

2021 New Year's greetings

Even while wishing everyone a Happy New Year, we acknowledge that the whole world has been struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic for most of the past year, and still in the new year we have not yet reached a decisive means of defeating the pandemic. Although our hopes are pinned on the vaccine, many uncertainties remain as there are views that the vaccine will have a limited impact in 2021.

We believe that the medical system in Japan will be deeply affected by medical efficiencies and economies, as well as medical safety and environmental issues. Academic society conferences have also been buffeted by these changing times.

In fact, in 2020 many academic society conferences were only held online, while in the latter part of 2020 hybrid conferences were also convened, where local conferences were conducted simultaneously to online conferences. There are mixed views on this format. The Japanese Orthopaedic Association, which has 25,000 orthopedic surgeon members, held an online conference in June to August last year, and recorded over 22,000 participants, but it was decided that the 2021 Japanese Orthopaedic Association conference would be held in a hybrid format, with the main function in Tokyo. It has been advised that 1) attendees at both the conference in Tokyo and online will be able to obtain education and training units, 2) all the presenters are required to submit their slideshow data in advance with an audio recording of their presentation, 3) the presentations will not be delivered LIVE, and 4) the Goodwill Sports Competition and other social gatherings with all attendees will not take place. It is presumed that in all likelihood many orthopedic-related conferences will be conducted in a hybrid format in the future. This is because we want to avoid the sense by participants that they have not really attended a conference, a feeling often associated with online conferences. We also want to circumvent the risk of a local conference being the source of a coronavirus cluster in the fall of 2021.

The 28th JPSTSS society conference will also be held in a hybrid format under the guidance of Professor Takanori SAITOU of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Kansai Medical University, and specially-appointed Professor Toshihiro TAKAMI of the Department of Neurosurgery, Osaka Medical College.

Here, we have noted that all presenters will be required to submit their slideshow data in advance with an audio recording of their presentation for all future conferences. The first academic conference was launched as a scientific meeting for spinal surgery 27 years ago in 1994. The conference was renamed as the Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for the Study of Surgical Technique for Spine and Spinal Nerves from the 6th annual meeting in 1999. Just as the US-Japan Scoliosis Society was launched together with the development and deployment of Harrington instrumentation, so too this society was opened jointly with the advent of pedicle screwing surgery, and has continued to the present day. In other words, this society has always specialized in the

presentation and examination of spinal surgical techniques.

We believe that internet-based media, the most commonly-used presentation format of conferences in the coronavirus era, is no better than video content documenting detailed surgical procedures, hence in future we plan to build a medical library focusing on videos which will be made available on the JPSTSS website.

We have launched the **Tele Observing Surgery Program or Tele OS program** as an education and training program on surgical techniques to facilitate construction of the library. Please think of this program as a coronavirus-era version of the JPSTSS training seminars, which started long ago with the advent of pedicle screws surgery. This system will enable participants throughout Japan to observe surgeries and will provide a forum for questions and answers with the surgeon, without the costs of travel and accommodation. It is a system that utilizes superior modern imaging technology to provide realistic images and allows the surgeon to provide a convincing explanation from the clinical field.

Techniques can be learned from both orthopedic and neurosurgeon spine surgeons. This program has been planned since last year and we intend to have it fully operational early this year.

One of the main events in 2021 for the JPSTSS society is the 28th JPSTSS Conference, held at the Kyoto International Conference Center, utilizing the hybrid format unique to this society. Another event is the launch of the new coronavirus-era Tele Observing Surgery Program (Tele OS). We are looking forward to your enthusiastic interest and cooperation.

JPSTSS Society Integrated Headquarters
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Vice President and Director of Finance, Shigeo SANNO
Integrated Headquarters Assistant, Takashi YAMAZAKI
Standing Director, Akiyoshi YAMAZAKI



President Dr Kiyoshi KUMANO

1963 Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo

1965–1971 Intern resident, Albany Medical Center (NY).

1971 Certified by the American board of orthopedic surgery

1977–1982 Lecturer, Department of Orthopedics, University of Tokyo

1980 Chair of the 13th Japanese Scoliosis Society Study Group

1982–2001 Director of the Department of Orthopedics, Kanto Rosai Hospital

1994, 1995, 2000 – 1st, 2nd, and 7th chair of the JPSTSS society

2003–2008 Director of the Fuji Toranomon Orthopedics Hospital

2008– Spinal Advisor for the Shinagawa Shishokai Hospital



Vice President and Director of Finance Dr Shigeo SANO

1972 Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo

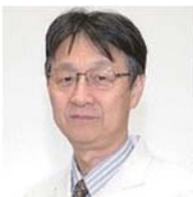
1982 Department of Orthopedics, University of Tokyo

1984 University of Toronto, Canada

1986– Sanraku Hospital, Lecturer Department of Orthopedics, University of Tokyo

Director of the Sanraku Spine/Spinal Cord Center

1994, 2009 – 4th and 16th chair of the JPSTSS society



Integrated Headquarters Assistant Dr Takashi YAMAZAKI

1981 Graduated with Master of Physics from Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo

1987 Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo

1988 Department of Orthopedics, University of Tokyo

1995 Japanese Red Cross, Musashino Hospital

2015 21st chair of the JPSTSS society

2016 Deputy Director of the Japanese Red Cross, Musashino Hospital



Standing Director Dr Akiyoshi YAMAZAKI

1985 Graduated from the School of Medicine, Niigata University

1994 Alfred Dupont Institute Hospital for Children, Delaware, United States

1995 Niigata Central Hospital

2010 Director of the Niigata Central Hospital

Clinical Lecturer, Department of Orthopedics, Niigata University

2017 24th chair of the JPSTSS society