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

75th Annual Meeting in Yokohama, Oct 2016
“Breakthroughs in Cancer Treatment: Collaboration of Basic, Translational and Clinical Research”

“Conquering cancer through research” is our ultimate mission of the Japanese Cancer Association JCA, and this has also been a topic at our recent annual meetings. Nevertheless, how to direct basic research in cancer towards applications in clinical practice has been a key issue in cancer research, with the focus on linking basic research with clinical practice. This has no doubt driven the developments in cancer research in recent years. In light of this, we hope to create a program for the 75th Annual Meeting of JCA that will consider cancer research from the perspective of how we can best facilitate so-called “breakthroughs” in research, which will lead to innovative diagnostic and treatment methods.

Tyrosine-kinase inhibitors and immunotherapy are examples of targeted molecular therapies that have been developed over the past few years. These therapies originated from basic research that initially did not necessarily have any association with cancer. Decades of research have produced more than a few research findings with the potential for clinical application. In order to transfer these findings into clinical practice, it is imperative to promote interdisciplinary research comprising a wide range of specialists in medicine, life science, pharmaceutical science, and other fields. Another distinguishing feature of cancer research is that findings in other fields outside medicine and life science can also lead to the development of new therapies and diagnostic devices. The integration of cancer research with other fields is a key factor in achieving the breakthroughs we are seeking.

In addition to discussing this theme, we would like the 75th Annual Meeting of JCA to be an opportunity for considering how we can recruit and train young cancer researchers, as well as looking at effective ways to make our internationalized association even more global in its reach.

We look forward to receiving your valued opinions and suggestions, so that we can ensure the 75th Annual Meeting of JCA is a meaningful and worthwhile opportunity for all attendees.

Kohki Miyazono
President
The 75th 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.

The AACR-JCA Joint Conference in Hawaii

The AACR-JCA Joint Conference has been held every three years since 1989, with changing venues in the Hawaiian islands. The 10th Joint Conference was held in Maui, Hawaii, in February 2016, co-chaired by Dr. Frank McCormick (UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, CA, USA) and Dr. Temmo Noz (Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan) under the title of “Breakthroughs in Cancer Research: From Biology to Therapeutics.” About 570 participants attended the conference. Keynote lectures were presented on the first day by Dr. Suzane L. Topalian (John Hopkins Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, MD, USA) and Dr. Yusuke Nakamura (The University of Chicago, IL, USA). After the keynote lectures, 37 talks and more than 300 posters were presented. Participants had fruitful discussions during the conference, and enjoyed their stay in Hawaii. The next AACR-JCA Joint Conference, scheduled for 2019, will be organized by Dr. Hitoshi Nakagama (National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan) and a co-chairperson from AACR.

Kohki Miyazono
President
The 75th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association

JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference

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 Maihama Hotel Club & Resorts, and was perhaps the most successful Special Joint Conference yet. The conference was organized by three JCA committee members (Drs. Masanori Hattori, Atsushi Ohtsu, Wataru Yasui) and three AACR committee members (Drs. Timothy C. Wang, James G. Fox and James R. Goldenring). There were 172 participants from 8 different countries, and the program including 27 invited talks and 99 posters. The next JCA- AACR Special Joint Conference, scheduled on July 13-15, 2016 at the Tokyo Bay Maihama Hotel Club & Resorts, will be focused on hematological cancer research. The conference will be organized by three JCA committee members (Drs. Tadakazu Nakamura, Isay Kitisabaichi, Shigeru Chiba) and three AACR committee members (Drs. Jonathan D. Licht, Rosa L. Levy, and Carsten R. M. Jamieson). The meeting will focus on the following topics: leukemic stem cells and metabolism, aging and epigenetics, genetic variation from germline to somatic, myeloproliferative neoplasms/myelodysplastic syndrome, novel therapies of lymphoid and myeloid malignancies, and immunotherapy of hematopoietic neoplasms.