AACC-JCA Joint Conference in Hawaii

The AACC-JCA Joint Conference has been held every three years since 1989, with changing themes, in the Hawaiian Islands. The 11th Joint Conference was held in Maui, Hawaii, from February 8 to 12, 2019, co-chaired by Dr. Elaine R. Maris (National Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH, USA) and Dr. Hitoshi Nakagama (National Cancer Center, Tokyo, Japan) under the title of “Breakthroughs in Cancer Research: Biology to Precision Medicine”. About 570 participants from 15 countries; US, Japan and other countries attended the conference. Keynote Session were presented by Dr. Elaine R. Maris on a theme of “Cancer genomics: Discovery to clinical translation” and Dr. Shimoz Sakaguchi (Osaka University, Osaka, Japan) on “Regulatory T cells in tumour immunity.” After the Keynote Session, 37 lively talks on 12 scientific topics and more than 500 posters were presented. Participants had fruitful discussions and exchanged scientific information in an enthusiastic atmosphere during the conference, and enjoyed their stay in Hawaii. The next AACC-JCA Joint Conference will be held in February 2022.

78th Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Sep 2019

“Converging all sciences to cancer therapies”

As the president of the 78th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association, I welcome all participants to Kyoto and look forward to three days of excellent discussions on how we can defeat cancer. Recently we have witnessed great advances in cancer therapeutics. Targeting key driver mutations responsible for cancer progression offers us a way of treating patients with a rationally designed strategy, and a wealth of knowledge about cancer genomics obtained by globally collaborating scientists has made molecularly targeted therapies an accurate and effective reality for individual patients. We have especially been excited by cancer immunotherapy, as highlighted by the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine awarded to two prominent scientists in the field: Cancer is a disease that progresses through Darwinian evolution, and understanding how cancer cells, unlike normal cells, acquire instability, which drives their evolution without excessively reducing their fitness, is one of the central problems in understanding how can cancer arises. It is also important to keep in mind that cancer progression is not a cell-autonomous process. It happens in the context of complicated and mutual interactions between cancer cells and their surrounding environments. Even fluctuating surrounding oxygen and nutrient concentrations, immunological attack and iatrogenic stresses are among the major players contributing to the selection process. Thus, elucidating the fine details of the cancer-microenvironment will give us novel leads toward anti-cancer strategies. Furthermore, we recognize that in order to conquer cancer we need to have an integrative approach that links branches of scientific knowledge that hitherto have not been perceived as major fields in cancer biology, such as bioinformatics and systems biology. We have therefore dubbed the meeting as “Converging all sciences to cancer therapies.”

This meeting offers programs covering a broad range of inter-disciplinary sciences, from basic to applied, with top scientists, including Dr. Tatsuki Horii, one of the 2018 Nobel Prize laureate. I sincerely hope that all participants will enjoy the scientific discussions as well as the culture in Kyoto.

President Hitoshi Nakagama
Message from JCA

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) is an organization of researchers who carry out basic and clinical research, and contributes to the development of public health and social medicine. JCA currently consists of approximately 13,000 members, and the areas they specialize in are wide-ranging. JCA functions as a forum where researchers with diverse specialties gather, via the keyword “cancer” and exchange information. The major activities of JCA include the holding of the “Annual Meeting” and the publication of “Cancer Science”. The Annual Meeting is held once a year in autumn, and approximately 5,000 researchers and students, members of research advisors and various other stakeholders regularly participate each year.

JCA has been enthusiastically promoting the globalization of the association, and is working positively to that end, for example, holding International Sessions at the Annual Meeting by inviting speakers from abroad, especially from neighboring Asian countries since 2007. JCA also started to provide travel grants for researchers from neighboring Asian countries to encourage and support their participation in the Annual Meetings.

JCA Science is the official journal of JCA. Cancer Science succeeded the journal GANN (cancer in Japan), one of the oldest cancer journals in the world, having been founded in 1907, and has now served as a driving force of global cancer research for more than 100 years. Cancer Science has been an open access journal with an increasing impact factor of 4.372. Cancer Science is a fully peer reviewed, online open access journal with an increasing impact factor of 4.372. The journal averages only 17 days from submission to first decision, providing high-quality rapid publication of cutting-edge research.

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JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference

The 6th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference, sponsored by JCA and AACR, was held at July 10-12, 2018 at the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto. Focusing on “The Latest Advances in Lung Cancer Research: From Basic Science to Therapeutics”. The organizers of this conference included three JCA committee members (Dr. Hiroyuki Mamos, Dr. Tatsuki Horii, and Dr. Hitoshi Nakagama) and three AACR committee members (Dr. Alice T. Shab, Dr. Thomas J.union and Charles M. Rudin). Lung cancer is one of the cancer subtypes where most recent advances of basic translational research has reshaped its therapeutics as well as diagnostics. This conference, hence, held with a wide range of topics, such as personalized treatment strategies in lung cancer, latest advances in small cell lung cancer and mesothelioma, targeting KRAS-mutant lung cancer, and reevaluating targeted therapies in lung cancer. There were 18 invited speakers from Japan and 8 from abroad. A total of 207 attendees gathered together not only from Japan and US, but from many other countries such as Czech and Greece, and enjoyed hot discussion on 92 posters. We also had the Meet-the-Expert round table session with the speakers. We thank the speakers and all attendants for their participation in this highly successful symposium held in the heart of Kyoto.

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International Sessions (IS)

One of our most important missions is to stimulate international scientific exchange and collaboration. Towards this goal, we organize International Sessions (IS) throughout the three-day Annual Meeting. Twelve hot topics are selected each year, and two IS are held each morning and afternoon during the meeting. Prominent researchers in the fields of the selected topics are invited both from overseas and from Japan. In addition, presentations are selected from submitted abstracts, encouraging young researchers. Because all talks and discussions are made in English, IS provide an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with scientists from around the world, especially Asia-Pacific regions.
Japanese Cancer Association

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