



Message from the new President of JSID

Pursue globalization, foster young scientists, and establish financial ground

I am very honored and excited to be the President of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) with a 3-year term beginning in 2011. I have very special fondness for this society because my academic career was basically started by this society. In 1988, I gave my first English presentation at the annual JSID meeting in Fukuoka, and in 1989 I gave my first presentation at an international meeting at the first Tri-Continental Meeting of the ESDR (European Society for Dermatological Research), JSID, and SID (Society for Investigative Dermatology) in Washington DC. I still vividly remember how nervous I was during my presentation. Since then, presenting new data at JSID meeting has been one of the aims of my research activities.

The style of the annual JSID meeting has evolved over time. When I first began attending the meeting, the JSID meeting style was not different from that of other meetings. Several symposia proposed by the program committee ran concurrently with abstract presentations by JSID members. When Yasuo Kitajima was the President of JSID, this style was totally changed. All submitted abstracts were evaluated by reviewers and the best ones were presented at a plenary oral session, the next best ones were presented at concurrent oral sessions, and the others were presented as posters. This change revitalized the annual meeting and provided the foundation for strengthening our relationship with SID and ESDR.

International Investigative Dermatology (IID) in Kyoto in 2008 was a big success that created fond memories for most of the participants. Shinji Shimada was the President and Yoshiki Tokura was the Secretary-General of the meeting. In 2009, the official language of the JSID annual meeting was switched to English. All the presentations, abstracts, discussions, and announcements are now made in English. Although the pros and cons were debated before this decision was made, the increase in the number of abstracts and participants from foreign countries in 2010 and 2011 reaffirmed the importance of this turning point for JSID.

The current style of JSID is based on the tremendous efforts and wisdom of our predecessors. I would like to follow the current trend of JSID and focus on the following three issues:

1. Pursue globalization

Globalization is an unavoidable trend regardless of the field you are in. The progress of globalization needs to continue. IID Edinburgh will be held in 2013. A liaison committee of the SID, ESDR, and JSID was established to advance the important relationship among these societies and to develop a future IID structure. JSID will have a critical role in fostering international collaborations among investigators, advancing dermatology and cutaneous biology, and establishing even stronger bonds among societies from various areas, especially Asian countries.

2. Foster young scientists

It is a high-priority issue for JSID to foster young scientists who will forge the future of the society. The global trend, unfortunately, is that fewer young people are pursuing research careers. Young scientists who conduct research must be active in the field to generate new knowledge as well as to clarify unsolved pathophysiologic mechanisms of skin diseases and develop novel therapeutic approaches. The “Young Academician-Fostering Seminar (Kisaragi Juku)” is a unique opportunity for young scientists to meet other young fellows as well as active investigators who share their experiences in a camp setting for a couple of days.

3. Establish financial ground

As the society expands, the JSID office needs to be able to handle a wider variety of tasks. The JSID office still does not have its own fixed office space and is currently located at the university of the Secretary-General. It is important to establish a stable financial foundation for the future development of the society and to open an independent JSID office in the near future.

The world is constantly changing and will continue to do so. We will certainly face more challenges in the future. We will rise above these challenges, however, by using our own sensibilities and thus continue to pass the torch to future generations. On behalf of Shinichi Sato, Secretary-General, and the other JSID board members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your kind cooperation and encouragement to further develop the JSID.



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