

PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} Annual Committee Report

June 1, 2024—May 31, 2025

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2024–2025

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PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} enjoyed another wonderful year of sharing PNI knowledge with our Asian colleagues. In our 14 years of existence, this was our busiest ever. Our committee organized six symposia at scientific meetings held in four different countries, as briefly described below. We thank the many expert speakers who volunteered their time to travel to the Orient to present their newest data and share their science with our Asian colleagues. If any PNI scientist is interested in speaking/participating in future symposia organized by the PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} committee, please contact Keith W. Kelley.

PNIRS Annual Meeting Halifax, Canada



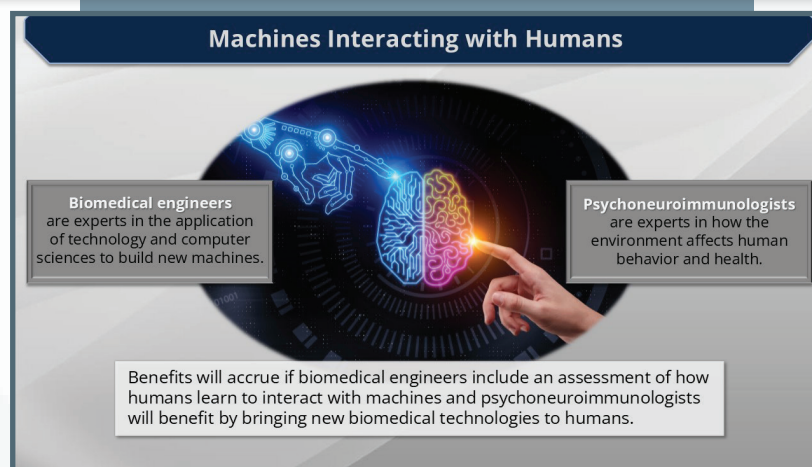
Our **PNIRSAisa-Pacific** symposium entitled, "Integrative Strategies and Immunomodulatory Mechanisms of Alternative Treatment for Depression in China," was held on June 25 in Halifax. Cai Song, PhD, from the BGI Research and the Shenzhen Institute of Guangdong Ocean University in Shenzhen, Caroline Cao, PhD, from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and Gang Chen, PhD, from Jinan University in Guangzhou were invited as expert speakers. Following the symposium, several of the leaders involved in organizing **PNIRSAisa-Pacific** symposia throughout the years enjoyed enlightening conversations over dinner.



First PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific} Symposium in Vietnam



The first ever **PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific}** symposium was organized during the 10th Biomedical Engineering Conference from July 25-27, attracting around ~300 registrants. The meeting was held at a seaside resort in Phan Viet City, Vietnam, which is just a couple hour drive northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. Ha Thi Thanh Huong, PhD, and Ngo Lua, PhD, in the School of Biomedical Engineering, International University, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, were instrumental in helping organize this event. Taishiro Kishimoto, MD, PhD., at Keio University, Tokyo presented a plenary lecture on telepsychiatry and depression. Keith W. Kelley introduced biomedical engineers and those scientists engaged in human factors research to the benefits of collaborating with PNI scientists. This **PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific}** symposium highlighted the novel ideas and opportunities for PNI scientists to engage in collaborative research projects with biomedical engineers.



As a follow up to this **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific symposium, Professor Ngo organized a Mental Health workshop in January, 2025. The meeting was held at the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. Cherry Hui-Chih Chang, PhD, and Kuan-Pin Su, MD, PhD, both professors in the College of Medicine at China Medical University in Taichung, the Taiwan region of China, were among the invited speakers. Promoting Asian-Asian research cooperation and collaborations is another benefit of the **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific network.



Chinese Neuroscience Society Suzhou, China

Weiwen Wang, PhD, successfully submitted an in-person **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific symposium proposal to the annual meeting of the Chinese Neuroscience Society (<https://www.cns.org.cn/en/>). This is the largest gathering of neuroscientists in China, akin to the Society for Neuroscience in the USA. The meeting was held in Suzhou, a beautiful city near Shanghai, from September 26-29, 2024. The symposium focused on various neuropsychiatric disorders, including neurodevelopmental, emotional, and neurodegenerative disorders, which are highly prevalent and susceptible at different stages of life. Stress across the lifespan is an important predisposing factor for the occurrence and development of these diseases. This symposium, entitled “Neurobiological mechanisms of stress-related neuropsychiatric disorders across the lifespan” featured leading scholars from China and the USA. Lauren Osborne, MD, from Cornell University and Ebrahim Haroon, MD, PhD, from Emory University were joined by three other invited speakers from China. Congratulations to Professor Wang for organizing such a successful symposium at this high-profile meeting.



The Mind-Body-Interface Meeting Taichung, the Taiwan region of China



PNIRASia-Pacific was once again invited to Taichung, the Taiwan region, China, to present a symposium at their annual Mind-Body-Interface meeting. Melissa Roszenkranz, PhD, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Keith W. Kelley worked together to select and invite international scholars. Our symposium entitled “Emerging Tech in Mental Health” was accepted by the meeting organizers and presented on October 20. The speakers, and the titles of their lectures, are listed below. Thanks to all these participants for the excellent presentations on behalf of **PNIRASia-Pacific**.

Caroline Cao, PhD, | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Empathy Training Using XR And AI Technologies: A Human Factors Perspective

Margaret Thairu, PhD, | University of Wisconsin-Madison | Behavior, Biology, and Well-being: Investigating changes in the gut microbiome in response to app-based well-being training

Huong Thi Thanh Ha, PhD, | International University, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, | Assessing the Feasibility of Cognitive Intervention Via Braintrain Cognitive Gaming Application for Mild Cognitive Impairment Patients

Cyrus Su Hui Ho, MD, PhD, | National University of Singapore | Interpretable Deep Learning Model for Major Depressive Disorder Assessment Using Functional Nearinfrared Spectroscopy

NIH Grant Writing Course–VIN University Hanoi, Vietnam

Keith W. Kelley was invited to the College of Health Sciences at Vin University in Hanoi (<https://chs.vinuni.edu.vn/>) to present a short course on NIH grant writing. Thirty hours of training were presented in two different sessions, with the first from October 23-30, 2024, and the other from February 6-12, 2025. If any research group is interested in collaborating with Vin Uni faculty on NIH proposals, please contact Keith for more information.

VIN Uni NIH Grant Writing Class, October, 2024



Showcasing Cancer Psychoneuroimmunology Discoveries in China

On November 3, Quentin Liu, MD, PhD, at the Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center in Guangzhou, China organized a symposium and academic forum at the Psychobehavioral Cancer Research Center (PCR Center).” During this meeting, participants discussed the possibility of joining the Psychobehavioral Cancer Branch of Guangdong Precision Medicine. Qiang Liu will follow up on this possibility. Eight leading academic oncologists throughout China presented their newest data. The colloquium was so popular that a Special Issue summarizing the presentations of seven of these scholars will be published in April/May 2025 in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity Integrative entitled “Bridging Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) and Cancer: New Insights and Innovations from China.”

The following day, Gang Chen, PhD, at Jinan University in Guangzhou organized a session. It was held in the Interdisciplinary Institute for Personalized Medicine in Brain Disorders for Brain-Peripheral Homeostasis and Comprehensive Health in the School of Chinese Medicine at Jinan University.



PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific} Travels to Hong Kong & Hangzhou, China

Thanks to an agreement between PNIRS and the Chinese Association of Physiological Sciences (CAPS), signed in April, 2023, **PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific}** was invited to present two symposia in Hong Kong, SAR and mainland China. The first was at The Second Forum of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Joint Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine Regulation of Brain-Peripheral Homeostasis and Comprehensive Health. It was entitled “Psychoneuroimmune and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Regulation” and held at the Research Centre for Chinese Medicine Innovation, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, on May 8. The second symposium was held on May 9-12 at the Seventh Conference on Neuroscience and Traditional Chinese Medicine (CNTCM) during the annual meeting of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Brain Homeostasis Regulation. The title of this symposium was “The Immune System as a Link Between the Body and Brain” and was held in Hangzhou on May 10, which is just a 1.5 hour train ride from Shanghai. **PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific}** speakers were Keith W. Kelley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ning Quan, PhD, at Florida Atlantic University, Ruihua Hou, MD, PhD, at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom and Quynh Truong, PhD, at Vin University, Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Brain-Periphery-Immune Interactions
The 2nd Forum of The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Joint Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine Regulation of Brain-Peripheral Homeostasis and Comprehensive Health

8 MAY 2025 THURSDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

Tang Kui Ming Lecture Theatre (Y302), Lee Shau Kee Building (Block Y), Poly U & Online Via Zoom

Prof. Cang CHEN
Topic: Breast cancer-related fatigue and herbal treatment: involvement of psychoneuro-immune dysregulation of HPA axis

Prof. Xiaobo SUN
Topic: Brain gut axis and stress analysis of the action principle of brain-meditation

Prof. Ruihua HOU
Topic: Neuroinflammatory mechanisms underlying neuronal injury and depression in inflammatory and autoimmune conditions

Prof. Quynh TRUONG
Topic: Disrupting Myths: End-of-Life Discussions Do Not Worsen Stress and Psychological Outcomes At The End of Life

Prof. Keith W. KELLEY
Topic: The Immune System as a Link Between the Body and Brain: PNIRSA Pacific Symposium

Prof. Jian-Lin WU
Topic: Components Analysis of Complex Systems (CCAS) and their application

Prof. Simon LEE
Topic: Neuroinflammatory mechanisms underlying neuronal injury and depression in inflammatory and autoimmune conditions

Dr. Hulhui XIAO
Topic: Insights into Gut-Brain-Immune Axis Regulation

Dr. Kim LI
Topic: Neuroprotective effects of Anaxosoma nigricans in vitro and in vivo

Prof. Sonata YAU
Topic: Targeting endoplasmic reticulum for antidepressant treatment

Prof. Ning QUAN
Topic: The CNS Neuronal IL-1 System: Beyond the Sing and Song of Neuroinflammation

Prof. LI ZHANG
Topic: The improvement of synaptic function by exercise training

Prof. Yizhun ZHU
Topic: New mechanisms of aging from vascular-to-neurological system

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2025-2026 Planning

The **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific committee is in the midst of planning symposia submissions for 2025-2026, as shown below:

- **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific Annual Gathering, held during the PNIRS Annual Meeting, June 9-12, 2025, Bordeaux, France
- The 2025 MBI (Mind-Body-Interface) International Symposium, October 18-19, 2025, Taipei, the Taiwan region of China
- Colloquium at the Vin University College of Health Sciences in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 22, 2025
- Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, to be held in mainland China in May, 2026

Archived **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific Annual Reports

All annual reports of **PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific that began in 2013 are archived at www.pnirs.org/pnirs-asia-pacific-annual-reports