The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) is an organization of researchers who carry out basic and clinical cancer research, and it is dedicated to improving public health and social medicine. JCA currently consists of approximately 13,000 members, and the areas they specialize in cover a wide range. JCA functions as a forum where researchers with diverse specialties gather via the keyword “cancer” and exchange information.

The Annual Meeting is held once a year in autumn, and approximately 5,000 researchers and analysts, 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 by, for example, holding International Sessions at the Annual Meeting by inviting speakers from abroad, especially from neighboring Asian countries since 2001. JCA also started to provide travel grants for researchers from neighboring Asian countries to encourage and support their participation in the Annual Meeting.

Cancer 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 they have now served as drivers of global cancer research for over 100 years.

Cancer Science has been an open access journal since 2014. Publication of the journal is currently carried out under the direction of Kohei Miyazono (editor-in-chief). Cancer research has been developing dramatically, and has clarified the nature of cancer biology. Remarkable progress has been made in cancer treatment, especially molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy based on genomic aberrations of individual cancers and immunological conditions of tumor microenvironment as well. Genomic Cancer Medicine (Precision Medicine) which provides medical care for individual based on genomic information.

JCA will work more vigorously on basic and translational research, and develop human resources, including young researchers. We expect to establish and strengthen cooperative relationships with foreign researchers, so that we will contribute to the development of life science, promote the development of new cancer prevention and treatment methods, and contribute to society through the future promotion of Cancer Research.

79th Annual Meeting in Hiroshima, Oct 2020

"Confronting the solid truth of cancer and working together"

I welcome all participants to the 79th Annual Meeting of JCA convening in Hiroshima in October, 2020. JCA aims to promote the development of cancer research, and its final goal is to conquer cancer.

Cancer research has generated new technologies and has elucidated the occurrences and outcomes of the disease. We are proud of the fact that cancer investigations have also been able to disclose the mechanisms of numerous life phenomena, and have created a body of knowledge that has exerted an immense impact on other disciplines. The importance of the application of research results in human communities need not be iterated.

Nonetheless, we should refrain from placing an excessive priority to the pursuit of such mid-range successes. I believe that we must be held responsible for leading the development of sustainable science.

In recent years, NGS analysis has connected with genome medicine as genistic panel testing, and the elucidation of the immune system of cancer has been pivotal to cancer chemotherapy thanks to the innovative development of medicine. The prediction and application of medical data help in the active utilization of AI in cancer research and cancer treatment. None of the above-mentioned advances has translated into complete knowledge systems as of now, and this gap requires us to establish a plan to examine the results, to resolve the problems, and to improve the entire system.

The primary theme of the 79th Annual Meeting is “Confronting the solid truth of cancer and working together.” To conquer cancer, it is crucial for us to observe cancer in an inclusive manner that encompasses the full gamut of scientific investigation from pathological observations to genome learning. To achieve this outcome, we must capitalize on various levels of partnerships between basic and clinical medicine, cross-disciplinary approaches, and the forging of alliances between human and AI sciences, academia and industry, as well as survivors and scientists.

This meeting intends to present some of the fruits of cancer research by “confronting the solid truth of cancer and working together” to help envision a better future for humanity.

By status of COVID-19, only domestic participants will be accepted at the venue. We will provide the contents via live and on-demand streaming (Oct. 1-31, 2020).

I sincerely hope that this meeting that purposes to promote an extensive understanding of cancer will also signify a giant leap toward the conquering of cancer.

Watari Yasui
President
The 79th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association

International Sessions (IS)

One of the 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 from both 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.

AAACR-JCA Joint Conference in Hawaii

The AAACR-JCA Joint Conference has been held every three years since 1995 with changing venues in the Hawaiian Islands. The 11th Joint Conference was held in Maui, Hawaii, from February 8-12, 2019. About 570 participants from 15 countries, US, Japan and other countries attended the conference. Keynote Session were presented by Dr. Eilis E. Maduro (Nationalchildren’s Hospital, Columbus, OH, USA) on a theme of “Cancer genomics: Discovery to clinical translation” and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi (Osaka University, Osaka, Japan) on “Regulatory T cells in tumor immunity.” After the Keynote Session, 37 plenary talks on 12 scientific topics and more than 300 posters were presented. The next 12th AAACR-JCA Joint Conference will be held in February 5-8, 2022.

JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference

The 6th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference, sponsored by JCA and AACR, will be held at June 9-11, 2020 at the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto, focusing on “The Latest Advances in Pancreatic Cancer Research: From Basic Science to Therapeutics.” The organizers of this conference include three JCA committee members (Dr. Kohei Miyazono, Makoto Oshima, and Hiroshi Seno) and three AACR committee members (Dr. Elizabeth M. Jaffee, Arthur Maitra, and Rosalie C. Sears). Pancreatic cancer is one of the most aggressive cancers, and the 5-year survival rate of pancreatic cancer patients still remains less than 10%. This conference deals with a wide range of topics to elucidate the pathogenesis of pancreatic cancer and discuss new strategies for prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer. We invite 16 speakers from Japan and 9 from abroad to present diverse, cutting edge and forward-looking research. We also invite a speaker from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, we have a special session “patient and public involvement.” We sincerely hope that speakers and all attendees will enjoy the scientific discussions as well as the culture of Kyoto.

Note: The 7th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A rescheduled date will be announced on JCA homepage.

JCA-AACR Precision Cancer Medicine International Conference

Cancer genomics has revolutionized the way we diagnose and treat cancer. The precision medicine has already been implemented into daily practice worldwide, and, in Japan, cancer gene panel tests are reimbursed by the national health insurance system from 2019. Given the rapid progress in this area, JCA is very much pleased to open an entirely new joint conference for established collaborations with AACR. The main organizers are Dr. Hirosaku Mano (JCA) and Dr. Elaine Mardis (AACR), and we will build multidisciplinary program communities. The conference will be held in Kyoto (venue: Kyoto Brighton Hotel) at June 25-28, 2021, just before the famous Gion Festival that colors Kyoto city beautifully. This conference will cover a wide range of topics, from new basic concepts to cutting edge techniques in precision medicine, and also to novel schemes in clinical trials. You are encouraged to join this 4-day conference to grasp the entire picture of the updated precision cancer medicine.

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