Be part of JCA member:
A place for knowledge exchange and networking

President Kohei Miyazono
Message from JCA

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) is an organization of researchers who carry out basic and clinical cancer research. JCA currently consists of approximately 16,000 members, and the areas that they specialize in are wide-ranging. JCA functions as a forum where researchers with diverse specialties, including life and medical sciences, cancer therapies, bioinformatics, and development of drugs and medical equipment, 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 regularly participate each year. JCA has been enthusiastically promoting the globalizing 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 2008. JCA also started to provide travel grants for researchers from neighboring Asian countries to support their participation in the Annual Meetings.

Cancer Science is the official journal of JCA. Cancer Science succeeded the journal “Cancer Research”.

The annual meetings of our Association provide opportunities for cancer-research-related academics to exchange the latest information on cancer research involving a broad range of topics, from epidemiology and prophylaxis to treatment. You are encouraged to participate in sessions on themes in which you are not so familiar, as well as in symposia on your own research interests. We are also planning to allow our members to link their work to society by, for example, promoting interchanges among different disciplines and industries, and sharing issues with patients, government bodies, and the media.

Once again, Nagoya will be the site for our annual meeting after a four-year interval since the 70th Annual Meeting in 2011 (with Dr. Kazuo Tajima as president). We hope many researchers will attend the meeting.

The AACR-JCA Joint Conference has been held every three years since 1981, with changing venues in the Hawaiian islands. The 9th Joint Conference was held in Maui, Hawaii, in February 2013, co-chaired by Dr. Tyler Jacks (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA, USA) and Dr. Kohei Miyazono (The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan) under the title of “Breakthroughs in Basic and Translational Cancer Research”. More than six-hundred participants attended the conference. keynote lectures were presented on the first day by Dr. Philip A. Sharp (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA, USA) and Dr. Hironori Mato (Jichi Medical School, Tochigi, Japan). After the keynote lectures, 55 talks and more than 200 posters were presented. Participants had fruitful discussions during the conference, and enjoyed their stay in Hawaii. The next AACR-JCA Joint Conference, scheduled in winter, 2016, will be organized by Dr. Frank McCormick (University of California San Francisco, CA, USA) and Dr. Teinosuke Noda (Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan).

9th Chairperson Kohei Miyazono

Aichiro Naoe President The 74th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association

Timothy C. Wang, Columbia University Medical Center

Tomoki Naoe
President The 74th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association

International Sessions (IS)
One of our most important missions is to stimulate international scientific exchange and collaboration. Towards this goal, we organize several International Sessions (IS) throughout the three-day annual meeting. Twelve hot topics will be selected each year, and two IS will be held each morning and afternoon during the conference. Prominent researchers in the fields of the topics will be invited both from Japan and from overseas. In addition, a few presentations will be selected for IS from general attendants, as stand-alone talks, targeting in particular young researchers. Because all talks and discussions will be given in English, IS will provide an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with scientists from all over the world.

74th Annual Meeting in Nagoya, Oct 2015
“From collaboration to integration: Cancer research for patients’ benefit”

“To study and control cancer” — this desire is the starting point for the work at the Japanese Cancer Association. As recent years have seen remarkable advances in cancer research in terms of life sciences, a large amount of knowledge about cancer, particularly its pathologic implications, has been accumulated, and so the demand for “cancer research for patient’s benefit” is expected to increase. What has been demonstrated through cancer research? What remains unknown? In which directions will cancer research go? The 74th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association is expected to catalyze thinking about these questions.

We have set another theme for the coming meeting: “From collaboration to integration.” The necessity of collaboration between basic research and clinical studies and between academia and industry is often pointed out. In reality, however, it is not as easy as simply passing the baton from one to another. I believe that cancer researchers must not only know the details of work by others, but also understand their positions and values, in order to make value judgments with a broad vision. To this end, there is an urgent need to develop “physician scientists.” We hope that many clinicians will attend the meeting to appreciate the new frontiers of cancer research.

The 4th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference, sponsored by the JCA and AACR, was focused on “The Latest Advances in Gastric Cancer Research: From Basic Science to Therapeutics.” It was held December 16-18, 2013 at the Tokyo Bay Makuhari Hotel/Club & Resorts, and was perhaps the most successful Special Joint Conference yet.

The conference was organized by three JCA committee members (Drs. Masanori Hatakeyama, Atsushi Ohtsu, Wataru Yasui) and three AACR committee members (Drs. Timothy C. Wang, James F. Fox and James R. Goldenberg). There were 172 participants from 15 countries, and the program including 27 invited talks and 99 posters. The topics presented ranged from basic mechanisms such as H. pylori virulence factors and the microbe, stem cells, histopathology, mouse models, epigenetics and genomics, and molecular alterations to novel therapies for the disease. Most of the participants agreed that this was a cutting edge cancer research symposium of the highest quality, and possibly the best gastric cancer meeting to date.