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

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Asian Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health
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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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ted Chen (founder)</strong></td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Health Promotion &amp; Development Office</td>
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<td><strong>Pancho Chung</strong></td>
<td>Asian Pacific Fund</td>
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<td><strong>William Chen</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stella Yu</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Rod Lew</strong></td>
<td>Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy &amp; Leadership (APPEAL)</td>
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<td><strong>Marguerite Ro</strong></td>
<td>Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Butch de Castro</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Karen Rezai</strong></td>
<td>Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy &amp; Leadership (APPEAL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sora Park-Tanjasiri</strong></td>
<td>Weaving an Islander Network for Cancer Awareness, Research &amp; Training (WINCART)</td>
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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

- 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](http://www.apicaucus.org))
  – Gains permission to use APHA logo for approved Caucus activities
  – Creation of first API Caucus logo:
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