Dear Members of the APSN,

I am writing to report to you the various initiatives undertaken by the APSN in 2009 and some of the exciting developments ahead.

1. APSN-Roche Nephrology Fellowship

Thanks to a generous donation from Roche, our Society has launched the APSN-Roche Nephrology Fellowship scheme. This fellowship program aims to assist nephrologists from the Asian-Pacific region to receive clinical training in established nephrology units within the Asian-Pacific countries, with the ultimate objective of improving the standard of nephrology clinical service in the Fellows' home countries. Priority will be given to applicants from developing countries, and those who are in the formative phase of their career. The Fellowship is open for application by APSN members, and the application deadline for this round is 31st December 2009. Details of the fellowship scheme are available from the APSN website at http://www.apsneph.org.

2. 12th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology
5th–8th June 2010, Seoul, Korea

The 12th APCN will be held from June 5 to 8, 2010, at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul, Korea. Under the leadership of APCN2010 Congress President Professor Ho Yung LEE and the Korean Society of Nephrology, the 12th APCN promises an outstanding scientific program which will provide a comprehensive coverage of topics in both clinical and basic nephrology. The plenary lectures and symposia will be complemented and enriched by free communications and poster presentations.

To encourage participation and quality presentations, the APSN and APCN2010 Organizing Committee have established a number of Best Abstract Awards and Travel Grants. The Best Abstract Awards will be chosen amongst the submitted abstracts, while APSN members are eligible to apply for the Travel Grants through the APCN2010 Secretariat.

Incidentally Seoul has also been designated as the ‘World Design Capital’ in 2010. The 12th APCN thus presents an opportunity for the nephrology community to gather together to learn about the advances in nephrology and to experience both traditional and contemporary Korean culture.

3. World Congress of Nephrology 2013
Hong Kong, China

I am pleased to inform members that the APSN has come to an agreement with the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (HKSN) with regard to the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) in 2013. This important ISN event will be hosted by the HKSN, in collaboration with APSN. The three societies will work closely together in the coming four years to ensure that the WCN in 2013 will be a great success in promoting the science, clinical service, public awareness, international collaboration, and fraternity in nephrology.

4. 13th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology

The 13th APCN will be held in 2015, two years after the WCN in Hong Kong. Member societies interested in hosting the 13th APCN should start their preparations. Invitation for bidding will be announced in November 2009.

5. Support to the AFCKDI, CME, and Educational Activities

Under the leadership of Prof Hung-Chun Chen, Prof Yuh-Feng Lin, and Prof Yusuke Tsukamoto, the 3rd meeting of the Asian Forum of Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative (AFCKDI) was successfully held from 18th to 19th April 2009, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The APSN is working in close partnership with the AFCKDI group in promoting the knowledge, prevention, and intervention for chronic kidney diseases.

The APSN has also lent its support to the 11th National Convention and International CME Conference of the Bangladesh Renal Association in March 2009, and has participated in the promotion of the World Kidney Day on 15th March and the World Hypertension Day on 17th May 2009.

6. APSN Website and APSN Membership Drive

Up-to-date information on the APSN is available from the society website at http://www.apsneph.org, thanks to Prof Peter Kerr who oversees the day-to-day administration of the website.

The APSN Membership Drive campaign is still on. For residents in Asian-Pacific countries, their subscription fee for ordinary membership will be waived until 31st May, 2010. I still urge you to join as Life-Members, which is definitely better value for money in the long run. Membership application is available from the APSN website at http://www.apsneph.org.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all APSN members, members of the APSN Council, and members of the APSN Executive Committee for their support and valuable advice. Please feel free to send me an email if you have any comments or suggestions for your Society.

With best wishes

Prof Daniel Tak Mao CHAN
APSN President