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Editorial

We enjoyed the 36th IUPS congress in Kyoto, last July. It was great to meet 4000 physiologists from such a variety of countries, all gathering in the beautiful international congress center situated at the foot of Mount Hiei in Kyoto. Most winners of the Travel Award were young physiologists from Asia and Oceania. We hope more and more active and enthusiastic physiologists from Asian and Oceanic countries to be able to join these scientific events. As you might already know, the next IUPS congress shall be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom in July 2013. The FAOPS council too had a meeting during the congress in Kyoto.

Also we are approaching the 7th FAOPS congress to be held in Taiwan in 2011. You can visit the congress website at: <http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/faops/> and adjust your programs to participate and also enjoy visiting Taipei according to their key dates. Julie Chan and her colleagues are extremely busy coordinating the scientific program.

In this issue you will find the FAOPS president's message for the 2009-2010 activities and an announcement from the FAOPS council regarding the 7th congress which will be held in 2011. In addition, you will find commentaries on the 50th anniversary of re-launch of the Chinese Physiological society in Taiwan, three member society congress reports and the Uzbekistan Physiological society activities by its representative. Finally, I ask the FAOPS member societies to send their activities to the public relation committee for the future FAOPS newsletter and website.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fereshteh Motamedi (Ph.D.)

The Editor

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President's Message
for the FAOPS 2009-2010 activities

I am pleased to report that the 36th International Congress of Physiological Sciences (IUPS 2009) was successfully held from this July 27 to August 1 in Kyoto. IUPS 2009 had 3997 attendees (2336 Japanese + 1659 others) including 388 researchers and 252 students from Asian and Oceanian countries other than Japan. Also, I am happy to tell you that 72 of 136 winners of the Travel Award were young physiologists from Asia and Oceania.

During previous three years, the FAOPS Council has tried to improve the FAOPS activities by principally making effort to increase the number of FAOPS Member Society, to improve the FAOPS website, and to strengthen the interaction with IUPS. As a result, first we approved Uzbekistan Physiological Society (UPS) for FAOPS Membership as a new Associate Member in August 2008. Second, for improvement of the FAOPS

website, we elected Prof. Swee Hung Cheah as the Vice-Chair of the PR Committee. Prof. Cheah then frequently updated the website. Third, according to the request by Long Range Planning Committee of IUPS, we decided to postpone the 7th FAOPS Congress to 2011 in order to hold every FAOPS Congress just between the IUPS Congresses of a 4-year cycle.

Within remaining two years, this FAOPS Council will further make effort to increase the number of FAOPS Member Society. Also, to include Asian Physiologists from the countries that have no national physiological society into the FAOPS activities, a new system such as a Regional Member will be constituted.

Lastly, I do look forward to seeing you all at the FAOPS 2011 Congress (*September 11-14, 2011*) in Taipei.

Yasunobu Okada

Minutes of the 13th FAOPS Council Meeting

Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto)
Thursday, July 30, 2009

Presents: Prof. Y. Okada (President), Prof. C. Pholpramool (Past-President), Prof. Julie Y.H. Chan (2nd Vice President), Prof. D.I. Cook (Treasurer), Prof. X.L. Yang (Secretary), Prof. M. Fan, Prof. P. Nielsen (instead of Prof. P. Cragg), Prof. S. Semnanian, Prof. H.J. Singh

Apologies: Prof. K.W. Kim (1st Vice-President), Prof. P. Cragg, Prof. V.M. Kumar, Prof. A. Moran

Observers: Prof. A. Siddiqui (Parkistan), Prof. R.Z. Sabirov (Uzbekistan)

The meeting was called to order at 18:30.

1. Prof. Okada chaired the meeting.

2. Prof. Okada and Prof. Yang reported on their activities, as the President and the Secretary respectively, since the last council meeting in Seoul in 2006. Main activities of the President and the Secretary included 1) delivery of the President New Year Messages (2007, 2008) to FAOPS members about the missions and activities of FAOPS; 2) discussion with the FAOPS council members about the 2nd Vice President, the Public Relation Committee, date changes of FAOPS Congresses, financial support to regional conferences and the application of the Uzbekistan Physiological Society (UPS) for FAOPS membership. Major decisions made during this period included that 1) FAOPS Congress of a 4-year cycle is to be held just between the IUPS Congresses of a 4-year cycle. Therefore, the 7th FAOPS Congress to be held in Taipei and the 8th FAOPS Congress to be held in Thailand will be postponed to 2011 and 2015 respectively. 2) Financially supported two regional conferences: Beijing Joint Conference of Physiological Sciences 2008, organized by five physiological societies and Symposium "Bioethics and Challenges in Medical Education" in the First South Asian Conference of Physiological Sciences, organized by the Pakistan Physiological Society and the South Asian Association of Physiologists. 3) Prof. Chan was appointed an observer to report on recent activities of FAOPS to the

General Assembly of the 36th IUPS Congress.

3. Prof. Cook reported on the financial status of FAOPS. The current balance of FAOPS (as of June, 2009) is US\$ 49,433.99. The Council noticed that the membership dues for recent years have not yet been collected and urged to collect the dues as soon as possible.

4. Prof. Semnanian reported on the activity of the Public Relation Committee, on behalf of Prof. Motamedi. Since 2005, four FAOPS Newsletters have been electronically published, in which news of FAOPS member societies was reported and the history of several member societies was introduced. The Council proposes that a new issue of FAOPS Newsletters should be prepared during this year, which should include the reports about IUPS2009, the 13th FAOPS Council Meeting, UPS activities and the information about the date changes of the 7th and 8th FAOPS Congresses. In addition, the FAOPS website has been updated by Prof. Cheah.

5. Prof. Chan reported on the preparation of the 7th FAOPS Congress, 2011 to be held in Taipei, as the chairperson of the Organizing Committee. The Congress is scheduled on Sep. 11–14, 2011. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Chinese Physiological Society for the preparation of the Congress. The Council then discussed

how much the registration fee for the Congress should be charged and the FAOPS financial support to the Congress could be. Profs. Okada and Yang plan to pay a site visit during the year 2010.

6. The Council reconfirmed the approval of the application of the Uzbekistan Physiological Society (UPS) for being an associate member of FAOPS, and according to the By-Law of the FAOPS Constitution, will report to the next General Assembly for the final approval.
7. The Council discussed the issue raised by Prof. Siddiqui that the South Asian Association of Physiologists becomes a member of FAOPS. Because the Association contains the Indian Physiological Society that is a FAOPS member, whether the Association

could be a FAOPS member may need revising the Constitution. Also, the Council discussed possible ways to admit physiologists in the regions where there are no national physiological societies as a sort of FAOPS member. The Council will further discuss the issue and then report its suggestion to the next General Assembly for consideration.

8. A nominating committee for the new Council (2011–2015) is proposed with Prof. Pholpramool as the chairman. The committee members include Profs. Kaneko, Yang, Semnanian and Siddiqui.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:30.

Xiong-Li Yang, PhD

Secretary of FAOPS

Introducing Member Societies

Chinese Physiological Society (Taiwan)

COMMENTARIES ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELAUCH OF THE CHINESE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN TAIWAN



In 1926, Robert Kho-Seng Lim founded the Chinese Physiological Society (CPS) with the support of Hsien Wu in the Department of Biochemistry and B. E. Read in the Department of Pharmacology. In addition, 7 well-known physiologists were invited to join as honorary members of the Society, including J. J. Abeland and A. J. Carlson in the USA, E. Abderhalden in Germany, J. Bacroft, F. G.

Hopkins, and E.S. Schafer in the U.K., and I.P. Pavlov in Russia. One year later, Chinese Journal of Physiology (CJP) published its first issue in English. The Journal quickly established itself as a leading platform for such work in Asia.

In 1937, the Sino-Japanese War led to the outbreak of World War II in Mainland China. In 1939 when the war broke out in Europe, both government and medical schools were relocated from northern to southern China. The Society was no

longer active. In 1949, the government retreated to Taiwan. Ten years later, Anne-Cheng Liu, the head of Physiology at National Defense Medical College, proposed a re-launch of the Chinese Physiological Society in Taiwan to meet the research and teaching needs of physiologists.

The year of 2009 is the 50th anniversary of the re-launch of the Chinese Physiological Society and Chinese Journal of Physiology in Taiwan. It is also the 95th birthday of Professor Emeritus H.S. Fang who is the only living member witnessing the glorious period of our Society in Mainland China during the 1930s, economic hardship during wartime in the 1940s, and re-establishment of the CPS in Taiwan during the 1950s. To celebrate these special occasions, CJP has published two supplements. In later part of 2009, CPS will publish a special collection of papers on the occasion of its 50th year since the re-launch of CPS in Taiwan.

In conjunction of the 50th anniversary, a 6-day International Workshop on Neural Coding was held in south Taiwan in May 2009. It was organized by Paul Poon, Department of Physiology, National Cheng Kung University of

Tainan city, and co-sponsored by CPS. 9 internationally known neuroscientists were invited to give talks and interact with some 150 participants of local and overseas from about 20 countries (<http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/nc2009/>).

Following the workshop a 1-day satellite symposium on Neuroengineering was held in north Taiwan, at National Jiao-Tung University of Hsinchu city. Selected contributions of the Neural Coding workshop will soon be published in CJP as a special issue around mid-2010.



Mei-Ling Tsai, PhD

Secretary-in-General
Chinese Physiological Society, Taiwan

Uzbekistan Physiological Society

For many years, the Uzbekistan Physiological Society has been a branch of the Physiological Society of USSR, which was originally founded by a Nobel Laureate, Ivan Pavlov in 1917. Since gaining independence in 1991, the formal links with the physiologists of the Former Soviet Union have been lost. Physiologists of newly independent Uzbekistan needed their own Society as a forum for exchanging new ideas, presenting and discussing results of theirs

studies and educating young generations of physiologists and biophysicists. This has been accomplished in October of 2003 by a joint agreement of 19 prominent physiologists and biophysicists of the country, led by Prof. Bekjan A. Tashmukhamedov, member of the National Academy of Sciences. Bekjan Tashmukhamedov is a first Director General of the Institute of Physiology and Biophysics and a founder of the Department of Biophysics at the National

University. The formal foundation of the Uzbekistan Physiological Society (UPS) has been announced on May 26, 2004. Prof. Pulat B. Usmanov, present Director General of the Institute of Physiology and Biophysics of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences has been elected as a first President of the Uzbekistan Physiological Society. At present, the Society unifies more than 80 members from all over the Country. It has regional branches in Kashkadariya, Bukhara, Samarqand, Fergana, Gulistan, Andijan, Karakalpakistan.

Physiological and biophysical research in Uzbekistan is conducted in various fields. Thus, at the Institute of Physiology and Biophysics, the laboratory of Prof. Pulat B. Usmanov studies the muscle contractility and role of calcium ions in this process, physiology of blood coagulation and thrombocyte function. The Laboratory of Prof. Ravshan Z. Sabirov deals with anion transport and cell volume regulation mechanisms. The team of Prof. Muzaffar I. Asrarov is interested in the oxidative phosphorylation phenomena in mitochondria. Studies on the digestive tract and their developmental aspects are performed in the laboratories of Prof. Erkin S. Makhmudov and Prof. Bakhodir A. Sadykov. A group led by Prof. Bekjan A. Tashmukhamedov studies the biophysics of photosynthetic processes using remote laser-induced fluorescence detection techniques. All research teams of the Institute are involved in testing physiologically active compounds isolated or newly synthesized at the Institute of Chemistry of Plant Substances and at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences. Such collaboration has been beneficial for both sides as it provides new molecular tools for probing intimate mechanisms of life for physiologists and biophysicist, as

well as new targets for pharmacologists and biochemists.

Institute of Physiology and Biophysics hosts the Uzbekistan Physiological Society and coordinates the physiological and biophysical studies conducted at the Universities of Uzbekistan. Thus, studies on the physiology of digestive tract of sheep are underway at the Samarkand University, sports physiology in Bukhara University, nutritional physiology in Karshi University and physiology of salivary glands in Andijan University. National University of Uzbekistan (Tashkent) is yet another Center for physiological and biophysical science. Thus, the Department of Biophysics comprises several research groups working on the calcium transport mechanisms in mitochondria (Prof. Yulya V. Levitskaya) and in plants (Dr. Anatoliy K. Tonkikh), interaction of ionophores (crown ethers) with lipid monolayers and bilayers (Prof. Ulugbek Z. Mirkhodjaev), pharmacology and regulation of ATPases (Dr. Fatima T. Umarova). Department of Human and Animal Physiology led by Prof. Karim T. Almatov studies the physiological and pharmacological regulation of respiration at the levels of animal, tissue, cells and organelles.

The Society has various types of activities. Thus, in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the Uzbekistan Physiological Society held a conference "Contemporary Problems of Physiology and Biophysics" (Tashkent, 24-25 September, 2007). Relatively small scale of this meeting gave an opportunity for physiologists and biophysicists from different institutions (Universities, Medical Academy and research Institutes of the Academy) to socialize in rather informal way. Young researchers presented their own data in the Poster sessions and had a chance to learn more

about the modern state of the physiological and biophysical science from plenary lectures presented by prominent members of the Society.

The UPS does not have its own Journal or Bulletin. Most of the research papers are published in the *Uzbek Biological Journal* (Editor-in-Chief: Bekjan A. Tashmukhamedov), in the *Proceeding of the National Academy of Uzbekistan*, or in the *Khimiia Prirodnikh Soedinenii* (*Chemistry of Natural Compounds*). Some Society members manage publishing their results in international journals, and we are happy that the number of such scientists keeps growing.

Uzbekistan is located in the Asian continent, therefore our long-term goal was to communicate with Asian physiologists. During the Interim Meeting of the Society held on March 13, 2008, the Uzbekistan Physiological Society decided to join the Federation of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS), one of the world prestigious scientific societies, and I was elected as a representative contact person. In November 2008, the Uzbekistan Physiological Society invited the President of FAOPS, Prof. Yasunobu Okada to participate in the Annual Meeting of UPS, which was held on November 17, 2008 in Tashkent. Prof. Okada kindly accepted this invitation. We were very happy to receive this world-famous Japanese physiologist, with

whom we had a very nice and productive scientific collaboration for more than 15 years. Two young researchers obtained their Ph.D. degrees and a number of more senior researchers received extensive postdoctoral training at the National Institute for Physiological Sciences in Okazaki (Japan). During his visit, Prof. Okada has officially announced that the FAOPS Council has accepted UPS to be an associate member of FAOPS. Uzbekistan physiologists were very happy to hear this news. Prof. Okada gave a lecture on the recent progress in the physiology of anion channels, which was very educational for entire audience including senior society members and numerous young researchers and undergraduate and graduate students who attended the Meeting.

Uzbekistan is a young country, and so is the Uzbekistan Physiological Society. We enjoy the ever growing support from the Uzbekistan Government (namely, from the Coordination Center for Science and Technologies, a main funding body of the Country) and from the Academy of Sciences, and we hope to become a true member of the international scientific community in the field of physiology and biophysics.

Ravshan Z. Sabirov, Ph.D., D.Sc.

*Representative contact person of the
Uzbekistan Physiological Society*

Congress Reports

The Beijing Joint Conference of Physiological Sciences

The Beijing Joint Conference of Physiological Sciences 2008 was just held in Beijing, China on October 19-22,

2008. This conference is jointly supported by five Physiological Societies: American Physiological Society,

Australian Physiological Society, Canadian Physiological Society, Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, and The Physiological Society (UK), and co-sponsored by the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), the Federation of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS), China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

The goal of the joint conference is to provide opportunities for scientific and cultural exchanges and collaborative interactions among physiological scientists of various countries. With the rapid progress of the modern biological



sciences, we become more clearly aware that physiological research should be conducted in ways that will provide an understanding of the functions of the whole living organism. Therefore, the theme of the Beijing Physiology 2008 is "Physiology in medicine: Bridging bench and bedside".

592 abstracts were received by this conference: 3 invited plenary lectures, 80 invited symposium presentations, seven young physiologists' symposium presentations, twenty one free oral communications and 482 posters. The actual number of participants was 605: 407 full delegates (Mainland China 157; Australia 11; Canada 27; UK 58; USA 88 and 66 from other countries and regions) and 198 students (Mainland China 145; Australia 3; Canada 15; UK: 11; USA 6; 18 are from the other countries and regions). Among the 605 participants, 303 are from the Mainland China, and 302 are from foreign countries and regions: Australia 14; Canada: 42; UK 69; USA 94 and 84 from the other countries and regions.

The 36th International Congress of Physiological Sciences (*IUPS2009*)

IUPS2009 was successfully held under the title of 'Function of Life: Elements and Integration' in Kyoto from July 27 to August 1, 2009. The number of attendees was 3997 (from 72 countries) including 2336 Japanese and 640 other Asian and Oceanian Physiologists. The number of winners of Travel Award was 136 including 72 Asian and Oceanian young researchers.

The Opening Ceremony preceded the Congress. In this Ceremony, His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince of Japan kindly gave remarks. A very impressive part of his remarks was "The recent

developments in life sciences have been remarkable. The human genome has been decoded, and progress in computer technology has enabled us to study the fine structure of proteins that compose the human body. Physiology is the basis for many clinical sciences and it is the role of physiology to integrate findings obtained in specialized scientific subdivisions and to understand how living organisms function as a whole. I believe that Physiology is more important than even to translate recent developments in life science into means

of promoting health and advancing the future development of medicine”.

The Congress had a highly scientific program of all sorts, such as 29 Special Lectures, 87 Symposia (including 17 Whole-day Symposia) with 546 speakers, 2 Meet-the-Lectures with 6 speakers, 21 Luncheon Seminars with 39 speakers, and 2519 Posters. All the abstracts were published in *The Journal of Physiological Sciences* (Volume 59, Supplement 1, 2009).

At the Closing Ceremony (August 1, 2009), I myself mentioned “Physiology is a most important key discipline among

the biological sciences. We understand, that is why the most famous and honorable prize for life science field is called *The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine*” in my speech as host. Lastly, the Congress Flag was passed from Japan to Britain where next IUPS2013 will be held. All the attendees pledged to gather again in Birmingham with bringing new data in 2013.

Yasunobu Okada

FAOPS President

The 19th Iranian Congress of Physiology and Pharmacology (ISPP2009)

The 19th Iranian Congress of Physiology and Pharmacology was held November 3-6, 2009 in Tehran, Iran. This meeting was organized by the Iranian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology (ISPP) and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The meeting venue was the Shahid Beheshti International Conference Center, which is in the heart of the university campus. The number of attendees was 1126 including 1098 Iranian and 17 other scientists from Armenia, Canada, Denmark, India, Japan, Pakistan, United Kingdom and USA.



The opening ceremony preceded the congress. In this ceremony, for the first

time in symbolic scene, the ISPP appreciated six pioneer Iranian physiologists and pharmacologists. The scientific committee had planned an exciting and most interesting program covering all aspects of physiology and pharmacology (The Congress had a highly scientific program of all sorts), such as 35 special lectures, 21 half-day symposia including Apoptosis, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Cardiovascular, Respiration, Kidney, Digestive system, Endocrine and Metabolism (1,2), Biochemistry of the Nervous System, Neurochemistry, Learning & Memory, Chemotherapy & Toxicology, Pharmacoeconomics, Clinical Pharmacology, Electrophysiology, Traditional Medicine (1,2), Behaviour, Addiction, CNS trauma and neurodegenerative disease with 97 speakers, and 717 poster presentations. The last day (November 6, 2009) was a full scientific day, ending with a closing ceremony and the Prof. Guiti's young scientist awards.

Abbas Haghparast, PhD

FAOPS News

The New Executive Team for the Physiological Society of Thailand

The Physiological Society of Thailand (PST), a member of FAOPS, has changed its Executive Committee since May 2008. The new PST President is Dr. Supatra

Lohsiriwat (sislr@mahidol.ac.th) and new secretariat of the PST is Dr. Wattana B. Watanapa (siwwt@mahidol.ac.th).

The New IUPS Council Members



New IUPS council members (From right to left):

Penny Moody-Corbett (Canada), Saeed Semnanian (Iran), Yoshihia Kurachi - Vice President (Japan), Jens Rettig (Germany), Denis Noble - President (UK), Caroline McMillen (Australia), Peter Hunter (New Zealand), Xian Wang - Vice President (China), Malcolm Gordon - Treasurer (US), Susan Orsoni - Executive Secretary (US), Walter Boron - Secretary General (US), Ole Peterson - Previous Secretary General (UK), Tobias Wang (Denmark), Marjan Rupnik (Slovenia)

Absent IUPS council members in the photo:

Antonio Campos de Carvalho (Brazil), Quentin Pittman (Canada), Daniel Ricquier (France)

Announcement of the FAOPS Council - 2009

Recently the Council discussed the matter concerning this term of the FAOPS officers. According to the FAOPS Constitution, Article VII (6), "The officers shall be elected for a term of four years". However, as you are aware, the Council has decided to postpone the next congress to 2011. In consideration of the Constitution, Article

V (4), "There shall be regular meetings of the General Assembly at such times as the Congress of the Federation shall meet" and also because it is impossible and unnecessary to have another General Assembly in 2010 simply for electing the officers, the Council has made a decision that this term of the FAOPS officers should be extended to 2011.



Key Dates

- 12/31 2009** Issue of 2nd announcement
- 04/30 2010** Deadline for symposium proposal
- 10/31 2010** Issue of 3rd announcement
- 04/30 2011** Deadline for abstract submission and early registration
- 05/31 2011** Listing of scientific program on the website
- 07/31 2011** Deadline for late registration

Calendar

14th Pan Arab Conference on Diabetes

23-26 March 2010, Cairo, Egypt

<http://www.arab-diabetes.com/>

The 12th European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE)

24-28 April 2010, Prague, Czech Republic

<http://www.ece2010.com/>

The 4th International Conference of Biomarkers in Chronic Diseases

4-6 May 2010, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

<http://biomarkers.ksu.edu.sa/>

14th International Neuroscience and Biopsychiatry Conference "Stress and Behavior"

16-20 May 2010, St. Petersburg, Russia

<http://www.stressandbehavior.com/>

3rd International Congress on Neuropathic Pain (NeuPSIG 2010)

27-30 May 2010, Athens, Greece

<http://www2.kenes.com/neuropathic/>

ENDO 2010

19-22 June 2010, San Diego, USA

<http://www.endo-society.org>

7th Forum of European Neuroscience (FENS)

3-7 July 2010, Amsterdam, Netherlands

<http://fens2010.neurosciences.asso.fr/>

7th International Congress on Neuro-endocrinology

10-15 July 2010, Rouen, France

<http://www.st-antoine.inserm.fr>

8th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience

14-19 July 2011, Florence, Italy

<http://www.ibro2011.org/>

7th FAOPS congress

11-14 September 2011, Taipei, Taiwan

<http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/faops/>

37th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences

International Convention Centre (ICC)
Birmingham, UK

21-26 July 2013