Recent News and Events

Interhospital Rheumatology Meetings

9 December 2008
Use of Biologics --- Update on safety and precautions
Dr Yu Ka Lung, Carrel
Fellow’s Section: A case of severe Wegener's Granulomatosis
Dr Lee Tze Yan

13 January 2009
Drug related pulmonary problems in rheumatoid arthritis
Dr Lam Chi Kwai
Fellow’s Section: Updating TB Screening Guidelines
A Prof. Tam Lai Shan

10 February 2009
Diet and nutrition for rheumatic disease
Dr Chung Ho Yin
Fellow’s Section: A lady with ankle pain, complex regional pain syndrome
Dr Liu Ho Ming

10 March 2009
Evidence based efficacy of acupuncture in treatment of musculoskeletal pain
Dr Wong Pui Yan, Stella

Fellow’s Section: Patient education in chronic arthritis
Dr Leung Ying Ying
Mr Peter Poon (Director of CRN)

14 April 2009
Behcet’s Disease: What’s new
Dr Young Kit Yu, Joyce
Fellow’s Section: Behcet’s syndrome v.s. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Dr Lee Man Yee, Jolly

12 May 2009
Risk of liver toxicity in using methotrexate in psoriatic arthritis
Dr Cheung, Tommy
Fellow’s Section: A tale of two cities, lung granulomatous lesion
Dr Lee Kwock Fai, Tony

16 June 2009
Management of Avascular Necrosis
Dr Chow Ho Ying, Winnie
A surprise in daily rheumatology practice. Atypical mycobacterium infection
Dr Chau Sau Yee, Lucia

Hong Kong 2010 Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) Congress

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 14th Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) Congress, which will be held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 11 to 15 July 2010.

The biennial APLAR Congress is the premiere educational event in rheumatology in the Asia Pacific region. We envisage that the 2010 APLAR Congress will attract broad interest as many new treatment modalities have become available for inflammatory arthritis and connective tissue disease. The meeting will concentrate on new insights on pathogenesis and therapeutics of rheumatology and related sub-specialties. Internationally recognized keynote speakers will discuss recent advances in arthritis care and selected abstracts will be presented. Concurrent symposia on rehabilitation and nursing care for arthritis patients will be held during the Hong Kong Congress. Members of the allied health professionals, including nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, will discuss new development in the treatment and care of patients suffering from rheumatic disease.

Please mark your diary for this Congress. You will find up-to-date information in the Hong Kong 2010 APLAR Congress website: www.aplar2010.com. We look forward to welcoming you in 2010.

Dr. TH Chan
Chairman, Organizing Committee
15 January 2009
Title: The Nursing role in the use of anti-TNF therapy
Speaker: Ms Susan Oliver
Chief Nurse Advisor the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS), UK
Chairman: Dr Gavin KW Lee
Venue: Lecture Theatre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital

19 February 2009
Title: Updated evidence-based management of arthritis
-- an occupational therapist perspective
Speaker: Dr. Alison Hammond
Reader, Centre for Rehabilitation & Human Performance Research,
Brian Blatchford Building, UK
Chairman: Dr Helen Chan
Venue: Intercontinental Hong Kong Hotel
Sponsor: Wyeth

30 April 2009
Title: Remission Possible? The New Era of Managing Inflammatory Arthritis
Speaker: Prof. Bernard Combe
Head, Immuno-Rheumatology Division, Montpellier University Hospital,
Montpellier, France
Chairman: Dr YY Leung
Venue: Intercontinental Hong Kong Hotel
Sponsor: Wyeth
15 May 2009
Co-organized with Hong Kong Society for Immunology
Title: Autoantibodies and the interface between autoimmunity and cell biology
Speaker: Prof. Edward KL Chan
UF Research Foundation (UFRF), Department of Oral Biology, Health Science Center
University of Florida, USA
Chairman: Dr Danny Leung
Venue: Lecture Theatre N002, Block N, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Sponsor: Onwon Trading Ltd.

22 May 2009
Title: Chronic pain Coexisting with Rheumatologic Disease
Speaker: Prof. Ernest Ho Sing Choy
Head of Therapeutic Rheumatology, Academic Department of Rheumatology
Guy’s, King’s College and St Thomas Hospitals School of Medicine
King’s College London
Chairman: Dr CC Mok
Venue: Langham Place Hotel, Mongkok
Sponsor: Pfizer

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Chinese Rheumatology Association, Shantong, May 2009
The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Chinese Rheumatology Association was held at the Jinan Nanjiao Hotel, Jinan, Shantong. There were more than 1,000 participants. Three rheumatologists from Hong Kong attended this meeting. Dr. MY Mok and Dr. LS Tam had delivered talks and Dr. TH Chan chaired in this meeting on behalf of the Hong Kong Society of Rheumatology. A wide range of topics was covered in this three-days meeting. This included accelerated atherosclerosis in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA), genetics of ankylosing spondylitis (AS), RA and SLE, laboratory works on the pathogenesis of various autoimmune diseases, clinical management of refractory SLE, and clinical trials in SLE, RA and AS. The standard of the presentation was high and this meeting has provided opportunities for Hong Kong and mainland investigators to exchange their research ideas and initiate collaborative works.

Dr. LS Tam
Recent News and Events

**News of the Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation (HKARF)**

The year 2009 has proven to be a difficult year for charitable organizations to solicit donation because of the financial turmoil, and Hong Kong Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation (HKARF) is no exception. However, we have been fortunate to have the support of some benevolent organizations. Among them is the Hong Kong SARS Philharmonic. We held a very successful fund raising concert on Easter Sunday this year to raise fund for our upcoming peer-counselling program. Over one thousand participants enjoyed the performance of the Philharmonic musicians from all walks of life in Hong Kong.

Apart from the ongoing services, e.g. hydrotherapy classes and financial subsidies for arthritis patients with financial hardships, we had organized a peer-counselling technique training course during the first quarter of 2009. Over twenty volunteers participated in a series of course lectures, which were given by Prof. Peter Lee and his colleagues at the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Hong Kong. Participants of this course will form a core group of peer-counselors when the Foundation rolls out a new arthritis patients support hotline later this year.

Doctors and allied health professionals of the Foundation continued to deliver public educational talks on various rheumatic diseases in different community organizations. HKARF will celebrate the International Arthritis Day (IAD) on 11 October 2009. Members of the Education Committee are working hard for a revamp of the diseases and medications information leaflets. A brand new version of the leaflets will be available for download from the Foundation's website in a few months' time. We hope that both doctors and patients will make use of this new service to improve the care of arthritis patients.

The Scientific Committee published its first issue of CHARMN – a newsletter for professionals looking after patients with rheumatic disease. The Committee is currently inviting applications for the HKARF Research Grant and the HKSR/HKARF Scholarship for rheumatology trainees. Interested professionals may find instructions for applications on the Foundation website (www.hkarf.org).

Dr. TH Chan
Vice-chairman, Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation