



## Editorial

## Greeting from the President of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) On achieving internationalization and educating young researchers

I assumed the office of President of the JSID (<http://www.jsid.org/english/index.html>). My term is from May 2008 to December 2011. From 2005, I served as the Secretary-General of the JSID under Professor Shinji Shimada, the former President, and I worked to organize the International Investigative Dermatology 2008 (IID2008). We are happy to have successfully completed the IID2008. I believe that the success of that event contributed to firmly establishing the status of the JSID in the arena of international investigative dermatological science. I would like to express my gratitude to the SID and the ESDR for their cooperation.

My tasks as the President are **the internationalization of the organization and the education of young researchers**. Fortunately, Professor Hiroshi Shimizu of Hokkaido University, our new Secretary-General, has an exceptional talent for realizing these goals. Professor Akimichi Morita, the Chief Editor of JDS, is also providing a tremendous amount of help to these ends.

For the first goal of internationalization, I would say that the JSID's status as an international organization has been firmly established. Following IID2008, we will further promote our international relationship with the SID, ESDR and the other neighboring Asian organizations, and further improve our JSID annual meetings from the viewpoint of internationalization. Starting in 2009, the JSID Annual Meetings will be held independently of the Japanese Dermatological Association, and the 34th JSID Annual Meeting will be the first of such meetings. Concerning the date of the meeting, because the SID meeting is held in May and the ESDR meeting is held in September, we decided to have the JSID meeting in **December** every year. Therefore, dermatological researchers will be able to present new data which cannot be presented in either the SID meeting or the ESDR meeting.

**The JSID asked many societies of investigative dermatology in Asia and Oceania** to participate in our meeting, and we have already had several positive replies from those societies. Thus, the JSID Annual Meeting is expected to become a meeting not only for Japanese investigators but also for investigators in various countries of Asia and Oceania. For this purpose, starting with the 34th JSID meeting ([http://www.cs-oto.com/jsid34/index\\_e.html](http://www.cs-oto.com/jsid34/index_e.html)), **all oral presentations in either plenary or concurrent oral sessions will be spoken in English**, and all posters will also be prepared in English. Thus, dermatological researchers from all

countries are welcome to the JSID Annual Meeting. In addition, we will have the **First JSID-Asia-Oceania Forum**, where the speakers who are working in the dermatological research field are invited not only from Japan but also from other countries in Asia and Oceania, including Korea, China, Taiwan and Australia. The invited speakers from the US and Europe are also to present their newest findings.

With respect to the education of young researchers, we have newly established the Committee to Foster Young Researchers in the JSID. The committee will hold annual seminars for 40 young promising doctors throughout Japan who would like to apply themselves to dermatological science. This JSID Young Academician-Raising Seminar is named "**JSID Kisaragi-juku**" (JSID February School) and will be held in February every year in Okinawa.

Following the successful IID meeting in 2008, **the JSID and the ESDR are keen to develop new opportunities for international interaction and collegiality between members of the two societies** ([http://www.cs-oto.com/jsid34/e\\_awards.html](http://www.cs-oto.com/jsid34/e_awards.html)). A key objective of both the JSID and the ESDR is to promote the academic career development of young fellows in investigative dermatology. To that end, we are co-ordinating a program of intersociety collegiality. Our vision is to help young and



promising researchers obtain international exposure of their work at an early stage in their career and thereby help develop their professionalism and sense of achievement. The proposed collegiality program is that a couple of research active fellows in Japan, who regularly attend and contribute to the JSID meetings, would be encouraged to submit an abstract for presentation at the ESDR meeting and the JSID/ESDR would support their visits to attend a Department or Institute at which they could present some data and enjoy academic discussions/feedback, as well as some local hospitality. A reciprocal arrangement would also be in place, whereby research active fellows in Europe would have similar opportunities to participate in the JSID meeting and to visit a department in Japan. The JSID/ESDR collegiality awards will be introduced in 2009 for the annual ESDR and JSID meetings.

The JSID is now on the way of revolution. We would like to further improve our JSID annual meetings from the viewpoints of internationalization of the society and education of young academicians.



Yoshiki Tokura  
*Department of Dermatology, University of  
Occupational and  
Environmental Health, Kitakyushu 807-8555,  
Yahatanishi-ku, Japan*  
E-mail address: [tokura@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp](mailto:tokura@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp)