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Executive Office

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





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

1 Message from the President of the Japanese Cancer Association 2025

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA), with a history spanning more than 80 years and a membership of approximately 12,000, is one of Japan's leading organizations dedicated to cancer research. Our mission is to advance cancer research and ultimately overcome cancer, thereby contributing to the health and well-being of society.

Recent advances in genomic research have greatly deepened our understanding of cancer at the molecular level, leading to development of novel molecular-targeted therapies. In parallel, progress in cancer immunology has resulted in breakthrough treatments such as immune checkpoint inhibitors and cell-based therapies. In addition, the emergence of innovative therapeutic modalities—including nucleic acid-based drugs, protein-targeting agents, and advanced drug delivery systems (DDS)—as well as their applications in radiotheranotics, are expected to further expand the potential of cancer treatments. Cancer research continues to be a driving force for therapeutic innovation.



To accelerate progress in these areas, the JCA hosts an Annual Meeting that gathers over 4,000 participants, including cancer researchers, drug development scientists, and healthcare professionals. This conference serves as a vibrant platform for presenting and sharing the latest research findings. Conducted in English as the official language, the meeting attracts more than 500 participants from across Asia and Oceania, significantly contributing to the advancement of cancer research on a global scale.

The JCA also publishes Cancer Science, our official academic journal, to disseminate the latest research findings worldwide. Cancer Science continues the legacy of GANN, the world's oldest cancer research journal, founded in 1907 in Japan. Today, as an open-access journal, it enjoys a growing international readership and is highly regarded by the global scientific community.

Furthermore, the JCA actively collaborates with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Each year, we invite leading AACR-affiliated researchers to participate in the JCA–AACR Joint Symposium, which focuses on critical cancer-related topics and precision medicine in Japan. In addition, every three years, we co-host the AACR–JCA Joint Conference on Cancer Research in Hawaii, further strengthening international research exchange and collaboration. More recently, we have also initiated a collaboration with the Korean Cancer Association (KCA), aiming to foster friendship and promote meaningful collaboration with colleagues in the cancer research community in Korea. We remain committed to deepening these global partnerships in the year ahead.

Through these efforts, the JCA strives to contribute to the global advancement of cancer research and care. We sincerely appreciate your continued understanding, support, and guidance as we move forward together.

Masanobu Oshima

Masanobu Oshima, President



2 Message from the President of the 84th Annual Meeting of the JCA

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) will be held from September 25th to 27th, 2025, in the beautiful city of Kanazawa, Japan.

The JCA is dedicated to overcoming cancer through the advancement of research. With this mission in mind, we are committed to promoting innovative basic and translational research that deepens our understanding of cancer biology and drives the development of novel therapeutic strategies. To reflect this vision, the theme of the 84th Annual Meeting is: **"Believe in the Power of Cancer Research."**

This year's program will feature approximately 20 major symposia, each focusing on a distinct and cutting-edge research topic. To enhance accessibility for attendees from diverse backgrounds, educational sessions will be held in advance of the main symposia. Our **International Sessions (IS)** will serve as a vital forum for sharing the latest findings with colleagues from across Asia and Oceania. We strongly encourage all participants to attend and engage with these sessions to stay at the forefront of global cancer research.

One of the key goals of this year's meeting is to promote international collaboration. We are honored to host two **JCA–AACR Joint Symposia**, focusing on early cancer biology and the role of epigenetics in cancer development. In addition, the **JCA–KCA Joint Symposium: Cancer Research in Asia** will bring together leading scientists from Korea, Japan together with China, Singapore, and the United States to discuss basic and translational research on gastrointestinal, lung, and head and neck cancers.

We are also proud to welcome two distinguished keynote speakers:

- **Dr. Lillian Siu**, President of AACR 2025 and a renowned physician-scientist from the Princess Margaret Cancer Center, and
- **Dr. Joseph Schlessinger**, a world-leading figure in molecular signaling and drug discovery from Yale University.

It is our sincere hope that these lectures and symposia will offer attendees a valuable opportunity to engage with cutting-edge international cancer research and foster new collaborations.

Finally, we are especially thrilled to welcome you to Kanazawa—our hometown—for this landmark event. It has been more than half a century since Kanazawa last hosted the JCA Annual Meeting in 1969. Through the activities of this year's meeting, we aim not only to disseminate the latest achievements in cancer research but also to contribute to the revitalization of the region and support the ongoing recovery of the Noto Peninsula from earthquake on Jan 2024.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 84th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association and to sharing an inspiring and impactful experience together in Kanazawa.

Masanobu Oshima, President,
The 84th Annual Meeting of the JCA



3 International Sessions (IS)

The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) has been strongly committed to advancing the internationalization of cancer research across Asia and Oceania. As a key initiative in this endeavor, the JCA Annual Meeting hosts a series of distinguished symposia known as the "International Sessions," featuring eminent cancer researchers from the region. These sessions are co-chaired by Japanese and Asian/Oceanian researchers, bringing together esteemed speakers, including early-career scientists with promising potential, from the region to present and engage in discussions on shared research themes, fostering meaningful international collaboration. At the 2025 JCA Annual Meeting, to be held in Kanazawa, nine International Sessions have been curated to explore a diverse array of pivotal and cutting-edge topics

in cancer research. These encompass fundamental cancer biology, integrative multi-omics analysis through informatics, and their applications in cancer medicine. Nearly 50 distinguished chairs and speakers, more than half of whom will be joining from abroad, are anticipated to participate from various nations across Asia and Oceania. Each session promises to be intellectually stimulating and rich with insightful discourse, further advancing the frontiers of cancer research in the region. For the past 18 years, the International Sessions have been a continuous feature of the JCA Annual Meeting, serving as a catalyst for international collaboration. Looking ahead, the International Sessions are expected to continue making a profound impact by promoting the exchange of ideas and strengthening the internationalization of cancer research in the region.

Yutaka Kondo, Chair,
Organizing Committee of International Sessions



4 The 13th AACR-JCA Joint Conference

The AACR-JCA Joint Conference has been held every three years since 1989, with changing venues in the Hawaiian Islands. The 13th Joint Conference was held at Hyatt Regency Maui, Maui, Hawaii, from February 1 to 5, 2025, co-chaired by Dr. Catherine J. Wu (Dana-Farber Cancer Center, MA, USA) and Dr. Hiroyuki Mano (National Cancer Center, Tokyo, Japan) under the title of "From Cancer Discovery Science To Therapeutic Innovation". Nearly 300 participants from US, Japan and other countries attended the conference



with a total of 176 poster presentation. Keynote Session was presented by Dr. Wu on a theme of "Personalized cancer vaccines: Updates and encouraging results". After the Keynote Session, 12 plenary sessions were held, and, this time, short talks were chosen from the abstracts. We further invited industrial scientists to present new clinical trial schemes as well as cutting-edge technologies. Participants thoroughly enjoyed fruitful discussions and exchanged scientific information in an enthusiastic atmosphere in Hawaii.

Hiroyuki Mano, The 13th Chairperson



5 The 3rd JCA-AACR Precision Cancer Medicine International Conference (PCM)

Precision medicine has brought about a significant transformation in cancer care. However, we have yet to fully harness its potential, and further advancements are anticipated. The Japanese Cancer Association (JCA) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) co-host the 3rd JCA-AACR Precision Cancer Medicine International Conference to share cutting-edge insights on precision medicine and foster international collaboration. This biennial conference was first held online, followed by a hybrid format for the second conference. The upcoming 3rd conference will be held in June 2025 in Kyoto and online in a hybrid format. This year's conference will broaden the perspective on precision medicine. It will embrace a more comprehensive approach, emphasizing "therapy development based on disease pathophysiology."

Dr. Victor E. Velculescu from Johns Hopkins University and I will serve as conference chairs. From Japan, the organizing committee will include: Toshihiko Doi (National Cancer Center Hospital East, Japan), Takashi Kohno (National Cancer Center Research Institute, Japan), Hiroyoshi Nishikawa (Kyoto University, Japan), Emi Nishimura (The University of Tokyo, Japan), Mamiko Sakata-Yanagimoto (University of Tsukuba, Japan), From AACR, the organizing committee members will include: Philippe L. Bedard (University Health Network, Canada), Francesca deMichelis (University of Trento, Italy), Peter K. Sorger (Harvard University, USA), Marcel R.M. van den Brink (City of Hope National Medical Center, USA). The conference will facilitate in-depth discussions on a wide range of topics, including basic and clinical research in precision medicine, and real-world data utilization. Additionally, we will explore emerging technologies, providing a forward-looking perspective under the theme "New Frontiers in Precision Cancer Medicine through Innovative Modalities." This conference will be a valuable opportunity to engage in intensive discussions, fostering the next breakthroughs in precision medicine.

Motohiro Kato,
The 3rd PCM Chairperson



6 Survivor Scientist Program

Basic cancer research is essential for the development of cancer treatment and drugs. However, the general public does not easily understand how basic cancer research is contributed to cancer care. To overcome this problem, JCA believes that it is necessary to develop cancer research advocates who can support basic cancer research as leaders of cancer survivor/patient support groups.

In 1999, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has established the Scientist Survivor Program (SSP) with the aim of building a partnership between cancer researchers and cancer survivors. The activities are very active, and in fact, the government provides financial support to revitalize basic cancer research and realize better medical care based on it. The need to carry out such activities in Japan was pointed out. So, the JCA Survivor Scientist Program (JCA-SSP) was launched in Japan in 2015 to create partnerships between leaders of cancer survivor/patient support groups and scientists conducting basic cancer research. Through this program, JCA aims to advance basic cancer research and deliver the results of basic cancer research to cancer patients more quickly.

The first JCA-SSP was held at the 75th JCA Annual Meeting in 2016. From the 4th JCA-SSP program held at the 79th JCA Annual Meeting in 2019, audience participation was allowed, and from the following year, the program was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the program has been held continuously with online attendance available. The 10th anniversary JCA-SSP is planned to be held at the 84th JCA Annual Meeting at Kanazawa in 2025. We will hold commemorative events (Run & Walk events, commemorative ceremonies, etc.) to look back on the achievements so far and to promote further collaboration between leaders of cancer survivor/patient support groups and scientists conducting basic cancer research.

Naoya Fujita, Chair,
Committee for Patient-Scientist Collaboration



The official journal of the
Japanese Cancer Association

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Founded in 1907, Cancer Science, the official journal of JCA, is not only one of the oldest cancer journals in the world but also occupies a significant position as a pioneer in the ongoing advancement of cancer research, consistently making substantial contributions to the field for over a century. Recognized as a top-tier publication, evidenced by its classification as a first-quartile (Q1) journal in the cancer research field, it has rigorously maintained its standards and continues to push the boundaries of cutting-edge research that elucidates the complex molecular processes involved in cancer development. This vital understanding not only aids in the formulation of groundbreaking cancer therapies but also emphasizes innovations in molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy. Cancer Science is guided by the intricate genomic and epigenomic abnormalities that characterize cancers, alongside careful considerations of the tumor microenvironment, crucial elements that collectively influence the effectiveness of therapeutic strategies. With an impressive commitment to efficiency, the journal takes pride in its median time of just nine days from submission to the first decision, ensuring the rapid dissemination of high-quality research with considerable clinical relevance. By submitting your paper to one of the most frequently cited cancer journals in Asia, you embark on an inspiring journey to reshape the landscape of cancer research and treatment.

Masanori Hatakeyama, Editor-in-chief,
Institute of Microbial Chemistry
Professor Emeritus,
The University of Tokyo

