



Preface for special series on the Third International Cough Conference

Cough is the most common complaints for patients who seek medical attention worldwide (1). Chronic cough of more than 8 weeks' duration exerts serious impact on quality of life, and causes huge economic burden (2). A great progress had been made in the research field of cough in recent decades, including mechanism, diagnosis and treatment of chronic cough. The International Cough Conference has been held in China for three times from 2013 to 2019 (3), providing an important communication platform for scientists, physicians on cough following London Cough Symposium (4), America Cough Conference (5).

The Third International Cough Conference (3rd ICC) was held successfully on November 8–10, 2019, in Guangzhou (3), which featured nine high-standard sessions touching on the developments in cough field delivered by world-leaders, including the epidemiology and pathogenesis, cough hypersensitivity, evaluation of chronic cough, diagnosis and therapies for common and uncommon causes of chronic cough, future direction of chronic cough research. The *Journal of Thoracic Disease (JTD)* invites the conference speakers to submit reviews based on their topics for the 3rd ICC. Many of the specialists have been too busy with their clinical tasks to finish the manuscripts on time due to COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore the special issue on 3rd ICC will be published in two separate issues. With gratitude to the hard work of authors, the first series now appear in September.

Cough hypersensitivity, an important and common physiopathological feature in patients with chronic cough is a big challenge to clinicians (6,7). Understanding the mechanism of cough hypersensitivity will shed light on the development of new drugs related to cough. In this issue, we publish the review “*Peripheral and central mechanism of cough hypersensitivity*” by Dr. Stuart B. Mazzone. There are numerous epidemiological surveys on chronic cough, however, the data from Asian countries is limited (8,9). The review “*Chronic cough in Korea*” by Dr. Woo-Jung Song. will add to information regarding prevalence, demographics, risk factors of chronic cough. Cough frequency as an objective measure has become a primary endpoint in clinical trials of cough along with the development of cough monitor (10). Dr. Surinder S. Birring systematically reviews the present and future of cough counting tools. Should chest CT and bronchoscopy be used as routine investigations for patients with chronic cough? Prof. Li Yu and Prof. Lorcan McGarvey made their arguments respectively. Eosinophilic bronchitis is one of the most common causes of chronic cough, but seems an independent condition rather than an early stage of asthma or COPD (11), and it is not certain how long the eosinophilic bronchitis should be treated with inhaled corticosteroids (12,13). Prof. Akio Niimi discussed this topic in this issue. Please read the reviews in special series of the 3rd ICC for more details.

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Footnote

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