



**ASIAN
PACIFIC
ISLANDER
CAUCUS**

**A Model of Networking & Collaborations:
A Snapshot of the Oldest Asian & Pacific
Islander Health Organization**

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Asian American Health Conference

A Time for Change:

Transforming Opportunities into Action

Purpose

- To detail the history, mission, and objectives of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health (API Caucus)
- To demonstrate how the API Caucus focuses on networking and leadership development using a collaborative model
- To illustrate how these efforts have been implemented and maintained through professional and organizational partnerships

Mission and Goals

Mission:

- To address public health issues specifically affecting Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States and associated jurisdictions in affiliation with the American Public Health Association

Mission & Goals

Goals:

- Be a resource to the American Public Health Association for persons with an interest in the practice, research, education, policy, and advocacy of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander population health issues.
- Cultivate APIC members to become leaders within the American Public Health Association
- ***Promote the professional development of API Caucus members and students through networking, information sharing, and mentoring***

Mission & Goals

Goals (continued):

- Be a liaison for individuals and organizations dedicated to serving Asian and Pacific Islander communities to the American Public Health Association
- ***Provide a forum for the analysis, interpretation, recommendations and dissemination of current research and policy that affect Asian and Pacific Islander population health in the United States and associated jurisdictions***

American Public Health Association

- API Caucus serves as platform to describe research / programs / activities / policies impacting Asian & Pacific Islander health to large audience of health professionals via scientific sessions / business meetings
- Active membership allows representation of API community health interests at high levels of leadership in Caucus and within APHA
- Introduction of networking programs facilitate pipeline for professional development

Leadership & Affiliations

Former API Caucus Chairs

- ***Ted Chen (founder)***
 - Asia-Pacific Health Promotion & Development Office
- ***Pancho Chung***
 - Asian Pacific Fund
- ***William Chen***
- ***Stella Yu***
- ***Rod Lew***
 - Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy & Leadership (APPEAL)
- ***Marguerite Ro***
 - Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
- ***Butch de Castro***
- ***Karen Rezai***
 - Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy & Leadership (APPEAL)
- ***Sora Park-Tanjasiri***
 - Weaving an Islander Network for Cancer Awareness, Research & Training (WINCART)

Leadership & Affiliations

Former, Current, and Future API Caucus Chairs

- **David Inoue**
- **Nadine Chan**
 - Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Against Tobacco (APICAT)
- **Arnab Mukherjea**
 - South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA) / Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research & Training (AANCART)
- **Nadia Islam**
 - Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH)
- **Winston Tseng**
 - Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
- **Harry Kwon**
 - Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI)

Networking & Collaboration

- 1974
 - Founded as Caucus of Asian American Health Workers (changed to: 1] Asian American Caucus {1977}; 2] Asian Pacific Islander (API) Caucus {1997}; 3] API Caucus for Public Health {2002})
- 1993
 - Elects first Chair of Scientific Programs (Stella Yu)
- 1999
 - Elects first Chair of Policy (Dong Suh)
 - Hosts first Social Reception at its 25th Anniversary
 - Receives first invitation to speak at APHA Plenary

Networking & Collaboration

- 2000
 - Launches first mentorship survey and program
 - APHA adopts API Caucus-drafted policy on language access (credit: Dong Suh)
 - First representation of API Caucus on APHA Taskforces (racial / ethnic disparities, aging)
 - API Caucus Executive Committee member plays key role in crafting White House initiative for Asian Americans (Lisa Hasegawa)
 - Elects first Student Representative (Butch de Castro)
 - First listserv launched:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/apic-apha/>

Networking & Collaboration

- 2002
 - Launches website (www.apicaucus.org)
 - Gains permission to use APHA logo for approved Caucus activities
 - Creation of first API Caucus logo:

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Networking & Collaboration

- 2003
 - Presents first Best Student Abstract Award
 - Hosts first press conference with Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
 - Successfully nominated two individuals to represent Asian health interests to APHA Leadership Committees (Butch de Castro & Rod Lew)
 - Receives largest number of abstracts submitted to APHA on Asian & Pacific Islander health (121)

Networking & Collaboration

- 2004
 - Became a Governing Board Member of the Out of Many One (OMO) national coalition
 - Presents API Caucus' first Career / Lifetime Achievement Award during its 30th Anniversary Celebration (Jane Sycip Lin-Fu)
 - Presents first Best Published Paper Award

Networking & Collaboration

- 2006

- Received grant from the Kellogg Foundation to expand networking opportunities and activities
- Collaborated with Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research & Training (AANCART) to present Chris Jenkins award
- Introduced Mentoring Breakfast for Students at APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition

- 2007

- Receives largest number of abstracts submitted to APHA on Asian and Pacific Islander health

Networking & Collaboration

- 2008
 - Successfully nominated two individuals to represent Asian health interests to APHA Executive Board (Ann Umemoto, Gilbert Gee)
- 2009
 - Served on Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Conference Planning Committee
 - Co-sponsored AAHI 2009 Conference Networking Reception
 - Collaborating with other APHA affiliates to create networking and development opportunities

Current activities

- Ongoing nomination of highly-skilled API health professionals to APHA leadership committees and governing boards (in collaboration with other APHA affiliates)
- Increased outreach to individuals and organizations committed to developing leaders who contribute to improving health prospects of API communities
- Proactive policy advocacy regarding initiatives impacting API health

Future directions

- Continue to expand networking and developmental opportunities during APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition
- Proactively collaborate with API organizations to promote mentorship, leadership, dissemination of health resources and information, and expand network
- Advocate for policy initiatives that enhance data collection, reduce disparities, and improve the well being of API communities

Concluding Remarks

- API Caucus has served as a springboard for many leaders affiliated with highly visible Asian health organizations
- API Caucus remains an active forum for networking for health professionals working on Asian health issues with diverse objectives, interests, and activities
- With new focus on leadership development, API Caucus aims to create a pipeline for professionals to forward API health agenda

Thank you!

- Please do join the API Caucus (it's free!)
 - Membership forms located on API Caucus table
 - Find out more at www.apicaucus.org
 - Please come to our 35th anniversary program during APHA 2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition in Philadelphia, PA:
 - Increased number of scientific sessions
 - Student and young professionals mentorship event
 - Business meeting and social reception
- **Arnab Mukherjea:** program@apicaucus.org