IOF/ISCD FRAX INITIATIVES in Asia-Pacific Region

- A Consensus-

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FRAX is a computer-based algorithm which uses easily obtained clinical risk factors to estimate an individual’s 10-year fracture probability. It may be utilized by health professionals to assist in the identification of individuals at high risk for osteoporosis-related fractures and the prevention of osteoporosis. The ISCD and the IOF had convened the FRAX® Position Development Conference (PDC) in Bucharest, Romania, on November 14, 2010, following a two-day joint meeting of the ISCD and IOF on the “Interpretation and Use of FRAX® in Clinical Practice”. In order to make FRAX applicable to Asia-Pacific regions, regardless of the threat of the approaching Libra and Bolaven typhoon, the TOA, ISCD and IOF organized a two-day expert panel meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, on August 24-25, 2012 to develop a Consensus Statement in the Asia-Pacific Regions” using the ISCD/ IOF official document on the “Interpretation and Use of FRAX® in Clinical Practice” as the basis. The Expert Panel of ISCD/IOF was composed of Asia-Pacific Panel members of ISCD, FRAX developers from countries within Asia-Pacific Region and Invited Scientists from IOF, ISCD and TOA. The whole program was recorded and posted on the website of TOA (www.toa1997.org.tw).

The co-chairmen of the expert panel meeting included Rong-Sen Yang (Taiwan, TOA President), Paulo Chih-Hsing Wu (Taiwan, director of ISCD committee of TOA), and Eugene McCloskey (United Kingdom, IOF Representative). The participating experts were from Australia (Richard Prince), China (Wei Yu and Yanling Zhao), Indonesia (Gunawan Tirtarahardja), Japan (Akira Itabashi), Korea (Chan Soo Shin), Malaysia (Joon Kiong Lee), Philippines (Julie Li-Yu), Singapore (Siok Bee Chionh),
and Taiwan (Keh-Sung Tsai, Ding-Cheng Chan, Poon-Ung Chieng, and Sheng-Pin Changlai). They shared the development and application of FRAX in their own countries in the afternoon meeting on August 24, and some of them also presented the topics in the 2012 Annual Meeting of the TOA the next afternoon.

In the morning of August 25, all panelists implemented the discussion and modification of FRAX Position Statement for AP Regions, and together composed a draft with the assistance of Dr. Paulo Chih-Hsing Wu, Dr. Yin-Fan Chang, and Dr. Zih-Jie Sun. After fully communication with all the attendee, the unanimous concepts which highlighted in blue within the original ISCD/IOF FRAX position slides are applicable to AP regions. The ISCD President, Bobo Tanner(USA), represents ISCD to deliver the sincerely thanks and his apology for lateness due to his attendance of the IOF/ISCD co-jointed course meeting. Finally, Dr. Wu presented ISCD/IOF FRAX Consensus for AP regions in the last day of annual meeting, which were moderated by Prof. Rong-Sen Yang and Prof. Bobo Tanner. The key points included: 1. The understanding of important risk factors for fractures; 2. The incorporation of spinal BMD in the future FRAX algorithm; 3. The recommendation on the generation of the FRAX score during DXA scan for untreated subjects; 4. The classification of countries within Asia-Pacific Regions according to the population risk of hip fracture. A great number of TOA members attended the annual meeting and were introduced with the major ideas of the Consensus Statement.

Now, the AP Panel meeting and AP consensus meeting for FRAX Position Statement were successfully held in Taipei on August 24-25, 2012. Many professionals' contributions were highly appreciated. In the future, we expect to recruit more experts from other Asia-Pacific regions to share their experiences, provide professional opinions, and add more new thoughts into this Consensus. Thereafter, the Statement will become more applicable and practical for health professionals in AP Regions.
Picture. The Experts show "Fight for Osteoporosis" in the IOF/ISCD FRAX INITIATIVES in Asia-Pacific Region in Taipei, Taiwan on August 24-26, 2012.
Front from left: I-Jan Kao (TW), Zih-Jie Sun (TW), Ding-Cheng Chan (TW), Paulo Chih-Hsing Wu (TW), Wei Yu (China), Bobo Tanner (USA, ISCD President), Joon Kiong Lee (Malaysia), Siok Bee Chionh (Singapore), Eugene McCloskey (UK), Richard Prince (Australia), Akira Itabashi (Japan), Rong-Sen Yang (TW)