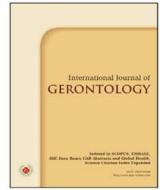




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Preface

Maximising Engagement with the IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Conference

Gerontology and geriatrics in the Asia Oceania region is at an exciting point in time. The region has 60% of the world's population, and it includes the oldest country in the world, Japan, which has demonstrated a range of innovative approaches as it leads the world with its ageing population comprising more than 26% of its population. The region also has many "young" older countries, that currently have less than 10% of their population aged over 65, but which are on a rapidly ageing trajectory, and will need to adjust to substantial demographic changes over a relatively short period of time.

It is also becoming increasingly recognised that despite considerable successes being reported across the many areas of gerontological and geriatric research areas globally, that the majority of this research has been conducted in developed countries and primarily on non-Asian populations. In one area of research, falls prevention, only 9% of the 159 randomised controlled trials reported in the 2012 Cochrane review for the community setting were conducted in Asian countries.^{1,2} There are a number of factors that limit the likely successful translation of some of these approaches to Asian populations, including cultural, social, environmental, dietary, and health and care system differences. There is also considerable diversity within Asian countries, that may also mean modified approaches may be necessary. While there are certainly some important learnings that can be drawn from any of the non-Asian trials, the multiple contextual factors within each individual country need to

be considered to maximise the likelihood of successful translation. There is also a strong need for greater levels of local geriatric and gerontological research within Asian countries.

The 11th Asia Oceania Regional Conference in Taipei, Taiwan October 23–27, will provide a great opportunity to share innovative approaches to improving the ageing experience for older people from across the region, but also put in context the diversity within our region, and the need to consider local factors. I congratulate the Conference Organising Committee for developing an excellent and full program, and encourage all conference attendees to make the most of the program, the social activities, and networking opportunities.

References

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