First of all, I would like to congratulate on the rapid growth and visibility of the *Taiwanese Journal of Psychiatry* to the international community since it has become English journal under the editorship of Winston W. Shen. It is my honor to join *TJP* International Advisory Board, and I contributed an overview recently [1]. As the chair of Local Organizing Committee of the 11th Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) in Kyoto, President of Japanese Society of Biological Psychiatry (JSBP), and President of Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN), I am sending you a message as to invite many Taiwanese colleagues to come to the Congress in Kyoto June 23-27, 2013.

**A Decade for Psychiatric Disorders**

An editorial in the first issue on January 7, 2010 of *Nature* has declared the beginning of “A Decade for Psychiatric Disorders” [2], implying that research of psychiatric disorders should be promoted in this decade. In reflecting this declaration, many highly spirited researchers in neuroscience and life science have started shifting their research target from neurological diseases to psychiatric disorders, because they think psychiatric disorders are now within the reach of scientific investigation.

Of course, the target organ of psychiatry is the brain. The uniqueness of the brain is that the study of the brain as a whole is meaningless, but the study of the specific region of the brain is more important, because each nucleus or cortical area of the brain may be involved with specific function. The neural circuit is specific to the region inside the brain. Each region of the brain may have its unique neural circuit and each neural circuit is engaged with some brain function overlapping and complementing each other. In other words, brain science and science of mind are the fields of information processing. Biomedical informatics, including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and other “-omics” approach, will certainly open the new area of research in psychiatry. Development in informatics is strongly promoting the psychiatry research trying to resolve the brain mind problem.

In the USA, psychiatry has become the hot specialty for MD-PhD students who want to do research. The number of MD-PhD students choosing psychiatry has more than doubled in the past decade. In 2011, 50% of the students who matched with the Yale psychiatry residency were MD-PhDs. At Columbia University, 20% of psychiatry residents in recent years have been MD-PhDs. In other psychiatry residency programs, the number of MD-PhDs has been increased while the number of total applicants has not. This trend indicates the promising future that psychiatry is gathering bright young people because getting into an MD-PhD training program is even more competitive than getting into medical school.
Why are they now selecting psychiatry? When Thomas Insel, Director of NIMH, asked this question to MD-PhD students in psychiatry, they all agreed that psychiatry is the specialty where they can have the greatest impact (http://www.nimh.gov/about/director/2012). To paraphrase, one student said, “The questions are profound, the patients are fascinating, and the tools are finally available to make unprecedented progress.” Another one told me confidently, “This is the place to make a mark.” I hope that WFSBP2013KYOTO Congress will help promote this good trend, and that we are happy if this Congress will attract attention of young bright talents in Asia to get into the fascinating field of psychiatry.

World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry

The WFSBP was founded in 1974 to promote basic and clinical research in biological psychiatry and committed to pioneering and promoting the highest levels of education and dissemination within the field, which is composed of more than 60 national societies of biological psychiatry including more than 4,500 members. After restructuring and adaptation of new constitution, the WFSBP is organizing World Congress every two years, publishing the World Journal of Biological Psychiatry (impact factor = 5.564) eight issues per year, publishing WFSBP Treatment Guidelines with major psychiatric disorders.

The present executive committee of the WFSBP is composed of the following 7 members: President (Florence Thibaut, France), 2 Vice Presidents (Robertas Bunevicius, Lithuania; Constantin R. Soldatos, Greece), Secretary-treasurer (Nobert Müller, Germany), 2 Associate Secretary-treasurers (Yoshio Hirayasu, Japan; Jorge Tellez-Vargas, Colombia) and Past President (Siegfried Kasper, Austria). Since the adaption of the new constitution, the composition of executive committee will be slightly modified; President, President-elect, Vice-president, Treasurer, Associate-treasurer, Secretary, Associate secretary, and Past President. The term is four years and the election of the new executive committee is scheduled at the general assembly during the WFSBP2013KYOTO Congress.

The WFSBP2013KYOTO Congress

In the past 40 years, the WFSBP held 10 world congress meetings: the 1st meeting being in Buenos Aires in 1974, 2nd Barcelona 1976, 3rd Stockholm 1981, 4th Philadelphia 1985, 5th Florence 1991, 6th Nice 1987, 7th Berlin 2001, 8th Vienna 2005, 9th Paris 2009, and 10th Prague 2011. The 11th world congress is to be held in Kyoto June 23-27, 2013. Most of world congresses were held in European cities except the first in Buenos Aires and the fourth in Philadelphia. The 11th world congress is the first one in Asia and will be organized in collaboration of the JSBP with three Asian societies of Biological Psychiatry (www.wfsbp-congress.org). Tom Su (Taiwan), Han-Yong Jung (Korea), Yu Xin (China), and Zeping Xiao (China) are serving as the co-chair of local organizing committee. Winston W. Shen (Taiwan) Yong-Sik Kim (Korea), Siu-Wa Tang (Hong Kong), and Pichet Udomratn (Thailand) are on program committee.

We proudly announce WFSBP2013KYOTO has been also officially authorized by Japanese Government to be important international congresses held in Japan in 2013 and sponsored by Japanese Council of Science.
Another feature of WFSBP2013KYOTO is collaboration with Neuro2013, the largest academic meeting in neuroscience in Japan, which is scheduled precedent to WFSBP2013KYOTO in which more than 3,000 researchers in neuroscience will get together. Kyoto International Conference Center (http://www.icckyoto.or.jp/en/) will be the hot spot with seamless continuation from basic neuroscience to biological psychiatry for ten days starting June 20 to June 27.

WFSBP2013KYOTO has already decided five distinguished plenary speakers (Table 1), and more than 90 symposia, workshops, and debate sessions. We have successfully collected 867 abstracts for free communication and poster sections from 51 countries as of February 8, 2013. Special thanks should go to Taiwanese colleagues when we see the number of abstracts submitted by country: Japan (n = 324), Taiwan (123), Republic of Korea (52), USA (43), Germany (37), Spain (34), France (23), Sweden (23), India (21).

The JSBP deeply appreciates the strong support and collaboration of Taiwanese Society of Biological Psychiatry and Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry. We will do our best to have a big success of WFSBP2013KYOTO with the help of Taiwanese colleagues in this important field. The temperature will be about 25°C and we expect mostly clear or cloudy days but only one rainy day during June 23-27 based on the 10-year records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker (Nationality)</th>
<th>Title of the lecture</th>
<th>Moderator (Nationality)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akira Sawa (USA)</td>
<td>Interface of psychosis and depression in translational psychiatry</td>
<td>Elliott Richelson (USA)</td>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>18:15-19:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Falkai (Germany)</td>
<td>Goodbye Kraepelin: Schizophrenia as a disorder of regenerative capacities of the human brain</td>
<td>Florence Thibaut (France)</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>09:45-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facundo Manes (Argentina)</td>
<td>Executive &amp; social functions and the frontal lobes: New concepts and implications for psychiatry</td>
<td>Constantin (France)</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>09:45-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederic Sedel (France)</td>
<td>Inborn errors of metabolism in psychiatry</td>
<td>Norbert Mueller (Germany)</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>09:45-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsuo Kawato (Japan)</td>
<td>Computational neuroscience approach to biomarkers and treatments for psychiatric diseases</td>
<td>Yoshio Hirayasu, (Japan)</td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>09:45-10:30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

References


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