

## **REPORT ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE ASIAN AND OCEANIAN MYOLOGY CENTER, MELBOURNE 2008.**

The Asian and Oceanian Myology Center (AOMC) was inaugurated in Tokyo in January 2001. It was intended that the AOMC be modelled on the European Neuromuscular Centre with its main aims being to promote basic and clinical scientific research, to provide a scientific forum to advance and distribute knowledge for the benefit of patients, to provide educational opportunities for young investigators and clinicians and to promote the achievement of standards in clinical practice in the field of myology and other neuromuscular disorders in the Asian and Oceanian region.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting of the (AOMC) was held in Melbourne, Australia on November 13 & 14, 2008, in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual IVIg in Neurological Disease Asia Pacific Symposium. The meeting was held at the Langham Hotel, Melbourne and was organised by Prof Andrew Kornberg Chairman AOMC Scientific Committee 2008 and AOMC Executive Board member and Boris M Struk and their colleagues. It was attended by 150 delegates from 9 countries in the Asian and Oceanian region, together with 19 invited speakers and faculty from Australia, Japan, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The plenary lectures were “Advances in the genetics of muscle disease” given by Professor Kathryn North from Sydney and “Immunotherapy of Immune-mediated Neuropathies” given by Professor Marinus Dalakas from London. Four symposia were held during the meeting. The first was An Update on Myopathies/Muscular Dystrophies. It was opened by Professor Catriona Maclean who gave an overview of the pathology. The following presentations were then given, Dr Woon Chee Yee on the Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophies, Professor Andrew Kornberg on Metabolic Myopathies and Professor Nigel Laing on Congenital Myopathies. The second symposium dealt with the treatment of Inherited Myopathies and was opened by Professor Phillipa Lamont who gave an overview of treatment. This was followed by presentations given by Dr Ichizo Nishino on the treatment of Metabolic Myopathies, Professor S Wilton on Genetic Treatments for the Muscular Dystrophies and Dr Shireen Lamande on Advances in the treatment of Collagen 6 Disorders. The third symposium was on the Acquired Myopathies and it was opened by Professor Andrew Kornberg who gave a lecture on Guillain-Barré syndrome. Professor John Pollard spoke on CIDP, Professor Bruce Taylor on Multifocal Motor Neuropathy and this was followed by a presentation from Professor T Umapathi on Skin biopsy in the evaluation of Peripheral

Neuropathy. The topic of the fourth symposium was Genetic Neuropathies. Dr Desiree du Sart spoke on the new techniques for the diagnosis of Inherited Neuropathies, Dr Marina Kennerson on advances in CMT Genetics, Professor Robert Ouvrier on Advances in Paediatric Neuropathies and Dr Monique Ryan's topic was SMA and Motor Neuropathies.

At Lunch time Mr. Boris Struk, the Executive Director of MDA spoke of the cost of Muscular Dystrophy. A Clinicopathological Conference was held and 38 posters were presented.

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The eighth AOMC annual scientific meeting was held in Mumbai in May 2009. Further information on AOMC and future meetings may be obtained by visiting the following web site [www.aomc.info](http://www.aomc.info)