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Editorial

Welcome all international dermatology researchers to the 34th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Investigative Dermatology (JSID) and the JSID-Asia-Oceania-Forum on "Hair Research and Stem Cells" December 4-6, 2009, in Fukuoka City, Kyushu, Japan

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology will be held at the JAL Resort Sea Hawk Hotel Fukuoka in Fukuoka City, Kyushu Island, Japan, from Friday, December 4 to Sunday, December 6, 2009. This venue is located in a resort area close to the Fukuoka Dome baseball stadium, and will be organized by JSID under the guidance of the meeting president, Professor Takashi Hashimoto, Department of Dermatology, Kurume University School of Medicine. Because the annual Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) meeting is held in May and the annual European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) meeting is held in September, the JSID has decided to hold its annual meeting in December beginning in 2009. This will allow dermatology researchers around the world to present new data at the JSID meeting. All abstracts presented at the JSID Annual Meetings will be reviewed by experts in each field of dermatology research, and exemplary studies will be selected for plenary sessions or concurrent oral sessions. Presenters should be honored when their papers are selected for oral sessions. We hope that many investigators will present the results of long-term and extensive basic studies, and that there will be many vibrant discussions during the meeting.

Most importantly, it has now been decided that the JSID Annual Meeting will be open to all dermatology investigators worldwide, particularly those in Asia and Oceania. Therefore, the JSID Annual Meeting will undergo several significant changes to encourage more international participation. Starting with the 34th JSID meeting, all abstracts submitted must be written in English and the program book will only be available in English. At the meeting, all oral presentations, both plenary and concurrent oral sessions, as well as lectures will be spoken in English.

The JSID has invited many investigative dermatology societies, particularly those in Asia and Oceania, to participate in the JSID Annual Meeting. The JSID Annual Meeting is expected to become a meeting not only for Japanese investigators, but for all international investigators. We welcome the participation of many investigators from ESDR, SID, and other Asian and Oceanian countries in the JSID Annual Meeting.

In addition, the ESDR and JSID have initiated a new project, the "ESDR/JSID Young Fellow Collegiality Awards". In this program, three young European researchers selected by the ESDR and the JSID will attend and present their studies at the 34th JSID Annual Meeting, and, before or after the meeting, they will be guests at some Japanese institutes to interact with Japanese researchers. In turn, three young Japanese researchers will be selected to attend and present their studies at the ESDR Annual Meeting held in Budapest, and, before or after the meeting, they will be guests at some European institutes to interact with European researchers.

On the morning of the third day (Sunday, December 6, 2009), the JSID-Asia-Oceania-Forum on "Hair Research and Stem Cells" will be held at the same venue, and many hot topics from studies on this theme will be presented. We selected JSID-Asia-Oceania Forum as the name because the speakers who are working in this specific field are invited from not only Japan but also from other countries in Asia and Oceania, including Korea, China, Taiwan, and Australia. Invited speakers from the US and Europe will also present their newest findings. All the attendees at this forum should get many new ideas for their future research. I do hope that many dermatology researchers will also participate in this forum.



Takashi Hashimoto

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