

Proceedings from an AsiaIntervention think tank meeting, May 2016



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Introduction

Under the leadership of the Chief Editors of AsiaIntervention, Runlin Gao, Upendra Kaul, Takeshi Kimura, Seung-Jung Park and Huay Cheem Tan, the Editorial Board of AsiaIntervention convoked a “think tank” meeting during the recent EuroPCR meeting in Paris, France, May 2016. The objective of this think tank meeting was to stimulate discussions concerning the promotion of the journal and, equally, encourage a further increase of manuscript submissions to AsiaIntervention.

Unique to this meeting was the request from the Chief Editors that young interventionalists should be the focus group of the meeting, something which was reflected in the invitees list along with consideration for their geographical origin which encompassed a broad spectrum of experiences within the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, Huay Cheem Tan provided insights and guidance in his role as Co-Chief Editor of AsiaIntervention, complemented by the experience of EuroIntervention Editorial Board members Robert Byrne and Christoph Naber, who were also present.

A brief history

The first issue of AsiaIntervention was published in January 2015 and – to date – it remains the only journal in the Asia-Pacific region dedicated solely to interventional cardiology. The Journal’s

editorial structure, although challenging, is unique in that it is led by the five Chief Editors as opposed to what is generally considered the norm, a single Chief Editor. The publisher’s rationale for this structure is their desire to embrace “inclusiveness”, ensuring as best as possible that all the major countries of the region are represented.

Echoing a growing movement within the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) with the formation of the ESC Young Community and its subgroups – and, in particular the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) Young subgroup – the AsiaIntervention think tank attendees aimed to develop new initiatives for the journal through open and frank discussions.

Promotion

The AsiaIntervention website, <http://www.asiaintervention.org>, was launched in September 2015 together with social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Furthermore, through the publisher’s links to the Europa Organisation and the PCR meetings, AsiaIntervention has enjoyed the benefit of Europa’s mailing list (>70,000 worldwide). Moreover, AsiaIntervention is promoted at several key Asia-Pacific regional meetings (such as CIT, TCTAP, ACIT, AsiaPCR, CVIT). Nonetheless, the consensus

of the think tank attendees was that a presence at other meetings is required to increase exposure. Currently the AsiaIntervention is not linked to any meeting or professional working groups in the region. This aspect was considered to fall outside the remit of the think tank meeting; nevertheless, it was deemed important that the publisher recognise that this could be a positive strategy to pursue in order to move forward.

Presently, AsiaIntervention is invited yearly to build a “how to write/review a medical paper” session at AsiaPCR/SingLIVE. The group proposed that other congress meetings in the region should be approached to investigate if similar sessions under the AsiaIntervention branding could be considered, noting the mutual benefit for both parties. Also, the suggestion to invite the authors of the best abstracts at these meetings to submit their work in full as complete articles to AsiaIntervention was positively welcomed.

Encouragement of manuscript submissions

The group discussed the current culture of scientific output in the region. The culture of medical writing has not yet matured to the levels of the West and to reach this level it will take time. The writing sessions discussed above are a compelling tool to aid younger interventionalists in understanding the publication process and its maturation. Furthermore, a significant element to promote submissions for the group is the importance of PubMed indexing for accepted papers and, although at the time of this report the application for AsiaIntervention indexing has been submitted, the group stressed that it was critical to emphasise that previously published papers will also be indexed retrospectively. Furthermore, a promotional strategy should be developed so that the community becomes aware when the indexing application has been successful.

Concerning the Impact Factor, it was noted that this generally takes three years after the journal has obtained indexed coverage

such as PubMed. In a future think tank meeting, the group would like to develop a strategy for obtaining a high first impact factor and, hereafter, to increase its value systematically.

Initially, AsiaIntervention received submissions via a transfer recommendation system from its sister journal, EuroIntervention. However, while it was reported that this route accounts for 40% of submissions at present, this figure carries with it the positive implication that 60% of submissions now come directly to AsiaIntervention itself.

A number of proposals for submissions were further discussed including soliciting expert reviews with a focus on the Asia-Pacific community. Similar to EuroIntervention, international consensus documents and international surveys relevant to the local interventional community should be encouraged. Also, and once again similar to EuroIntervention, the group proposed dedicating a page within the journal for the promotion of each national interventional working group.

With respect to supplements, further thought was recommended concerning the feasibility of linking AsiaIntervention supplement publications with dedicated meetings such as bifurcation PCI and valvular interventions in both China and Japan.

Conclusion

Huay Cheem Tan, Co-Chief Editor, concluded that the first AsiaIntervention think tank meeting was fruitful in developing proposals for advancing the growth of the journal. Secondary to the goals of the meeting, he thanked the invitees for their attendance, noting that this platform will certainly help to increase their profile within their international networks and hopefully be the foundation for new friendships and professional relationships. A second meeting will be held in early 2017 during AsiaPCR/SingLIVE.