4. <http://aagconference.asn.au/>
- **Indian Ageing Congress**, New Delhi, India. (Joint conference between the Indian Academy of Geriatrics and the Association of Gerontology India). Nov 9-11.
- **Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention Society Conference**, Melbourne, Australia. Nov 27-29. <http://www.anzfallsprevention.org/2016-anzfps-conference-melbourne/>

IAGG Council of Student Organisations (CSO): activities at the Regional Congress

The IAGG-CSO conducted a successful student/early career program during the recent IAGG Asia-Oceania Regional Congress in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The first event was a student symposium (invited by the Conference Organising Committee) titled

“Establishing Collaborative Research Networks for Emerging Scholars: Perspectives from the IAGG Council of Student Organizations and representatives from the Asia Oceania Region”. Almost 50 people attended the event. Speakers included:

Dr Shannon Freeman (Canada)

Exploring the importance of regional and cross-national collaborative research networks

Ms Claudia Meyer (Australia)

The IAGG-CSO as a resource for establishing and facilitating networking among early career scholars in gerontology

Professor Colette Browning (Australia)

International Networking and Collaboration: Insights from Experts and Regional Representatives

Ms Lien Quach (Vietnam, USA)

Academic Partnerships: Research Collaboration on Healthy Aging in The Developing World

Dr Plaiwan Suttanon (Thailand)

Collaborative Experiences Between Thailand and Australia

The symposium finished with a panel discussion: *Practical Considerations for Identifying Regional and International Collaborators: The Future of IAGG-CSO* focusing on the following areas:

- Social media capacity
- Options for sharing resources
- Development of online educational resources
- Creation of mentorship opportunities
- International exchanges/internships

The second event ‘Lunch with the Stars’ was a mentoring opportunity for students and early career researchers. Almost 70 people joined our seven ‘Stars’ in an unprecedented opportunity to focus on the important area of *‘preparing your elevator pitch’*.

The ‘Stars’ were asked to share 2-3 tips designed to help students and early career scholars to hone their skills at making a lasting impression when speaking with people more advanced in their field.

The students were asked to prepare their elevator pitch prior to the session, and ‘try it out’ on the stars. It was an opportunity to hear about the work that the students are doing, and to provide feedback on how they can improve their communication about their work. The students had only 2 minutes to pitch and 2 minutes for feedback, leaving sufficient time to practice their pitch with several stars and fellow students.

The IAGG-CSO awarded five travel bursaries, four bursaries to students attending the Congress (with two of these specifically allocated to students from low income countries) and one bursary to support a symposium speaker.

Claudia Meyer, as President of IAGG-CSO, reported to the IAGG Asia-Oceania Regional Council during the Congress. The IAGG-CSO committee was generously supported by the IAGG Secretariat to attend and undertake the activities of the program.

Next steps

Preparations are underway for an expanded student/early career program for the 2017 IAGG World Congress in San Francisco. In the meantime, the IAGG-CSO is working to support gerontological organizations to either maintain their Student Sections or to develop new Student Sections. The IAGG-CSO will undertake to run a webinar early in 2016 to connect with current student sections and those who wish to develop a student section, sharing the knowledge within IAGG-CSO and its networks. Regional student representatives will be tasked with assisting countries in their region to establish a Student Section.

BY:

Claudia Meyer, President IAGG-CSO (Australia);
Shannon Freeman, Vice President IAGG-CSO (Canada);
Katherine Hall, Secretary-Treasurer IAGG-CSO (United States).



Presentation to Professor Hal Kendig

At the conclusion of the conference, a presentation was made to Professor Hal Kendig from Australia, who is stepping down from his role as Regional Scientific Sub-Committee Chair for the Social Research and Planning stream. Professor Kendig has made enormous contributions at the Regional, and also at the broader international level to further advance the field and outcomes in gerontology.



Gary Andrews Academy Workshop: Implementing best practice in falls prevention for older people: Interdisciplinary perspectives.

The first Gary Andrews Academy Workshop was held as a pre-regional conference workshop. The Academy aims to support development throughout the region of geriatrics and gerontology through education, and focuses on broader reach than previously run Master Classes that have focussed on medical training. A very experienced and diverse teaching academy covered a range of topics focussing on preventing falls for older people:

Professor Keith Hill (Australia) (Program coordinator) – Physiotherapy

Dr Maw Pin Tan (Malaysia) – Geriatrician

Kenneth Fong (Hong Kong) – Occupational Therapy

Dr Rajna Ogrin (Australia) – Podiatrist

Assistant Professor Justina Liu (Hong Kong) - Nursing

Ms Claudia Meyer (Australia) – Physiotherapy – fall prevention and dementia

Professor Shanthi Johnson (Canada) – Dietitian

Dr Plaiwan Suttanon (Thammasat University, Thailand) – Physiotherapy

Dr Pannida Wattanapanom (Bangkok Hospital Falls Clinic, Thailand) – Geriatrician.

Participants from eight countries attended and shared with the academy and their own experiences.



Gary Andrews Academy Workshop and Seminar: Social Policy for the Aged (July 2016, Hong Kong)

The 2nd Gary Andrews Academy Workshop will be conducted in Hong Kong in July 2016.

Title of workshop: Gary Andrews Academy Workshop on Social Policy for the Aged

Dates: 8-9 July 2016 (2 day workshop)

Faculty (speakers): include Professor Nelson Chow, Professor Julie Byles, Professor Du Peng, Professor Alfred Chan, Dr Edward Leung

Workshop topics: include Pension and Social Security, International and National Policy, Demography, Healthy Ageing, Long Term Care, and Community Care.

Target Audience: Government Officials, Academics in Aged Care, Senior Professionals in Social and Health Care.

Registration Fee: US 250 per person



For further information, or to register for the workshop, please contact: Ms. Coco Woo -coco@hkag.org

The activities of the Indian Academy of Geriatrics 2014-15

The Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Geriatrics and pre-conference CME was held at Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh, India from 30th October to 1st November 2015. The theme of the CME was "Capacity Building for Geriatric Care" which was attended by over 150 general practitioners, medical, nursing and physiotherapy students. The speakers included faculty from the regional medical colleges as well as senior members of the IAG. The topics included: Geriatric syndromes, Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment, Communication skills, Preventive geriatrics, Principles of prescribing for the elderly. An interesting session on Clinical Geriatrics "How I Manage...." dealt with a case based approach to breathlessness, confusion, insomnia, constipation, anorexia and stroke. The faculty for this session included some young members involved in geriatric programmes. Workshops on nursing care, physiotherapy and WHO toolkit for Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment were also conducted.

The theme of the conference was "Developing a Consensus on Delivery of Geriatric Care". It was well attended by clinicians, faculty as well as nurses and physiotherapists. Specialists from India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka conducted symposia on Frailty, Musculoskeletal disorders, Delivery of Geriatric Care, Clinical Geriatrics, Pre-surgical assessment, Psychiatric perspectives, Alternative medicine and spirituality in geriatric care. There were four Orations: Fracture Liaison Clinic by Dr. Sunita Paul (New Zealand), Sepsis in elderly (Dr. YS Raju, NIMS, Hyderabad), Achievers in Old age: Never too old to succeed and inspire (Prof. Atul Sachdev, Director-Principal, Government Medical College, Chandigarh), and Global Health Systems for care of the elderly (Prof. AB Dey, Head, Geriatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi). Dr. Benjamin Capistrant (University of Minnesota, USA) delivered a guest lecture on health of caregivers of the elderly.

Other highlights of the Conference included a Clinico-Pathologic Conference conducted by faculty of the prestigious Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and a Geriatric Quiz.

In order to increase inter-generational bonding, school children of Chandigarh participated in a theme based painting competition.

The XXVth International Day of Older Persons (2015) – in Indonesia

Since the United Nations issued its RESOLUTION dated December 14th, 1990 numbered 45/106 - then the 1st of October was declared as the International Day of Older Persons, and for the first time celebrated on October 1st, 1991.

Since then, every year a special theme is selected, and the one for this year is: "Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment". This year, Indonesia has begun to notice the Older persons aged over one hundred years called as CENTENARIANS who live in Jakarta and often are already 'bed-ridden'. This is because The Jakarta Municipal-Population Office has issued official data that states there are 95 Centenarians found, consisting of 56 women and 39 men.

Well, this is interesting because around the world, there are five times more Centenarian women than men. Their age is also much higher than the age of the oldest resident of Jakarta which is currently recorded at 114 years! Also the proportion of the centenarians is very different from the composition of the city population as a whole, for example:

From the RELIGION point of view: followers of Islam turned out to be 55 people, Buddhism 24, Protestant 11 and Catholic 5; while the percentage of Muslim population is more than 90%.

From the TRIBE point of view: Betawi 31 people (of which 16 women), Java / outside Jakarta 24 people, Chinese 15 (of which 11 women).

Presumably it is very interesting in the terms of demographics!

In the ceremony which was inaugurated by Ms. Cornelia Petrabella from UNIC / UN, a special song was sung by a CHOIR from 'Antonius-Adi-Yuswa' Group: "To Live in Harmony". The lyrics were written by Dr. Susilo Wibowo, the late and former Chairman of Indonesian Society of Gerontology. The music was arranged by Mr. Thio Keng Bouw, a famous musician from HongKong. Mr. Thio's father is a healthy Centenarian, someone who can be presented at this event!

A book called "Quality Ageing" written by AB Susanto was also launched at the event.

For your information, PERGERI (Indonesian Society of Gerontology) was found in 1984. It is the very first organization in our country which pays attention to the Older Persons' welfare in Indonesia. This has led to the establishment of "Forum Komunikasi Lanjut Usia DKI" (Communication Forum of Older Persons Jakarta), Lembaga Lanjut Usia Indonesia (Institute of Indonesian Older Persons) and even the KOMNAS LANJUT USIA (Indonesian Committee of Older persons) - a National Joint Committee between the Government and NGO's.

The Indonesian Society of Gerontology became a member of The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics which acts as 'thinkers' of the United Nations in the matters of Older Persons in the world; which we called as UN's Advisory Board; which also declared MADRID DECLARATION in 2002 <Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing>. PERGERI has organized the 1st NATIONAL CONGRESS OF OLDER PERSONS that spawned the Resurrection Day of Indonesian Older Persons on May 20th, 2001; and the establishment of the National Centre for Ageing Studies, in collaboration with Trisakti Foundation/ University.

BY: Dr Tony Setiabudhi; PERGERI

Work, retirement and health: A brief directory of Australian research

WORK, RETIREMENT AND HEALTH: A BRIEF DIRECTORY OF AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH

Various research projects have been conducted in Australia to describe and understand this complex relationship between retirement and health. In this brief directory we use the collaborative strength of ILC-Australia to scope publicly available data that can be used to investigate associations between work, retirement and health; and to compile a list of people who have undertaken research in this area.

The directory is available from the Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing (contact Julie.Byles@newcastle.edu.au).

Directory of research on ageing was uploaded to the Population website

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/Dir_Research_Ageing_Africa_%202004-2015.pdf

This report was prepared by Paul Kowal (WHO) and Julie Byles (ILC-Australia) for the Population Studies Branch, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. It provides an update of the *Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa: 1995-2003*. The aim is to profile, promote and encourage research into the health and needs of people aged 50 years and over in Africa, and to enable the use of evidence for policy.

The Directory includes a summary of submissions from primary investigators, with analysis of how these projects related to the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (MIPAA). There is a growing body of rigorous and indepth research into ageing across Africa. However, there are some countries where research is less active, and some areas of priority direction which are under-investigated.

Index of wellbeing for older Australians

The Benevolent Society and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) launched the Index on older Australians' wellbeing on 10th February 2016. The index provides:

information on Maps indicators of wellbeing of older people across geographic locations

information on what factors contribute most to wellbeing or disadvantage

useful tools for policy makers, planners and service providers to ensure services reach areas where they are needed the most.

The index can be downloaded at: <http://www.benevolent.org.au/think/index--of--wellbeing--for--older--australians>

WHO China country assessment report on ageing and health

WHO have released a report on Health and Ageing in China - <http://www.who.int/.../publicati.../china-country-assessment/en/>

The report underscores the importance that China places on the development of health and social care systems for its older people, and particularly the emphasis towards healthy environments, community strengths, reorientation of the health care system towards primary and integrated care, and the development of a skilled workforce.

If you have information you would like included in the next IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional newsletter, please forward details to:
Professor Keith Hill, Keith.Hill@Curtin.edu.au OR James Beckford Saunders, jbeckfordsaunders@aag.asn.au