

The 44th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japan Atherosclerosis Society was held on July 19/20, 2012 in Fukuoka, at the Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk. The Meeting was a great success, attended by over 1,300 participants, who listened carefully to the latest research reports and passionately debated various issues. In addition to offering thanks to all those who worked so hard on the planning and implementation of the Meeting, we would like to thank all those who participated.

The main theme of this year's Meeting was "Comprehensive Medicine of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Diseases – Guidelines for 2012." The LDL cholesterol lowering drug "statin" which was first developed by Dr. Akira Endo in Japan, has been demonstrated not only to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke, but has also been demonstrated to reduce the overall death rate. In the future, it is considered important to implement comprehensive improvements, not just LDL cholesterol, but also other risk factors. The Society planned its program based on this main theme.

Special Lecture 1: Given by Prof. M. John Chapman, Chair, the European Atherosclerosis Society, on the theme "HDL: The Fireman for Cardiovascular Disease?"

Special Lecture 2: Mr. Katsuya Nomura, Honorary Coach of the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, gave a lecture on "Strategies for the weak."

Symposium 1 for Tomorrow, which was part of the Society's plan, was entitled

“Patients with arterial sclerosis and antithrombotic treatment: Recent developments and issues,” while Symposium 2 was entitled “Dyslipidemia and genetic variations,” and involved lively discussion, together with the latest research reports.

The “Guidelines for Prevention of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Diseases 2012” was published at the same time. This edition includes the introduction of treatment stratification according to absolute risk, and comprehensive management chart for patients with atherosclerotic diseases. The Asian clinical symposium “Regional Differences in Atherosclerotic Risk Factors and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Asian Population” was also planned, and presentations and meaningful exchanges of opinion were carried out by representatives from various Asian countries. During the poster session, presentations were peer-reviewed, and high-scoring posters invited to present at special sessions, at which they were judged and the best were awarded prizes.

Public lectures on the atherosclerotic diseases were held twice, on June 2nd and the main symposium date. Mr. Hideki Saijo, who has suffered two strokes but made a miraculous recovery to return to professional singing while undergoing rehabilitation, spoke of his own experiences, giving many members of the public an excellent opportunity to learn about how to prevent the symptoms of atherosclerosis.

Finally, a session specially planned by the chairman, entitled “Scientists who changed

the era” – Yuji Matsuzawa, Hirofumi Yasue, Akira Endo, and Kikuo Arakawa” provided us as researchers with an excellent opportunity to consider the enormity of the research performed by these men, and how it connects us with the future.