

Editorial



APSP 2022: looking beyond periodontology to the digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region

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Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

The Asian Pacific Society of Periodontology (APSP), a non-profit organization for the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge related to periodontal and implant research and education in the Asia-Pacific region, has been holding academic meetings every 2 years since the 1995 meeting in the Gold Coast, Australia. Accordingly, the 14th meeting, which was delayed for a year due to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic that has changed our lives for the past several years, was finally held from August 29 to 30, 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 430 international participants from 17 countries, including country representatives from the Asia-Pacific region as well as executives and local organizing committees of the Thailand Association of Periodontology, were thrilled at this reunion festival, which was held for the first time in 3 years, and said the following.

“It has been a long journey, we are finally here.”

“The Long Journey” is also the name of the work for which the Danish author Johannes V. Jensen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1944. Even without mentioning this novel, which reconstructed human history from the beginning of mankind to the discovery of the Americas and reflected the author’s perspectives based on the theory of evolution, we could understand the difficulties that the international community has faced over a long period of time, and this was a phrase of sincere welcome to each other at the end of the tunnel.

In order to overcome the loss of international academic exchanges, this meeting was held under the theme of periodontal innovations and solutions for the 21st century. The latest cell sheet engineering technology, mRNA-based therapeutics for periodontal regeneration, and various cutting-edge surgical techniques for periodontal reconstruction were introduced. In addition, a discussion on the application of digital technology—an unavoidable topic in dentistry in recent years—was held, and the latest trends in the non-invasive analysis of soft tissue data in 3-dimensional virtual models were reviewed.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the conference were held in a touch screen mode, live lectures by speakers from all over the world were conducted in a hybrid format, demonstrating that APSP is actively embracing and leading the way in rapidly evolving digital technologies.

Based on this shared periodontal expertise, we look forward to the advancement of dentistry in the Asia-Pacific region, which accounts for more than 60% of the world's population, as members of a group leading the digital era beyond simply improving oral health. It's time to go one step further on this long journey.