

Editorial



Actions needed for “Allergy in Asia-Pacific”

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Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetic mellitus, are the pivotal cause of disease burden and mortality in the Asia-Pacific region, claiming 55% of total life in the South East Asia region each year and 75% in the Western Pacific region [1, 2]. People in the low socio-economic group are most affected by NCDs as they have poor access to policies, legislations, regulations and healthcare services meant to combat NCDs [3]. This results in loss of productivity by a decreasing labor force with implications at the macroeconomic level [3]. Allergy disease as one of the NCDs is also experiencing rapid increase in Asia-Pacific regions. The underlying risk factors for the epidemic allergic disorders in Asia-Pacific are more on the increasing urbanization, environmental factors of air-pollution and climate changes, and westernized and sedentary life styles in recent decades than the other part of the world. Asia-Pacific is one of the most densely populated regions of the world and the population within the region is relatively younger as compared to countries in North America and Western Europe. Due to the diversity of genetic background of the people, different development of economic situations, and the varied environmental exposure in different parts of the Asia-Pacific, strategies to combat allergic disease in the Asia-Pacific region should be focused on the public educations and awareness, effective treatment and prevention, and active government policies based on the local data and researches. Based on this notion, Prof. Ruby Pawankar, president of Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI), has initiated several committees in APAAACI, and enrolled key experts in Asia-Pacific regions as well as the help from international leaders in allergy disorders to work together in the survey and tackle on various aspects of allergy in Asia-Pacific regions [4]. In this issue of *Asia Pacific Allergy* journal, several important issues of allergy research, such as quality of life of childhood eczema [5], diagnosis of pistachio and peanut allergy [6, 7], allergic rhinitis and asthma survey [8], and genetic study in chronic rhino sinusitis [9] were conducted and reported from Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, respectively. An important review of immune cells in eosinophil esophagitis [10], and educational and teaching material on severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions [11] were reported by allergy researchers from China, Vietnam and Australia. We believe these scientific publications conducted in the local regions will provide enormous inputs and resources for the future researches in the prevention and treatment for “Allergy in Asia-Pacific.”

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