

Yuji Matsuzawa



From the President's Desk: June 2017

As a follow up to my February message to you concerning the important contribution of excess visceral fat to the development of atherosclerosis directly or through cardiovascular risks, the IAS established the IAS Working Group on Visceral Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease which held its inaugural meeting of the Working Group in Prague, Czech Republic during the EAS Congress last April. The intent was to better understand the importance of assessing/targeting abdominal obesity, particularly when associated with excess visceral/ectopic fat, as an important driver of the cardiometabolic risk that has been associated in the past with overweight/obesity per se.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Després and I co-chair the Working Group and are proud to have the following experts join us in this effort:

- Philip Barter (Australia, IAS Immediate Past President)
- Ada Cuevas (Chile, IAS Senior Advisor)
- Robert H. Eckel (USA, IAS Executive Board, Member-at-Large)
- Jean-Charles Fruchart (France, IAS Past President)
- Bruce A. Griffin (UK)
- Frank B. Hu (USA)
- Ian J. Neeland (USA)
- Robert Ross (Canada)
- Raul D. Santos (Brazil, IAS President Elect)
- Jacob Caesar Seidell (The Netherlands)
- Iris Shai (Israel)
- Shizuya Yamashita (Japan, Chair of the IAS Regional Federation for Asia-Pacific)
- Alberto Zambon (Italy, Chair of the IAS Regional Federation for Europe).

The initial meeting of this Working Group was held in Prague on April 24, 2017 and covered the following topics:

1. Body fat distribution and health—a historical perspective (J. Seidell)
2. Visceral adiposity and health—history and perspectives (Y. Matsuzawa)
3. Visceral adiposity and risk of diseases (JP. Després)
4. Visceral adiposity in the Dallas Heart Study (I. Neeland)
5. Visceral adiposity as a measurable /modifiable risk factor (R. Ross)
6. Visceral adiposity and ectopic fat depots and response to life style (J. Shai).

Based on the presentations and much discussion, we are in the process of developing a position paper on visceral adiposity as an emerging risk factor for atherosclerosis and vascular disease, leading to numerous health complications. We will keep you up-to-date on our progress and look forward to hearing your response to this important venture.