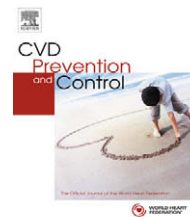


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EDITORIAL

Letter from APSC Section Editor

Welcome to the first APSC Section of *Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Control*.

The fast and unabating rise in cardiovascular diseases in the Asia Pacific region requires concerted action by many parties: physicians, researchers, professional medical societies, heart foundations, pharmaceutical and medical device industry, and policy makers.

A key step is for the physicians and researchers in our region to inform all of these parties about the current situation surrounding cardiovascular diseases (CVD). The Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology, therefore, launches with this issue the APSC Section. This section provides a forum to communicate with our colleagues so that we may learn from each other and work together.

The Asia Pacific region is growing rapidly and is becoming the center of global business. Health care for this very populous region – we are two-thirds of the world's population – is a costly commitment. The economic advances that are coming to the region are at risk though, because of the high personal and financial toll caused by CVD.

Understanding the specific characteristics of CVD in the Asia Pacific region is critical to devise appropriate preventive and treatment measures. Further, it is likely that there are differences in relation to CVD in our populations, compared to Western populations, such as risk factors, gender, drug dosing, and etiology, among others.

Our region simultaneously struggles to meet the challenges of communicable, infectious diseases, including heart diseases whose etiology is an infection, and the newer challenge of non-communicable CVD, taxing our human and financial resources.

The efforts of the World Health Organization and World Heart Federation to raise the profile of CVD as a non-communicable disease, and thereby the increased focus, resources, and research is welcomed. We must do our part to support these efforts by providing key, and often missing, information.

Epidemiologic data for the region is absent or at best minimal and disparate. We need comprehensive, coordinated databases of CVD. The Heart Failure Survey currently underway in the region needs to be expanded to all other areas of heart diseases. Clinical trials conducted in the Asia Pacific region are needed, so that our patients are treated with evidence from their true peers. Less expensive and safe medical treatments, including supplements, Chinese herbal medicine, and a polypill, should be investigated in clinical trials in Asia. Such trials would provide more cost-effective healthcare for our region and the world.

We invite you to partner with us in a variety of ways to address this rise in CVD – including contributing articles to *Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Control*.

Visit the journal website today to submit your article. Just click on the journal cover on the APSC website (www.apscardio.org) for all the information you need.

We seek through this journal to create a foundation to seed collaboration among researchers in the region and all the key parties who must work together to combat CVD.

With best wishes,

Akira Matsumori, MD, PhD, FESC, FAHA, FACC

Mission of the APSC Section of CVDPC

To inform key parties about all aspects of CVD in the Asia Pacific region, including epidemiology, risk factors, etiology, prevention, and treatment, among others.

To create a dialogue between key parties to address the continuing rise of CVD in the Asia Pacific region.

To create a foundation to seed collaboration among researchers in the region and all the key parties.

To serve as a link between the Asia Pacific region and the rest of world, to communicate the current situation regarding CVD and the needs to address it.