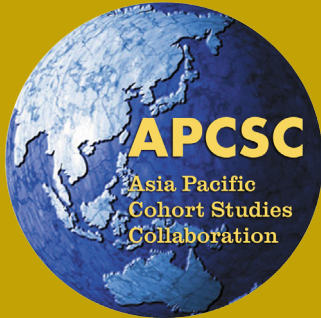


APCSC > Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration



Tackling Cardiovascular Disease in the Asia-Pacific

THE INCREASING BURDEN OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

The Asia-Pacific region has undergone rapid changes over the last 25 years, with increasing industrialisation, urbanisation and mechanization, plus dramatic economic, political and social changes that have had a direct impact on the health of populations in this region. These health impacts can be seen in such manifestations as the rise in the incidence and impact of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases.

The total burden of cardiovascular diseases is increasing throughout much of the Asia-Pacific region. Cardiovascular diseases are now more numerous in India and China than in all the economically developed countries in the world put together. To tackle this growing problem, the Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration (APCSC) was formally established in 1999.

WHAT IS THE APCSC?

The APCSC was initiated to provide direct, reliable evidence about determinants of stroke, coronary heart disease and other common causes of death in Asia-Pacific populations. It is a collaborative project that seeks to pool data from existing studies of cardiovascular diseases in the region. Project partners include principal and co-principal investigators of contributing studies, with the APCSC secretariat based at The George Institute for International Health in Australia.

The collaboration aims to produce region-, age- and gender-specific estimates of the cardiovascular disease risks associated with blood pressure, blood lipids, diabetes and other major risk factors. Analysis strategies are developed in conjunction with researchers in New Zealand using individual participant data.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S CURRENT STATUS?

The APCSC database now has data on over 650,000 participants from 44 separate cohort studies in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand and Australia. It is considered the largest epidemiological collaboration in the southern hemisphere and in the top five of the world's largest medical studies. Many high profile publications have resulted from this collaboration thus far, and a number of new research papers are planned over the next few years.



For further information,
please visit the APCSC website at:
www.apcsc.info

or contact:

DR Alexandra Martiniuk
APCSC Project Manager
The George Institute for International
Health
PO Box M201 Missenden Road
NSW 2050
Telephone +61 2 9657 0357
Facsimile +61 2 9657 0301
Email apcsc@thegeorgeinstitute.org

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THE GEORGE INSTITUTE INVESTIGATORS:

- Federica BarzI, Rachel Huxley, Stephen MacMahon, Alexandra Martiniuk, Alireza Ansari Moghaddam, Mark Woodward .

PARTICIPATING STUDIES AND PRINCIPAL COLLABORATORS

Aito Town: A. Okayama, H. Ueshima; H. Maegawa; Akabane: M. Nakamura, N. Aoki; Anzhen02: Z.S. Wu; Anzhen: C.H. Yao, Z.S. Wu; Australian Longitudinal Study of Aging: G. Andrews; Australian National Heart Foundation: T.A. Welborn; Beijing Aging: Z. Tang; Beijing Steelworkers: L.S. Liu, J.X. Xie; Blood Donors' Health: R. Norton, S. Ameratunga, S. MacMahon, G. Whitlock; Busselton: M.W. Knuiman; Canberra-Queanbeyan: H. Christensen; Capital Iron and Steel Company: X.G. Wu; CISCH: J. Zhou, X.H. Yu; Civil Service Workers: A. Tamakoshi; CVDFACTS: W.H. Pan; East Beijing: Z.L. Wu, L.Q. Chen, G.L. Shan; Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand: P. Sritara; Fangshan: D.F. Gu, X.F. Duan; Fletcher Challenge: S. MacMahon, R. Norton, G. Whitlock, R. Jackson; Guangzhou: Y.H. Li; Guangzhou Occupational: T.H. Lam, C.Q. Jiang; Hisayama: M. Fujishima, Y. Kiyohara, H. Iwamoto; Hong Kong: J. Woo, S.C. Ho; Huashan: Z. Hong, M.S. Huang, B. Zhou; Kinmen: J.L. Fuh; Konan: H. Ueshima, Y. Kita, S.R. Choudhury; KMIC: I. Suh, S.H. Jee, I.S. Kim; Melbourne: G.G. Giles; Miyama: T. Hashimoto, K. Sakata; Newcastle: A. Dobson; Ohasama: Y. Imai, T. Ohkubo, A. Hozawa; Perth: K. Jamrozik, M. Hobbs, R. Broadhurst; Saitama: K. Nakachi; Seven Cities: X.H. Fang, S.C. Li, Q.D. Yang; Shanghai Factory Workers: Z.M. Chen; Shibata: H. Tanaka; Shigaraki Town: Y. Kita, A. Nozaki, H. Ueshima; Shirakawa: H. Horibe, Y. Matsutani, M. Kagaya; Singapore Heart: K. Hughes, J. Lee; Singapore NHS92: D. Heng, S.K. Chew; Six Cohorts: B.F. Zhou, H.Y. Zhang; Tanno/Soubetsu: K. Shimamoto, S. Saitoh; Tianjin: Z.Z. Li, H.Y. Zhang; Western Australia AAA Screenees: P. Norman, K. Jamrozik; Xi'an: Y. He, T.H. Lam; Yunnan: S.X. Yao.

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THE APCSC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JANUARY 2006 (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):

Dr Alexandra Martiniuk (APCSC Project Manager, Sydney), Prof Tai-Hing Lam (University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong), Prof Mark Woodward (The George Institute For International Health, Sydney), Prof Anthony Rodgers (University of Auckland, Auckland), Prof Dongfeng Gu (Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing), Dr Wen-Harn Pan (Academia Sinica, Taipei). Missing: Prof Hirotsugu Ueshima (Shiga University of Medical Science, Shiga), Prof Yutaka Imai (Tohoku University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Medicine, Sendai), Prof Fang Xianghua (The Capital University of Medical Sciences, Beijing), Prof Il Suh (Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul) and Dr Sun Ha Jee (Yonsei University, Seoul)