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

President Hitoshi Nakagama Message from JCA

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) is an organization of researchers who carry out basic and clinical cancer research, and research on public health and social medicine. JCA currently consists of approximately 15,000 members, and the areas they specialize in cover 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 “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 advocates and various other stakeholders regularly participate each year. JCA has been enthusiastically promoting the globalization of the association, and is working proactively to that by, 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.

Cancer Science is the official journal of JCA. Cancer Science succeeded the journal GANN (cancer in Japanese), one of the oldest cancer science journals, in 1907, and they have now served as drivers of cancer research. Additionally, there will be a special symposium entitled “Advances in basic and clinical medicine in the past 10 years,” which will review recent progress in basic and clinical medical research, unsurmountable just a few years ago. Although the new cancer drugs being created through successful research are great news for patients, there is concern that high drug prices may threaten Japan’s health care system in the future. At this point in time, we intend to gather opinions from various stakeholders including patients, health care professionals, government and related academic societies and provide recommendations to enlighten the public. I hope the meeting will provide the first step towards understanding the current situation through deliberating challenges related to medical expenses and the health care system.

A lively phrase “Kiwametsubara Gan Kenkyu,” which means “Diving Deep into Cancer Research” a unique expression in the Osada dialect, has been chosen as the slogan for this meeting. The meeting poster features the design of a DNA double helix made with Takoyaki, Osaka’s iconic food, in the hope that you will enjoy the food of Osaka as well as active discussions during the meeting. The entire tram looks forward to welcoming you to Osaka.

Hitoshi Mori
President
The 77th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association

International Sessions (IS)

One of our most important missions is to stimulate international scientific exchange and collaboration. Toward 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.

AACC-JCA Special Joint Conference

The 6th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference, sponsored by JCA and AACR, will focus on “The Latest Advances in Lung Cancer Research: From Basic Science to Therapeutics.” It will be held at July 10-12, 2018 at the Kyoto Toyota Hotel. Kyoto. The organizers of this conference include three JCA committee members (Dr. Hiyoshi Mami, Seiji Yano and Hiroshi Nishihara) and three AACR committee members (Dr. Alice T. Shaw, Roy S. Herbst and Charles M. Rudin). Lung cancer is one of the cancer subtypes where recent advance of basic/translational medicine has reshaped its therapeutic strategies as well as diagnostics. This conference will, hence, deal 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, novel immunotherapeutic strategies beyond PD-1/-L1-PD-1/-L1, primary and acquired mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapies, tumor heterogeneity and circulating tumor DNA, tumor microenvironment and implications for treatment. There will be 17 invited speakers from Japan and more than 20 from abroad. We will also have the Meet-the-Expert round table session with those speakers. We hope many of you will participate and enjoy this exciting conference held in the beautiful Kyoto city at early summer.

JCA-AACR Joint Conference in Hawaii

The JCA-AACR 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 (USCF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, CA, USA) and Dr. Hirotaka Nakamura (Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan) under the title of “Breakthroughs in Cancer Research: From Biology to Therapeutics.” About 570 participants from US, Japan and other countries attended the conference. Keynote lectures were presented on the first day by Dr. Suzanne L. Topalian (John Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, MD, USA) and Dr. Yusuke Nakayama (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 AACC-JCA Joint Conference, scheduled in February 8-12, 2019, will be organized by Dr. José Baselga (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY, USA) and Dr. Hitoshi Nakamura (National Cancer Center, Tokyo, Japan).

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Hitoshi Nakagama
President

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