

JCA

The JAPANESE CANCER ASSOCIATION



<http://www.jca.gr.jp>

Executive Office

International Medical Information Center
Shinanomachi Rengakan, 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0016, Japan
Telephone: +81-3-5361-7156 (Direct) FAX: +81-3-3358-1633
E-mail: jca.office@imic.or.jp





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



01

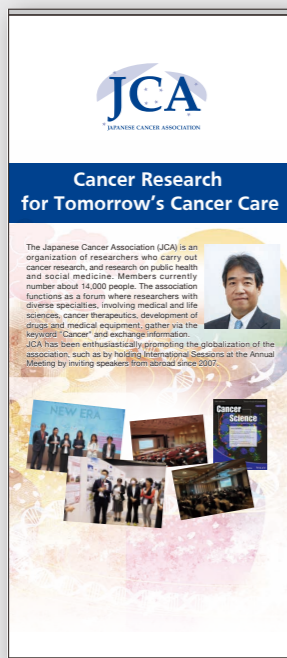
President Hiroyuki Mano Message from JCA

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 has some 13,000 members specialized in a wide range of fields. JCA serves as a forum where cancer researchers with diverse specialties gather to exchange information. The Annual Meeting is held once a year in autumn, 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 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 them to participate in 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 Masanori Hatakeyama, Editor-in-Chief.

Regarding the cooperation with AACR, the AACR-JCA joint sessions started at the AACR Annual Meeting in San Diego in 2014, and have continued to this day at each of AACR Annual Meeting. We also have JCA-AACR joint sessions in the JCA Annual Meeting. These joint sessions focus on cutting-edge science and timely scientific topics such as molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy based on genomic abnormalities/tumor microenvironment of individual cancers. In addition to these joint sessions, we have the AACR-JCA Joint Conference held in Hawaii once every three years, and the JCA-AACR Joint Special Conference held once every two years in Japan on the theme of each organ cancer. Further, JCA is excited to have newly started the JCA-AACR Precision Cancer

Medicine International Conference held once every two years starting from 2021. We are proud to be able to attract, and accelerate interactions among, researchers from all over the world through these joint conferences. 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.



02

The 83rd Annual Meeting in Fukuoka, September 19 to 21, 2024 Cancer Research for Perfect Cure

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Cancer Association will be held at the Fukuoka International Conference Center from September 19th (Thursday) to 21st (Saturday), 2024. In recent years, the activities of academic conferences have been significantly impacted by Covid-19. Despite these challenges, the Japan Cancer Association has managed to maintain its vitality. Encouraged by the success of the 82nd Annual Meeting under the leadership of Chairman Mano, I am enthusiastically looking forward to the 83rd Annual Meeting, which promises to return to its original dynamic form.

The Japan Cancer Association takes pride in its long history and tradition. Its mission is to “explore the pathophysiology of cancer from the basics, collaborate between the fields of basic and clinical research, and disseminate new knowledge to the world, aiming to conquer cancer.” The fundamental understanding of cancer has rapidly advanced due to progress in measurement technologies in various omics fields such as genomics, epigenomics, proteomics, metabolomics, as well as innovations in information science and AI. Simultaneously, the development of numerous drugs, utilizing various modalities based on acquired information, to control cancer in clinical settings has also evolved rapidly. We are currently witnessing a significant transitional period from an era of cancer control to an era of complete cancer cure. Therefore, the theme for this meeting is simply “Cancer Research Aimed at Complete Cure.” In Japan, the analysis of cancer-related gene sequences to optimize treatment methods, known as “cancer genomic medicine,” will commence in solid cancer areas from 2019 and extend to hematologic malignancies in 2024.

Furthermore, new therapies not dependent on genetic mutations targeting cancer stem cells are also being developed. In the 83rd Annual Meeting, we aim to create a lively and vibrant academic conference where diverse individuals, including those involved in the development of measurement instruments and novel drugs, as well as healthcare professionals engaged in their clinical applications, gather under the mission of “eradicating cancer.” This conference in Fukuoka marks a return after nearly 20 years. Fukuoka is a charming city with excellent transportation accessibility. I sincerely hope that you actively participate on-site and enjoy the event. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation.

Koichi Akashi
President,
The 83rd Annual Meeting of
the Japanese Cancer Association



03

International Sessions (IS)

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) has been actively working towards internationalizing cancer research in Asia and Oceania. As part of these efforts, we organize 12 Major Symposiums called “International Sessions” at the JCA Annual Meeting with leading cancer researchers from Asia and Oceania. In the International Sessions, Japanese and Asian/Oceanian researchers co-chair each session, where speakers, including young researchers, are invited from the same region to present and discuss their cancer research on common themes, fostering international research exchange. For the 2024 JCA Annual Meeting in Fukuoka City, a wide range of important and cutting-edge cancer research themes such as cellular senescence, non-coding RNA, immune microenvironment, radiation therapy, DNA damage response, epidemiology, and more have been chosen for the 12 slots of International Sessions. With over 50 invited chairs and speakers expected from Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Australia (with over 30 non-Japanese) in the International Sessions, we believe that each session will be exciting and insightful. The International Sessions have been continuously held at the JCA Annual Meeting for the past 17 years, and many of past participants have initiated international collaborations based on the network of the sessions and published significant research outcomes. In this way, the International Sessions at the JCA Annual Meeting not only contribute to networking the international cancer researchers in Asia and Oceania, but also play a role in advancing global cancer research with nurturing leadership in this area. Additionally, continuous holding of International Sessions has led to an increase of participants from Asia and Oceania at the JCA Annual Meeting, with currently around 500 attendees from overseas. Looking ahead, we expect that the International Sessions will continue the significant contributions to the exchange of ideas and internationalization with the cancer researchers from Asia and Oceania.



Organizing Committee of
International Sessions
Chair
Masanobu Oshima

04

The 8th JCA-AACR Special Joint Conference: The Molecular Renaissance in Colorectal Cancer

Koshi Mimori (Kyushu University Beppu Hospital)

Colorectal cancer represents one of the malignancies with the highest incidence and mortality rates. Despite trends towards improvement, driven by advancements in immunotherapy and genomic medicine, it remains a significant unresolved social issue. The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) and the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) regularly convene joint research symposiums, featuring keynote speeches from leading experts in basic and translational research from both Japan and the U.S. These symposiums foster exciting debates grounded in the latest information. This year, “colorectal cancer” has been focused on as the theme, with the Conference titled in the spirit of the “Renaissance,” symbolizing a reevaluation and innovation of classical arts to create new value. We expect any breakthroughs in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. In terms of clinical advances in the colorectal cancer field, we are exploring any novel treatment targets in cancer-associated cells comprising the cancer microenvironment of sporadic cancers in addition to the immune checkpoint inhibitors. In addition, we are focusing on early-onset colorectal cancer cases and any treatments targeting specific genes in those cases. We are looking forward to discussing any brand-new diagnostic or treatment modalities applied to the actual treatment of patients at the conference. While, advancements in basic research, studies on the composition of the gut microbiota and its relationship to the development of colorectal cancer are progressing. There is a growing understanding of how gut bacteria affect immune responses and the efficacy of drugs. Finally, the detection of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) harboring cancer-specific genetic or epigenetic modification in the blood, allows for the non-invasive analysis of the cancer’s genetic profile applying for the personalized treatment.

From the AACR, we have Luis Diaz (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center), Cynthia Sears (John Hopkins), and Ryan Corcoran (Massachusetts General Hospital). From JCA, Tatsuhiro Shibata (University of Tokyo/National Cancer Center), Masanobu Oshima (Kanazawa University), with myself overseeing as the coordinator. Keynote Lectures will be conducted by Diaz and Mimori, and followed by eight hot topics in the symposium: 1) Carcinogenesis/Early-Onset CRC, 2) Microbiome, 3) Immunotherapy/Latest Treatments, 4) Neo Ras/Liquid Biopsy, 5) Genomic Evolution and AI Analysis, 6) Epigenomics/Omics Analysis, 7) Cancer Microenvironment, and 8) Latest Clinical Topics. We will host presentations by a total of 24 experts from both countries. Additionally, Mr. Majima will deliver the Cancer Survivorship Lecture, and Rising Star Sessions featuring promising young researchers from both countries is also planned. Approximately 80 poster presentations from both domestic and international contributors are expected.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the past seven conferences have welcomed 156 participants, nearly 30 of whom were from overseas. The significance of hosting this international conference extends to the industrial sector, and we are confident that it will make a substantial contribution to the future development of global colorectal cancer care.



8th JCA Chairperson
Koshi Mimori

Free Open access!

One of the oldest cancer journals in the world, first published in 1907, and has since been recognized as one of leading journals that substantially stimulate cancer research for more than a century. Our journal is now vigorously working to foster research that elucidate molecular mechanisms of cancer development, which pave the way for innovative cancer treatment, especially molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy based on genomic abnormalities of individual cancers and tumor microenvironment. The journal's median time from submission to first decision is just 9 days, providing high quality rapid publication of research that has significant clinical impact. Submit your paper to the most cited cancer journal from Asia.



The official journal of the Japanese Cancer Association
wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/cas



Editor-in-Chief
Masanori Hatakeyama
(Institute of Microbial Chemistry
Professor Emeritus,
The University of Tokyo)

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