

## Editorial



# APSP will open the door to global periodontal health

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## OPEN ACCESS

**Received:** Oct 8, 2019

**Accepted:** Oct 14, 2019

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The Asian Pacific Society of Periodontology (APSP) was founded in 1993, with representatives from 14 countries and the following objectives: “To serve as a non-profit medium for the exchange, advancement, and dissemination of scientific knowledge related to periodontal research and education in the Asian Pacific Regions.” The 13th APSP meeting, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on September 28–29, 2019, provided an excellent platform for the academic exchanges and future collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is the most populous region of the globe, accounting for about 60% of the world's population. Therefore, the level of oral health care—and especially periodontal health—in this region directly reflects the overall level of the world. However, the reality is that a wide gap exists in oral health care levels between regions, and some areas even have limited access to basic periodontal treatment. Furthermore, recent research has confirmed that periodontal disease and systemic diseases are closely related, and periodontal disease should therefore be managed as a non-communicable disease. Additionally, the demand for periodontal treatment is significantly increasing due to the rapid increase in the elderly population. Consequently, this is a crucial time for Asia-Pacific periodontists to share their knowledge and enhance the balanced improvement of oral health in the Asia-Pacific region.