

## EDITORIAL

## SOME IMPORTANT SOCIETIES DEDICATED TO PHYSIOLOGY

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*"I honour, and shall always honour, everyone who advances the noble science of physiology."*

—Charles Darwin

There are several professional organizations in the world which are dedicated to the cause of physiology. They are the custodians of the subject and are working to advance the different fields of physiology through research, education, scientific conferences, scientific journals and books. They also provide opportunities for young physiologists for networking with their seniors and mentors to progress in the field. Apart from the professional growth of its members, these societies enhance regional harmony and cooperation. Many of them are working locally while others are coordinating regional level societies and a few of them work globally.

The oldest society is The Physiological Society (TPS) of the United Kingdom.<sup>1,2</sup> It was founded in 1876 by a group of only 19 physiologists. Initially its membership was offered to only males. Women were given membership in 1915. This was the time when the sun did not set in the empire of the United Kingdom. Charles Darwin was one of the two first honorary members of the Society. This society is now having more than 3,500 members from over 50 countries. Fourteen of its members were the Nobel Laureates. The 'Journal of Physiology' and the 'Experimental Physiology' are published by The Physiological Society. Its official address is Hodgkin Huxley House, 30 Farringdon, London, United Kingdom, and their website is located at <http://www.physoc.org>

The American Physiological Society (APS) was founded in 1887.<sup>3</sup> Initially it had only 28 members; now it has more than 10,500 members. The Headquarter of the Society is based in Bethesda, Maryland, on the campus of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Its official website is <http://www.the-aps.org>. APS is regularly publishing its newsletter and 14 scholarly journals that cover every aspect of physiology. APS has published many important books also. APS publications are the most popular, the most cited, and respected publications throughout the world.

Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS) was founded in 1991.<sup>4</sup> This organization represents the physiological societies in the European region. FEPS is an international, non-governmental, scientific organization which is

exclusively and strictly a non-profit making organization. Its website is <http://www.feps.org>

Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS) is working in Asian and Pacific region.<sup>5</sup> First Congress of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (AOPS) was held in Bangkok in November 1986 to formulate an international organization of physiologists in Asia and Pacific region. After a few years of serious deliberations, Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS) was officially formed in 1990. Professor Herbinder Jeet Singh is Secretary of FAOPS. Twelve physiological societies are its regular members, and six societies including Pakistan Physiological Society (PPS)<sup>6</sup> are its associate members.

South Asian Association of Physiologists (SAAP) was founded in Islamabad on 16 November 2008.<sup>7</sup> The association provides a forum for the physiologists of the SAARC region for exchange of scientific information and collaboration. Within a few years of its creation, SAAP has become an active and productive scientific society in the SAARC region. It has one of the largest memberships as a scientific society in this region. Pakistan Physiological Society is one of its founding members. It publishes a newsletter and its fifth biennial conference (SAAP-V) is scheduled in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 10–12, 2016.

International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)<sup>8</sup> was officially launched in 1953. Presently, IUPS is possibly the highest ranking organization devoted to physiological sciences. The IUPS is an adhering member of the International Council for the Organization of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS). During the past 50 years, the IUPS has activated numerous scientific commissions, published books and the journal 'Physiology.' ( )

It is important to note that Pakistan Physiological Society (PPS) was founded exactly a hundred years after the American Physiological Society (APS) was founded, i.e., in 1887. So, PPS is nearer to APS by birth than the TPS. We are celebrating the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PPS on 15 April 2016. There is a hundred year gap in the birth

of APS and PPS. Should there be a hundred year gap in their achievements and functioning? Let's hope for better prospects!

“If it was ever true that physiology had moved off centre stage, it is now coming back with a vengeance”. Denis Noble, IUPS President.

## REFERENCES

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