Dear Members and Colleagues,

It is with honor and excitement to begin 2011 – the year of the Rabbit – with the first FIMSA e-newsletter. First, I want to share with you our continual commitment to our mission of promoting collaboration and interaction between national immunological societies, and facilitate the exchange of scientific information and personnel. The current active 12 member countries of FIMSA are Australia and New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand with Bangladesh, CIS, and Russia holding observership status. One of our goals this year is to expand FIMSA membership by inviting Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia. If anyone has contact information of the representatives of these countries, please let me know.
are Australia and New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand with Bangladesh, CIS, and Russia holding observership status. One of our goals this year is to expand FIMSA membership by inviting Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia. If anyone has contact information of the representatives of these countries, please let me know.

In this issue of e-newsletter, Nicholas King, the current President of FIMSA, welcomes members with an introductory message and provides his vision for this upcoming year. As well, Narinder Mehra, the President of FIMSA Congress 2012, follows with a brief chronicle of history of FIMSA. Lastly, Dr. Chia-Li Yu of National Taiwan University details about the ‘Growth with FIMSA - The Taiwan experience’. These messages serve to remind us about past challenges and achievements at FIMSA, and how we can continue to advance our mission.

In all, I hope this e-newsletter will bring old and new members of Asia-Oceania closer together in this upcoming year. Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Gregory J Tsay
its inauguration at the Adelaide conference in 1992.

While each of us are in our separate countries, at each level wrestling with particular research problems and trying to win community hearts and, through this, more money for crucial research, I believe this newsletter has the potential to make us feel as if we are more part of one community. As one community, more collaboration and more exchange will be among just a few of the inevitable positive outcomes. In short, beginning this newsletter is taking the next step in the original idea for our regional federation.

It is due in no small part to the considerable efforts of Greg Tsay, our tireless FIMSA secretary, that this is occurring. But without the contributions of individuals from their respective immunological societies, this could not happen, either. Thus, if there are individuals in the individual societies who feel moved to write a constructive article for the regional newsletter, please feel welcome to do so.

In February 1992, a ‘Planning Meeting’ was convened in New Delhi with the primary objective of formalizing the Federation and it was attended by representatives of six societies that included Roland Scollay (Australia), Wei Feng Chen (Beijing, China), Stitaya Sirisinha (Thailand), Chung Ming Chang (Taipei, R.O.C.) besides Tomio Tada (Japan), Indian representatives and Jacob Natvig (IUIS). Prof. G.P. Talwar (India) was asked unanimously to be the first President of FIMSA while I had the Privilege to be the ‘Founder Secretary-General’, a position that I held for two terms until January 2000.

This is your newsletter. It is about positive communication between us.

Best wishes,

Nicholas King

Members and Travel Awardees
Presentation of FIMSA Travel Bursaries:
All the ten awardees and the councilors joined the council meeting and enjoyed the lunch party.

President: Nicholas King  
Secretary-General: Gregory Tsay  
Treasurer: Shigeo Koyasu  
Vice President: Xuetao Cao  
Councillors: Pak Leong Lim  
Nageshwar Rao  
Guna Karupiah  
Yosuke Takahama  
Surasakdi Wongratanacheewin

And ten awardees of the FIMSA Travel Bursaries

Awardee
1. Pornpimon Angkasekwinai/R’t 4
2. Queenie Lai Kwan LAM/ R’t 2
3. Shing-Jia Shieh/R’t 3
4. Alexandra Rizzitelli/R’t 7
5. Di Yu/R’t 9
6. DOMINIQUE GATTO/R’t 8
7. Sarah Oracki/R’t 10
8. Maryam Azlan/R’t 6
9. Socorro Miranda-Hernandez/R’t 5
10. Rachael Louise Terry/ R’t 1

FIMSA officers and Councilors:
President: Nicholas King (Australia and New Zealand)-R’t-6  
Secretary-General: Gregory Tsay (SI located in Taipei)-R’t 8  
Treasurer: Shigeo Koyasu (Japan)-R’t 1  
Vice President: Xuetao Cao (Chinese SI)-R’t 4  
Councillors: Pak Leong Lim (Hong Kong)-R’t 3  
Surasakdi Wongratanacheewin (Thailand)-R’t 2  
Students and Councillors
The science of Immunology is truly multidisciplinary and multifaceted with an impressive array of topics that have an overriding influence in Biology and Medicine. Although the first Nobel Prize in the field of Immunology was claimed in 1901 by Emil Adolf von Behring for his work on serum therapy, especially its application against diphtheria, a full understanding of the cellular network and crosstalk between various immunologically relevant cell types was realized much later. The international union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), the driving force behind improving the promotion and understanding of immunology held its First International Congress in August 1971 in Washington, D.C, USA. Four decades later, the union has conducted fourteen such congresses in different regions of the world while the 15th and 16th are planned respectively for Rome in 2013 and Melbourne in 2016. All through these years, IUIS has worked admirably to achieve its fundamental goal for the advancement of Immunology in various regions and areas of the world. The union already has as its full members, more than 50 Immunology societies representing countries in six continents. The union has also done reasonably well in fostering biomedical research in Immunology throughout and has promoted the establishment of regional Federations which in turn have proved useful for maximizing the available resources and promoting career development of young immunologists. Presently, the IUIS has four
in various regions and areas of the world. The union already has as its full members, more than 50 Immunology societies representing countries in six continents. The union has also done reasonably well in fostering biomedical research in Immunology through out-reach programs and has promoted the establishment of regional Federations which in turn have proved useful for maximizing the available resources and promoting career development of young immunologists. Presently, the IUIS has four regional Federations under its umbrella, each one committed to the promotion and advancement of Immunology in their respective regions. These include the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), Latin American Federation (ALAI), African Federation (FAIS) and a Federation in the Asia-Oceania region (FIMSA).

With regards to the Asia-Oceania region there are some interesting statistics that are relevant in the context of the promotion of science in general and Immunology in particular. While 94% of all scientists in the world live and work in the developed or industrialized world, only 6% of the world’s scientists live and work in the developing countries. Although Asia represents nearly two-third of the world population, only a very small minority of scientists (with the exception of Japan) from the Asian Countries are represented in global science meetings. The scientific literature is often full of lead papers from scientists from Europe, North America, Japan and Australia with a very negligible representation from those in Asian countries. In the IUIS, while 80-85% of the total nearly 40,000 IUIS members come from the Western Countries, only about 15% are derived from Asian countries, of which the majority is from Japan alone. Currently the situation seems to be changing for the better as was evident by the relatively larger participation from Asian countries at the recently concluded Immunology meeting in Kobe, Japan, August 2010.

An important and noteworthy feature of the Asia-Oceania region is its extraordinary heterogeneity. Besides the large size of the region, the distances involved are important factors. Scientists in the region have often found it difficult to interact with their counterparts in the West. Thus for a long time, it was felt that if the national immunology societies of the Asia-Oceania region countries could come together to form a joint forum and function from a common platform, the quantum and progress of the united effort could get augmented leading to the promotion of Immunology through an interdisciplinary approach.
Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA) Brief History

The Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA) was formally established in February 1992 in New Delhi with the fundamental goal of promoting communication and collaboration between immunologists in the region, organizing training courses, workshops and other educational programmes in all areas of Immunology and supporting exchange of scientists in the overall interest of the advancement of this science in the region. Foundations for such a united body were indeed laid much earlier. In 1990, I became the Secretary of the Indian Immunology Society for a two year term. This was a critical period since the society bid for holding the 10th International Immunology Congress had to be prepared and more importantly presented to the IUIS for a favorable outcome. I had very little idea about the IUIS affairs, much less of the role of its regional federations. I later learnt that although there were Federations established in Europe and Latin America, there was actually none representing Immunology Societies in Asia-Oceania and the African continents. A chance discussion in our Executive meeting convinced us of the need for establishing a Federation of Immunology Societies of Asia-Oceania. In fact, we felt that such a federation would be advantageous for the 1998 Immunology Congress for which we were seriously preparing a bid document and were quite hopeful, thanks to the fame and efforts of Prof. Pran Talwar, widely regarded as the ‘Father of Immunology’ in India.

As Secretary of the Society, I took the initiative of contacting fellow society heads in countries in the region, convincing them of the need to have a regional federation. By end of 1990, an ad-hoc body under the name, Asia-Oceania Federation of Immunological Societies (AOFIS) was established with active support from all member societies and IUIS in particular. Prof. Jacob Natvig, the then president of the IUIS played a key role in making this Federation a reality. Jacob invited me to the IUIS council meeting in Edinburgh (UK) in September 1990 to present the concept of the proposed Federation and this was further discussed by the council the following year in Helsinki in June 1991. During this period Jacob and I visited a number of countries in the region, meeting society heads towards the creation of an Asia-Oceania Federation. I was witness to the tremendous enthusiasm and sincerity of purpose that Jacob displayed and naturally the infection got passed on to me and like him, I got passionately involved with the cause as if this was the only purpose I had at that time. In the process, we received huge support...
this was further discussed by the council the following year in Helsinki in June 1991. During this period Jacob and I visited a number of countries in the region, meeting society heads towards the creation of an Asia-Oceania Federation. I was witness to the tremendous enthusiasm and sincerity of purpose that Jacob displayed and naturally the infection got passed on to me and like him, I got passionately involved with the cause as if this was the only purpose I had at that time. In the process, we received huge support from Prof. Sir Gustav Nossal (Australia) and Prof. Tomio Tada (Japan), both of whom were a great source of inspiration during these initial years. Sadly enough, we lost Tomio Tada on April 18, 2010 after a brief illness. Tomio was indeed a ‘jewel’ in the field of Immunology, not just for us in the Asia-Oceania region but the world over.

Fig1. Sir Gustav Nossal (L) and Jacob Natvig (R) provided immense support and encouragement towards the establishment of FIMSA.

Immunology Network in Asia-Oceania Brief History of FIMSA (III)

Narinder Mehra

In February 1992, a ‘Planning Meeting’ was convened in New Delhi with the primary objective of formalizing the Federation and it was attended by representatives of six societies that included Roland Scollay (Australia), Wei Feng Chen (Beijing, China), Stitaya Sirisinha (Thailand), Chung Ming Chang (Taipei, R.O.C.) besides Tomio Tada (Japan), Indian representatives and Jacob Natvig (IUIS). Prof. G.P. Talwar (India) was asked unanimously to be the first President of FIMSA while I had the Privilege to be the ‘Founder Secretary-General’, a position that I held for two terms until January 2000.

Fig2. Participants at the ‘Planning Meeting’ for the establishment of FIMSA in New Delhi in February 1992. L to R: Wei Feng Chen (China), Roland Scollay (Australia), Narinder Mehra (India), Pran Talwar (India), Tomio Tada (Japan), Stitaya Sirisinha (Thailand) and Chung Ming Chang (Taiwan, R.O.C)
Subsequently, the Presidency of FIMSA has been served with distinction by Roland Scollay, Australia (July 1995 to Dec 1996), Takehiko Sasazuki, Japan (Jan 1997 to Jan 2000), Stitiya Sirisinha, Thailand (Jan 2000 to Apr 2005), Kiyoshi Takatsu, Japan (Apr 2005 to Oct 2008) and Nicholas King, Australia (Oct 2008 continuing). The crucial position of the Treasurer was occupied first by Chung Ming Chang, Taipei (Feb 1992 to July 1995) who provided the much needed initial stability. Later Chia Li Yu, Taipei (July 1995 to June 1998), Masayuki Miyasaka, Japan (June 1998 to end 1999 and Jan 2000 to Oct 2008) and Shigeo Koyasu, Japan (Oct 2008 continuing) have served the Federation as Treasurers with distinction. Following my tenure as Secretary General, FIMSA has had very eminent persons to the position of Secretary General. These include Lindsay Dent, Australia (Jan 2000-Apr 2005), Sansanee Chaiyaroj, Thailand (Apr 2005 to Oct 2008) and Gregory Tsay, Taipei (Oct 2008 continuing). Also, Wei Feng Chen (Beijing, China), Stitaya Sirisinha (Thailand), Tai You Ha (Korea), Narinder Mehra (India), Sansanee Chaiyaroj (Thailand), Xuetao Cao (China) have served as Vice Presidents of the Federation for varying periods.

At present, the Federation is composed of 12 member societies each recognized by and affiliated to the IUIS. These are: Australian Society for Immunology, Chinese Society for Immunology, Indian Immunology Society, Japanese Society for Immunology, Korean Association of Immunologists, Society for Immunology located in Taipei, Thai Society for Immunology and Allergy, Hong Kong Society for Immunology, Iranian Society of Immunology, Singapore Society for Immunology, Sri Lankan Society for Immunology and Society for Immunology in Papua, New Guinea. In addition, the Immunology Societies in Bangladesh, CIS and Russia have the ‘Observer’ status pending their fulfillment of the IUIS criteria to become full members. Some societies like that in Russia and Israel also are ‘Observers’ of this Federation because of their geographic location in Asia. We do hope that in due course of time, immunology societies or research groups will be established in several other countries in the region including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Pakistan. Such a network will provide an increasing ability to the understanding of biomedical issues in Asian countries and develop thrust areas in Biotechnology and Immunology.

Objectives and Purpose
FIMSA is constituted to foster the development of Immunology in the region. To this purpose, the Federation promotes close contact and interaction between immunological societies of the Asia-Oceania region and facilitates the exchange of scientific information and personnel. The Federation is a non-profit organization and its activities are consistent with the statutes of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS). Its specific objectives are as follows:

i) To promote communication and collaboration between Immunologists in the region.

ii) To organize workshops and conferences in the field of immunology.

iii) To conduct educational programmes, training courses and promotes exchange of scientists in the overall interest of the advancement of Immunology in the region.

iv) To facilitate the exchange of technologies and reagent within the region.

v) To support the publication of journals monographs etc.

vi) To do all such things that are incidental and conducive to the attainment of above aims and objectives.

### Immunology Network in Asia-Oceania Brief History of FIMSA (IV)

Narinder Mehra

**FIMSA Congresses**

The Federation has taken several steps to activate interaction between immunologists in the region by promoting basic and advanced training courses for Post-doctoral and midcareer scientists and by organizing international congresses in several countries at regular intervals. The historic inaugural FIMSA congress was successfully accomplished during December 1996 in Adelaide, Australia with Lindsay Dent as the Organizing Chair. The second FIMSA Congress was organized by Stitaya Sirisinha and his team of dedicated workers in Bangkok, Thailand, January 23-27, 2000. Prof. Wei Feng Chen was the driving force behind the 3rd FIMSA Congress of Immunology held in Hangzhou, China in April 2005 while the 4th FIMSA congress was organized in Taipei, (Oct 17-21, 2008) under the dynamic leadership of Gregory Tsay and his colleagues. The 5th Congress is planned for March 14-17, 2012 in New Delhi.
colleagues. The 5th Congress in the series is planned for March 14-17, 2012 in New Delhi under the theme, ‘Translational Immunology in Health and Disease’.

Since the Federation came into existence, the region has already hosted two IUIS International Congresses of Immunology – 10th congress in New Delhi, India (Nov 1-6, 1998) and 14th congress in Kobe, Japan (Aug 22-27, 2010). The region will organize the 16th Congress in the series in the vibrant city of Melbourne in 2016. Thus, the Federation is well on its way towards achieving its goals and has contributed actively in the growth of Immunology in the Asia-Oceania region.

Fig3. Group photograph of FIMSA officers and congress organizers taken during the 1st FIMSA Congress of Immunology in Adelaide, Australia, December 1996. Dr. Lindsay Dent who organized the congress and later took over as Secretary General of the Federation is seen (Circle) in the last row.

Training Courses

A major activity of the Federation is to provide educational opportunities to early career immunologists and to foster international cooperation in the region by sponsoring major advanced training courses. These courses are intended to be interactive with high level of scientific intensity and emphasis on technical advancements and immunological research. The course participants represent a broad range of background and each course has a specific focus depending on the regional needs and requirements.

The Federation has already conducted ten formal training courses: i) Brisbane, Australia, October 9-15, 1994 (Course Convenor: Prof. Ian Frazer) which had almost 40 participants, five of whom were sponsored by FIMSA and IUIS, ii) Beijing, China in October 21-27, 1996 (Course Convenor: Prof. Wei Feng Chen) which had a total of 133 participants, ten of whom were sponsored by FIMSA, iii) Hong Kong, June 21-26, 1998 (Course Convenors: Drs. Davina Opstelten and Pak Leong Lim) with 115 participants including thirty two that came from 10 countries outside of Hong Kong, iv) New Delhi, India, March 5-9, 2001 (Course Convenor: Prof. Narinder Mehra) with 102 participants from 12 countries. v) Taipei, Taiwan R.O.C, Sep 23-28, 2001 (Course Director: Prof. Gregory Tsay) with more than 100 participants including those from mainland China, Hongkong and several Asian countries. vi) Ayutthya, Thailand, Oct 20–25, 2002 (Course Chairs: Stitaya Sirisinha, Sansanee Chaiyaroj) with 175
delegates from 32 institutes. vii) Adelaide, Australia, Dec 7-10, 2004 (Course Director: Lindsay Dent) with 107 delegates from 12 countries. viii) New Delhi, India, March 1-5, 2006 (Course Director: Prof. Narinder Mehra) with 121 delegates from 13 countries. ix) Jesu Island, Korea, Feb 1-4, 2007 (Organizers: Korean Association of Immunologists), x) Tangalooma Island, Australia, Dec 3-6, 2009 (Course Director: Simon Apte). Through these educational courses, the Federation achieved its basic objective of providing an interactive platform to the young researchers representing varying background of culture and social base leading to the establishment of a workable network for research and training in Immunology in the Asia-Oceania region countries.

Over the years, the FIMSA courses have become extremely popular which is evident from the large number of excellent applications received and the organizers often have had to accommodate much more number of students than planned. The course faculty has been carefully selected so as to provide a broad perspective of Immunology in all its facets to the participants. Towards this effort, the contribution of the Europeans Federation of Immunology (EFIS) by providing speaker support is commendable, thus setting a healthy trend of a functional inter-Federation cooperation. Further, the teaching faculty support independently provided by the Japanese Society of Immunology (JSI) and the Australian Society of Immunology (ASI) has been of great value.

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to thank a large number of colleagues and eminent Immunologists of the region for their selfless service towards achieving the objectives of FIMSA. Space constraints do not permit me to name them individually but their contributions have been enormous and praiseworthy. I would like to pay my utmost regards to Jacob Natvig for providing the initial momentum from the IUIS and to the three stalwart immunologists of the region Late Tomio Tada (Japan), Gustav Nossal (Australia) and Pran Talwar (India) for their notable efforts towards realization of the Federation in the Asia-Oceania region. The support and encouragement provided by the Indian Immunology Society to me personally is gratefully acknowledged.

Subject: Growth with FIMSA--The Taiwan Experience
At the end of 1991, Professor Chung-Ming Chang, the President of the Taiwan Immunology Society at that time, called and said that the “Planning Meeting and a concomitant Immunology Symposium for Asian Association of Immunology Societies” will be held the following February in New Delhi, India. Soon after, I also received a formal letter of invitation from Professor Narinder Mehra, the tentative Secretary General of the preparatory office of the Association. It was really a great opportunity for our society to become the council and also a funding member of this forthcoming Asian International Immunology Association. Another important event was that President Chang and I would prepare scientific papers to present in the concomitant “Immunology Symposium.” The letter mentioned that the delegates from the invited nations were obligated to submit papers representative of each society’s research directions in order to foster mutual understanding.

India, an ancient glorious civilization, is one of my favorite nations in the world. I remember in 1986, I had the opportunity to attend the EULAR (European League Against Rheumatism) Congress in Athens, Greece. I was astonished by the elegant European culture, great architecture, arts and unique landscape. For a moment, I had a naïve thought that the next country I visit would be this mysterious country, India. I was deeply attracted to its culture, people and landscape which are quite different from Europe, Asia and my hometown. However, this dream was deferred for almost 5 years. During this time, I traveled to different countries but did not have an opportunity to visit this Asian sub-continent. In 1992 my dream suddenly came true after receiving the letter from Professor Narinder Mehra of the All Indian Institute of Medical Science in New Delhi, India.

Taiwan Immunology Society is one of the academic societies supported by Academia Sinica, Taiwan in the aspect of international relationship. The President and Secretary General may apply for a budget to attend international immunological meetings. The official name of the Taiwan Immunology Society registered in the International Union of Immunology Societies (IUIS) is a perplexing one: “Immunology Society located in Taipei.” As a result, Taiwan appears to be a city in Taiwan.
“Immunology Society located in Taipei.” This strange name intentionally denies Taiwan its sense of national sovereignty and simply uses the name of the nation’s capital. In fact, it is a political name, a product of a compromise that was reached after many years of negotiations with the Chinese Immunology Society under the arrangement of IUIS. The delegates from both the Taiwan National Science Council and the Chinese Academic Sciences negotiated under the supervision of the Vice President of IUIS over many years. Finally, we abandoned the name “Taiwan” and the capital “Taipei” appeared in the official name, similar to the political name used for the Olympics. It seems not fair for our society.

During the “Planning Meeting” of the Federation of Immunological Societies in Asian-Oceania (FIMSA) in New Delhi in February 1992, President Chang and I were quite proud because our society formally became the Council and funding national member of this international immunology association in the Asian-Pacific region. Professors Talwar and Mehra acted as the chairman and Secretary General of this Administrative Meeting and Immunology Symposium. In my memory, not many national delegates attended the “Planning Meeting” although there are more than 30 countries around this expansive region. The delegates from India, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, China, Israel and the Vice President of IUIS attended the meeting in order to discuss the aims of FIMSA and the strategy to promote the exchange of scientific information among the Asian-Oceania region. During these four days, we discussed amicably the strengths and weaknesses of the individual societies. The major discussion point focused on solving the problem that most countries did not have an organized national immunology society. Professor Tomio Tada from Japan agreed to help these countries develop a national immunology association in the third world. Another important issue was to determine the official name of this regional immunology association. Many different names were proposed by the delegates and Planning office, such as “Asian Immunology Association,” “Asian-Pacific Association of Immunology,” or similar names like these. A delegate from India strongly recommended the name “Federation of Immunological Societies in Asian-Oceania,” abbreviated as FIMSA, because it is simple to pronounce and easy to remember. In addition, the name is different from the other regional immunology associations in Europe or America. Finally, all of the delegates agreed on “FIMSA” as our official name.
Unfortunately, an unhappy incident occurred after two days of working harmoniously together. It was the long-term political argument between Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China: the one China policy. In my personal opinion, it is just a politician's agenda that has nothing to do with science. In the original consensus, Professor Talwar, the President elect of FIMSA, anticipated both President Chung-Ming Chang of Taiwan and Professor Wei-Fong Chen of China to be the Vice Presidents of FIMSA once the Association formally started to run. Unexpectedly, Professor Chen proposed that Taiwan’s society should be under the supervision of the Chinese chapter. It was obviously a serious violation against the previous agreement of the IUIS negotiation. The IUIS Vice President, a Professor from Norway, is really an honorable gentleman. He promptly rejected this unjust proposal and asked Professor Chen to a corner for further negotiations. Because of the unpleasant atmosphere at that moment, Chung-Ming quickly joined the negotiation and tried to resolve the conflict. He proposed to give up the Vice Presidency of FIMSA and instead, we voluntarily became the FIMSA treasurer. Thanks to God, the right of our society to remain an independent member in FIMSA was successfully upheld by the IUIS Vice President. The official “FIMSA Treasurer” position was kept by our society until 1998 when I transferred the position to a Japanese delegate. During this period, we deeply appreciated the aims and objectives of FIMSA in promoting communication and the sharing of knowledge among the Asian-Oceania countries and with the entire world. It is obvious that less political fighting would be more beneficial to FIMSA.

Adelaide is a beautiful city built by German immigrants on the southeast coast of Australia. The 1st FIMSA Congress was organized by Professor Lindsay Dent of the Department of Immunology, University of Adelaide. A total of six rheumatologists/clinical immunologists, including myself attended the Congress from Taiwan and presented three scientific papers. Dr. Ning-sheng Lai, now a professor at Tzu-Chi University, won the young investigator award and was invited to present his paper in the special session.

At the Adelaide Congress, I met with Professor Tomio Tada quite often. I personally felt that he liked the entire atmosphere very much, such as the global city architecture, folk culture, the local lifestyle, art and historical museums, and harbor landscape. I saw him many times wandering through the convention centers, museum, botanic garden and the shopping areas. I had the opportunity to invite
him to attend the Taiwan Annual Joint Meeting of Immunology & Rheumatology in November of the following year. He expressed his enthusiasm for visiting Taipei, Taiwan in order to experience the traditional Oriental and multiple aboriginal cultures. We all miss Professor Tada who suddenly passed away on April 18, 2010. He was a pioneer consultant of FIMSA and the past President of IUIS. In addition to Professor Tada, I observed that Professor Sasazuki Takehiko from Kyushu University was also a key scientist in the Congress. He was recognized for his great achievements in basic immunogenetics. Not only immunologists in Australia but the entire FIMSA guests gave him a big hand for his plenary lecture.

The 2nd FIMSA Congress was organized by Professor Stitaya Sirisinha in Bangkok, Thailand in 2000. Around 200 basic and clinical immunologists from twenty countries participated. Professor Stitaya Sirisinha is my old friend of many years. He is an expert in the field of “infection and immunity” in Thailand. It was a very successful FIMSA academic festival for exchanging and promoting the development and achievements of immunology in the Asian-Oceania region.

As usual, Taiwan was present at the 3rd FIMSA Congress held in Beijing, China, hosted by Professor Chen. Unfortunately, I was absent for some reason. Our performance in the Congress remained active and positive for the improvement of immunological research.

After much effort, Taiwan finally hosted the 4th FIMSA Congress in Taipei in October 2008. Obviously, the Congress was a big successful immunological festival in FIMSA history. Professor Gregory Tsay, the current Secretary General of FIMSA, chaired the Scientific Committee. We invited many world-leading immunologists who not only inspired the participants but also brought an opportunity for young investigators to brainstorm new ideas. Through the FIMSA Congress, we anticipate that mutual communication will continue to accelerate the advancement of immunological research in the Asian-Oceania region.
I. UPCOMING EVENTS

i) The FIMSA Congress 2012 will be held in India on March 14-17, 2012.

ii) Advanced Immunology Courses will be held in Teheran Iran in May 2011.

iii) The JSI General Meeting and Symposium for Cutting Edge of Immunology - Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall, Tokyo, Japan on December 3, 2011.

iv) The 40th JSI Annual Meeting - Makuhari Messe, Chiba, Japan (from Yousuke Takahama, Japan) on November 27-29, 2011.

v) The Annual General Meeting of AISSL will be held on 10th February 2011 in Colombo.

II. NEWS

At the IUIS council meeting:

- Nicholas King, President of FIMSA, was elected as Treasurer of IUIS.

- Xuetao Cao, Vice-President of FIMSA, Franca Ronchese (New Zealand) and Shigeo Koyasu, Treasurer of FIMSA, were elected as Council members.

Gregory J. Tsay, Secretary General of FIMSA, was elected as President of Taiwan Rheumatology Association on January 9, 2011.

Milestone Agreement Between The New York Academy of Sciences and FIMSA

Gregory Tsay, Secretary General of FIMSA, and Douglas Braaten, Director and Executive Editor of NYAS met in Boston on Nov. 5, 2010 and agreed upon the following cooperation between the two organizations:

1. News and highlights of FIMSA scientific meetings will be published in Annals of the NYAS.

2. NYAS will support three US$500 FIMSA abstract awards:
   - Best Poster Abstract by a FIMSA student
   - Best Poster Abstract by an Indian FIMSA member
   - Best Oral Abstract
II. COMMUNICATION

Message from Dr. C. R. Ahsan, Bangladesh:

"I would like to convey this message to the Australian Society for Immunology (ASI) through your office. I am deeply shocked to see the news of the recent devastating flood in Queensland, Australia. This city hosted the 1st ASI/FIMSA/AMRAD Advanced Training Course in October, 1994, where I was one of the participants. This is a beautiful city with nice people. Many areas of my country also go through such big floods almost every year and we know how shocking the situation can be after the flood. I would like to send my heartfelt sympathy to the ASI and the Queensland people and hope they recover from the devastating effects of the flood soon."

-C. R. Ahsan, Ph.D. Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

News from Queenie Lam, Awardee of FIMSA travel 2010:

"I was very grateful to be rewarded the travel bursary by FIMSA to attend the 14th International Congress of Immunology (ICI) held in Kobe last summer to enjoy a fruitful journey to learn about cutting-edge research scientists from all over the world worked on. At the FIMSA award ceremony, I was honored to get to be able to meet the organizing committee members of FIMSA who are all world-renowned immunologists. I was moved by the sincere support they give out for green researchers like us the awardees. The FIMSA travel bursary has brought tremendous meaning to my research development. The valuable experience it has brought me will certainly benefit my ongoing research by enhancing my knowledge and the quality of my work, as well as promoting collaboration with other immunologists."

-Queenie Lam, Awardee of FIMSA travel 2010.
research by enhancing my knowledge and the quality of my work, as well as promoting collaboration with other immunologists.

- Queenie Lam, Awardee of FIMSA travel 2010.

FIMSA News(III)

Gregory J Tsay

News from Socorro Miranda-Hernandez, Awardee of FIMSA Travel 2010

“Scientific communication is the most important tool for the training of scientists and of course the continuous progress of science. International conferences are the greatest points of communication, and give us an overview of progress in this field. The opportunity for doctoral students to attend conferences such as this is a significant scientific support.

The travel award granted by FIMSA enabled me to attend the 14th International Congress for Immunology (ICI), where I noted that research advances every day around the world. The future of immunology is huge and increasing continually.

At this Congress, I contacted people on five continents and exchanged methods, technologies and ideas which motivated me to even greater effort in research. It also gave me the opportunity to resolve some of my doubts. They were also able to appreciate my research work more readily because even though is a small piece of immunology, it has a unique value when it is combined with the other
The travel award from FIMSA was a dream fulfilled for me as a professional in the field of immunology. It is an open door to my future as a professional, and it is a greater motivation for my performance as a student in immunological research.

I would like to say thank you to FIMSA for all the experience and exchange of knowledge gained from this conference.”

Gratefully,

Socorro Miranda-Hernandez

IV. JOBS


Government Policies in Science Position

Subject: Promotion for FIMSA 2012.

Gregory J Tsay

A booth for the FIMSA 2012 during the Kobe ICI, August, 2010.
FIMSA President:
Nicholas King (Australasian Society for Immunology)  Gregory Tsay (Society for Immunology located in Taipei)
Shigeo Koyasu (Japanese Society for Immunology)  Sansanee Chairyaroj (Thailand Society for Immunology)
Xuetoa Cao (Chinese Society for Immunology)

Editorial Board:
Gregory J Tsay, Yi-Ju Lee, Meng-Chi Chen, and Ming-Shiou Jan at Chung Shan Medical University.

Editorial Assistant:
Cheng-Fu Cheng