I am pleased to announce that the 80th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association will be held at Pacifico Yokohama for three days from September 30 (Thursday) to October 2 (Saturday), 2021. First held in Osaka in 1941, the annual meeting has been convened continuously for the last 80 years. The forthcoming commemorative 80th Annual Meeting will be held on the theme, “Bringing hope for future cancer eradication, built upon the past 80 years.” Cutting-edge knowledge and technologies are expected to bring dramatic progress in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and are built upon the efforts and achievements of our predecessors. Therefore, we will look back on the wealth of such accumulated knowledge with gratitude and discuss new strategies to eradicate cancer by applying innovative technologies to overcome the difficulties that we have faced.

The key mission of JCA is to win the battle against cancer through basic research. However, there is an obstacle to translating discoveries in basic research to clinical application, known as “the Valley of Death,” and many cancer researchers have been detached from the patients for the depth of that valley. The development of innovative diagnostic and treatment methods requires collaboration across different disciplines, fields and professions, and such interdisciplinary efforts may enable some small discovery to suddenly win the battle against cancer.

The 80th Annual Meeting will be organized as an experimental forum where specialists in various fields are brought together with the mission of eradicating cancer, and exploring how research ideas and hypotheses can be turned into reality. We thus hope to build a basis for organic partnerships among academia, industry, and society to enable stakeholders with diverse backgrounds to think and work together. In addition, we will organize the “JCA Researcher Forum” that captures the interest of young researchers and students, who will be the next generation of oncology leaders, and makes them want to participate. We also would like to discuss the impact of stem cell biology on cancer research.

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, the developer of iPS cells and a 2012 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, will give a special lecture.

Although the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic by the time of the annual meeting is unclear, we hope to welcome you in person in Yokohama. We very much look forward to your participation and highly appreciate your valuable contribution to the presentations and discussions.

President Hideyuki Saya
Message from JCA

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) is an organization of researchers who carry out basic and clinical cancer research and seek to improve public health and medical care, and JCA has a unique mission, in a forum where researchers with diverse specialties related to cancer gather to exchange information. The Annual Meeting held on 80 years ago, in 1941, and attracts approximately 5,000 researchers, health workers, students and various other stakeholders each year. JCA has been enthusiastically promoting the globalization of the Association, such as by holding International Meetings 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 them to participate at the Annual Meetings.

Cancer Science is the official journal of JCA. Cancer Science replaced the previous journal, GANN (meaning “cancer” in Japanese), one of the oldest cancer journals in the world founded in 1907, and has thus been a driver of global cancer research for more than a century. Cancer Science has been an open access journal since 2014, and is currently published under the direction of Kohi Miyazono, Editor-in-Chief. Cancer research has developed dramatically, revealing the nature of cancer biology and leading to remarkable progress in cancer treatment, especially molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy based on genomic abnormalities of individual cancers and immunological conditions of the tumor microenvironment. JCA will keep vigorously working on these basic and translational researches, and will foster young researchers for the future.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic placed an enormous burden on the medical community, which has had a major impact on cancer research and treatment. In order to overcome the unprecedented disaster and save people suffering from cancer, JCA is demonstrating international leadership and building collaborative relationships with overseas researchers. We will contribute to the development of life sciences and promote the development of new cancer prevention and treatment methods by continuing to promote cancer research in the future.

One of the most important missions is to collaborate with international scientific exchange and collaboration. Towards this goal, we organize International Meetings throughout the year in order to continue our efforts. The 80th Annual Meeting this year will be held on the theme of “Bringing hope for future cancer eradication, built upon the past 80 years.” Cutting-edge knowledge and technologies are expected to bring dramatic progress in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and are built upon the efforts and achievements of our predecessors. Therefore, we will look back on the wealth of such accumulated knowledge with gratitude and discuss new strategies to eradicate cancer by applying innovative technologies to overcome the difficulties that we have faced. The development of innovative diagnostic and treatment methods requires collaboration across different disciplines, fields and professions, and such interdisciplinary efforts may enable some small discovery to suddenly win the battle against cancer.

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