

ARRS Global Partner Society Program: East Meets West

A Truly Pan-Asian Experience

This year, ARRS and the Chinese Taipei Society of Radiology (CTSR) participated in a global exchange. Charles S. White represented ARRS in Taiwan and shares his experience with InPractice.



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The ARRS Global Partner International Speaker Award provides an excellent opportunity for ARRS faculty to interact with members of the international radiological community. In March 2015, I was fortunate to participate in the Asian Congress of Thoracic Imaging (ACTI) and annual scientific meeting of the Chinese Taipei Society of Radiology (CTSR) in Taipei, Taiwan. The meeting was hosted by Yung Liang Wan, president of ACTI 2015 and professor and chairman of the department of medical imaging and radiological sciences at Chang Gung University College of Medicine, and Wan-You Guo, CTSR president.

The venue for ACTI 2015 was the Howard Civil Service International Hotel in the heart of Taipei. The 3-day meeting was well attended (approximately 1,300 registrants and more than 220 international attendees) and covered all aspects of thoracic imaging, from the basic to the state of the art. The lectures included sessions on biomarkers and imaging for early lung cancer by Pan-Chyr Yang, president of National Taiwan University, and pulmonary nodule management in the era of lung cancer screening by Jung-Gi Im of the Seoul National University. Such hot topics as pulmonary MRI and interstitial lung disease were covered; a variety of case presentations and an imaging interpretation session added even more value to the meeting. Approximately 180 abstracts were submitted to ACTI 2015 and cutting-edge research was presented at oral and poster scientific sessions. Substantial exhibition space permitted vendors to demonstrate their latest hardware and software.

The meeting was truly pan-Asian, with luminaries from not only Taiwan and mainland China but also from Korea, Japan, and many other Eastern countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Mongolia. Moreover, the Western Hemisphere was well-represented, with nine speakers from both North and South America.

Mixing Business With the Arts

The meeting's evening activities were superb, representing the best of the food and entertainment of Taiwan. The first evening included a presidential dinner at the meeting hotel during which the organizers of ACTI 2015 and many of the invited guests were introduced. In addition to being a prime opportunity to socialize, the dinner event provided the opportunity for a number of attendees to deliver brief speeches. I was pleased to speak to the group about the importance of the GPS program in promoting collaboration with organized radiology and individual radiologists around the world.



A student orchestra charms presidential dinner attendees.

A formal dinner the following evening at the nearby Shangri-La hotel featured several speeches by ACTI members. We were entertained by a Chinese orchestra consisting of students from the elite Chang Gung University. The orchestra included several instruments that are unfamiliar to most Westerners, including a Chinese-style violin and Chinese lute. Our lack of familiarity with the instruments notwithstanding, the music was exceptional. At the gala dinner on the final evening, Dr. Wan, Dr. Guo, and others thanked the attendees for their interest and attentiveness in making the meeting such a success. A series of dances was performed by a troupe of the aboriginal peoples of Taiwan and the audience joined the troupe in a dance line hundreds of meeting attendees long, a celebration that exemplified the spirit of the meeting.

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Charles and Ellen White (center left) pose with some fellow participants.

Because of the special nature of this visit, I was accompanied by my wife and college-age son. Dr. Wan and the ACTI secretariat were kind enough to organize an extensive tour of Taipei and northern Taiwan for us. We visited the National Palace Museum, which has an extensive and unique collection of art and artifacts spanning the entire history of Chinese civi-

lization. The collection is so huge that only one-third of it can be displayed at any time on the three large floors of exhibition space. We also traveled to the Pacific Ocean side of the island, where we visited Juifen, a market town in the mountains. It was fascinating to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a Taipei street market and to sample some of the food (our son was more adventurous than my wife on the food front).

We also enjoyed immersing ourselves in a hot bath at the Beitou hot springs, followed by a walk around this very picturesque area and then touring the Chiang Kai-shek garden. On our final day, we visited the ornate and beautiful Longshan Temple, watched the changing of the guard at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and visited the memorial of Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Chinese Republic. Finally, we ascended Taipei 101—one of the tallest skyscrapers in the world—for an impressive view of Taipei at night.

Participating in the ARRS Global Partner International Speaker Program provided me with the opportunity to meet and interact with many of my counterparts in Asia, confirm the high quality of radiological education and research there, and enjoy the hospitality of my Taiwanese hosts. It was an extraordinary visit to a fascinating part of the world for me and my family. ■

Japan Welcomes Exchange Representatives

The Japan Radiological Society (JRS) was one of the first GPS partners, joining in 2011. In April 2015, Myrna Godoy and Diego Jaramillo represented ARRS at the 74th Japan Radiological Society Annual Meeting in Yokohama.



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We were honored to represent ARRS at the JRS annual meeting. It is one of the largest radiology meetings in the world, with more than 12,000 registrants from 30 countries. The meeting was held April 16–19 in conjunction with the 71st Annual Scientific Congress of the Japanese Society of Radiological Technology, the 109th Scientific Meeting of the Japan Society of Medical Physics, and the International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging 2015. The joint meeting venue was in the bay city of Yokohama, one of the world's most famous port cities, with rich cultural attractions and world-class facilities. The timing of the event was especially fortunate—the cherry blossoms (*sakura*) were in full bloom, further accentuating the beauty of Japan.

The theme of this year's meeting was “Be Cool and Practical!” and the program covered a variety of topics, from radiology and imaging physics to radiation oncology. The scientific sessions were presented in Japanese, but slides in English helped to facilitate communication and participation.

The meeting embodied the superb organization, comprehensive curriculum, and wonderful hospitality of the JRS. Our talks

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