Brief Summary of the Joint Conference of the 4th Chinese Alcohol and Drug Abuse Congress & the 3rd Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research Congress

The joint conference of the 4th Chinese Alcohol and Drug Abuse Congress & The 3rd Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research Congress was successfully held on April 24-26th 2014 in Shanghai, China. The congress was organized by Chinese Association of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (CADAPT) and Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR) and the local organizer was Shanghai Mental Health Center (SMHC), Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.

This joint conference attracted about 200 participants, 142 from China, 14 from Korea, 12 from Japan, 10 from United States, 9 from Thailand, 3 from Australia, 2 from Taiwan, 2 from India, including clinicians, investigators, social workers and policy makers from each country.

In the opening ceremony chaired by Prof. Min Zhao, Vice president of SMHC, Prof. Wei Hao, chairperson of the conference, Prof. Yifeng Xu, president of SMHC, Prof. Ihn-Geun Choi, president of APSAAR, and Mr. Baohui Li, president of CADAP gave warmly welcome address.

The conference included 5 plenary sessions, 3 workshop sessions, 4 symposium sessions, and 3 oral presentation sessions. The lunch meeting of Chinese guidelines for alcohol use disorder’s diagnosis and treatment was held. The conference focused on the prevention and intervention of alcohol abuse and drug dependence, from basic to clinical study, including genetic study, epidemiology, and psychosocial intervention for alcohol abuse.

Profs. George Koob, Wei Hao, Sachio Matsushita, Alfreda Stadlin, Walter Ling, Jianhua Li, Andrew J Lawrence, Min Zhao, Ru-Band Lu, Chris Chapleo, Sung Nam Cho, Victor Hesselbrock, and other researchers gave plenary talks. Moreover, clinical doctors reported research works on alcohol and addition and shared experiences on the administration of drug abuse treatment clinics. Participants took this opportunity to share their valuable views on various addiction issues and the latest information and experiences in prevention and treatment, develop recommendations for further program activities and promote international collaborations in this area.

The APSAAR International Congress is supposed to be held every other year from 2009. The board meeting of APSAAR was held during the conference. The Joint Conference had met its goal “Joint together with Multiple Disciplines and Improve the Capacity of Addiction Research”. Participants had opportunity to share information and interact with clinicians, researchers and policy makers to discuss prospective drug abuse treatment and prevention strategies and promote international collaborations.