Message from the Congress Chairman

The 40th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Kawasaki Disease
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At the begging of my message, I would extend my sincere condolences on the death of Dr. Tomisaku Kawasaki, the discoverer of Kawasaki disease, who passed away on June 5, 2020, and who was an advisor to the Society and the honorary chairman of the Kawasaki Disease Research Center in Japan.

While the second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic has not yet come to an end, I would like to express my appreciation to all the doctors who are making utmost efforts to control the infection in their hospitals.

As we informed you on July 7, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the 40th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Kawasaki Disease is scheduled to be held entirely online on the original October 30-31, 2020 (Friday and Saturday).

From the very beginning of the conference, the theme of the conference has been "Lifelong Cardiology and the Current State of Kawasaki Disease from an International Perspective". In addition, we would announce the introduction of digitalization to the conference, which was inevitably necessitated by COVID-19 epidemic.

In accordance with the traditional topics related to the diagnosis, management, treatment, and fundamental research on Kawasaki disease, we will focus in this meeting on (1) evaluating the recent guidelines for Kawasaki disease from United States and Japan, (2) new treatment strategies for intractable Kawasaki disease including steroids, cyclosporine, infliximab, anakinra, and statins, and (3) the management of adults Kawasaki disease (including DOACs), the transition issues and the feedback to the acute care, and (4) the new trends of research using big data and in silico data in invited lectures and symposia. The chairman's special program and the international cyber symposium on COVID-19 and Kawasaki disease, which have recently been in the spotlight, will be held in late-breaking sessions. It is the first time that researchers from Europe, US, and Asia (Wuhan, Seoul, and Japan) have got together to discuss this topic. The co-sponsored seminar will focus on the impact of SNS on medicine and medical science and the medical applications of artificial intelligence. In addition to the case conferences, we will have general oral and poster presentations that make us revisit what Kawasaki disease is.

It is the first time that the scientific meeting of Japanese Society of Kawasaki Disease is held entirely online, and we have therefore made preparations based on the experience of other conferences. In addition to symposia and invited lectures, we are asking for live interactive discussions in general oral and poster sessions. For this purpose, we will set up webinar discussants, post posters on demand in advance, allow participants to ask questions, and use the voting function. We will have an online banquet and a member-only business chat tool (with AI simultaneous translation function) for communication and floor discussion to interact with each other. Some educational sessions will also be available on demand for a period of time after the meeting. We ask all participants to pre-register, read the online user manual, attend the briefing on participation procedures, and in addition, presenters to submit an audio-video of their presentation for back-up in case of any problems, to attend a preparation meeting (slide uploading and audio verification) and to make sure that the web and audio environment is acceptable. However, we are still concerned about the possibility of unpredictable problems, and we ask for your understanding and cooperation in such cases.

We look forward to seeing all the Kawasaki disease doctors in good health in the virtual meeting, who we have not seen since March. We would expect all the doctors who are interested in Kawasaki disease but were unable to attend the meeting due to the hospital duty, the long distance to the venue, and personal reasons in going on-site. Welcome to the 40th KD Meeting !