

Greetings

20th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Histamine Research Society

Tamotsu Harada, Chief Organizer
Department of Otolaryngology, Kawasaki Medical School

I am pleased to announce that the 20th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Histamine Research Society will be held at the Kurashiki City Art Museum on November 24 and 25, 2016.

Kurashiki City, located 15 minutes from Okayama Station, is a showcase of culture and magnificent historical buildings. The city's most famous area is the Bikan Historical Quarter, which is home to the Ohara Museum (est. 1930), Japan's oldest museum of Western art with permanent exhibitions. Since coming under the direct control of the central government in the mid-Edo period, the Quarter has been well preserved for about 300 years. The Quarter is only a 5-minute walk from the meeting venue, so I am sure all attendees will enjoy many opportunities for both learning and sightseeing.

I first became interested in histamine when I was working at Osaka University, where I learned about the compound's significance from graduate students supervised by Professor Hiroshi Wada and Dr. Hiroyuki Fukui at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology. Since being appointed to my current position, I have rarely had the chance to conduct basic research on histamine, but I have become more aware of its significance through my clinical research on pollinosis in particular. The study of histamine spans basic to clinical research and involves a wide range of sites in the body, such as the respiratory, digestive, immune, and central nervous systems. The recent development and use of genetically modified mice has provided new insights into the receptors, production, and metabolism of histamine, and consequently, histamine research has entered a new era. Yet, clinical research has not caught up with the rapid advances of basic research.

Against this background, the theme of this year's meeting is "Rapid progress in histamine research, basic and clinical". Our hope is to promote collaboration between basic and clinical researchers and to spur further progress.

To consider the prospects of histamine research from a multidisciplinary viewpoint, the Society has invited Dr. Shigeo Koyasu (Laboratory for Immune Cell Systems, RIKEN) as a special speaker. Dr. Koyasu discovered Th2 cytokine-producing natural helper cells and proposed their strong involvement in the pathology of allergies. We also plan to hold a special lecture on what clinical researchers are focusing on regarding the role of histamine in allergic rhinitis. In addition, Professor Hiroyuki Fukui, the president of the Society, will give a special 20th anniversary lecture. In keeping with the Society's tradition, abundant time will be allocated to presentations by general members and presentations by candidates for the Wada awards. The Society hopes that our 20th meeting to be a special occasion that provides rich opportunities for communication and socializing.

All organizing members are working hard, but what we can do by ourselves is limited. We welcome your suggestions and support to make the 20th meeting a success.

I sincerely hope that we can see all of you at the meeting.

March 8, 2016