

My Impression, "Topics and Highlights in the 116th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA) in Sendai, Japan"

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ABSTRACT

The 116th JDA Meeting was held and organized by the Department

of Dermatology Tohoku University School of Medicine (President: Professor Setsuya Aiba) on June 2-4, 2017 in Sendai City of Miyagi Prefecture. Over the course of 3 days, more than 4,500 dermatologists participated in the meeting from not only Japan but also other Asian countries. The aim of the meeting was to encourage the local population in their recovery from the Huge Disasters of Tohoku Areas (North East of Japan) attacked by gigantic Earthquakes (magnitude 9.0; intensity 7.0) associated with an approximately 10m high Tsunami on March 11, 2011. The people living near the coastlines of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures were severely traumatized and many people died by from the effects of the Tsunami. In addition, the people living near the coast of Fukushima Prefecture had to face to a "Nuclear Crisis" from the Tsunami damaged Tokyo Nuclear Electric Stations. More than 27,000 people died from to the Earthquakes and Tsunami in the three prefectures and 160,000 people living near the electricity power station in Fukushima prefecture had to take refuge in different safety areas due to the nuclear crisis. Although more than 6 years have passed, the recovery is not sufficiently advanced to enable the people to return to their hometown. Larger conferences are needed to inspire and encourage the people living in Tohoku areas

The Organizers of the Meeting advocated "Neo-Dermatology" following as "Dermatology Practice in Future", "Necessity of Dermatological Research" and "Artificial Intelligence in Dermatology" and they prepared 5 sessions of special events and 6 sessions of special speech for young dermatologists, 60 educational lectures, 32 luncheon seminars, 19 morning sessions, 21 evening seminars, 420 topics for speeches and so on. The special session of AGRA for young Asian dermatologists was organized as the English session in order to communicate with Asian dermatology societies including China, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand as well as Asian dermatology researchers who are belong to dermatology in Japanese Universities. The organizers also prepared an open session about "Atopic dermatitis (AD)" by Dr. K. Kikuchi (Tohoku Univ., Sendai) for lay people.

As the traditional lecturer for "Dohi Memorial Lecture 2017", Professor Thomas Ruzicka (Department of Dermatology and Allergology, Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich, Germany) gave a lecture entitled "Basal cell carcinoma-clinical spectrum, pathology and new approaches to diagnosis and treatment". Dr.

Stephan I Katz (National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease, NIH, Bethesda, USA) also delivered a lecture entitled “50 years of phenomenal advances in skin biology and skin diseases”, as a foreign executive guest speaker, which included his warm memories of interaction with a dozen Japanese young research dermatologists in his laboratory. The Japanese lectures, “Cancer immunology regulated by T-reg cells and autoimmunity” by Professor Shimon Sakaguchi (Osaka University, Osaka) and “Cancer Research in Today and Future” by Dr. Tetsuo Noda (Cancer Institute Japan) were impressively performed. For “the Paper for Shogo Minami’s Award 2017”, the report of Dr. Mariko Yokouchi (Keio University, Tokyo) was selected and she beautifully demonstrated “Epidermal cell turnover across tight junctions based on Kelvin’s tetrakaidecahedron cell shape (eLife 5, e19593,2016)” with computer graphics. This paper enabled us to understand with ease the construction and movement of epidermal cells tightly linked to each other by Kelvin’s cubic mechanism. Because there were several interesting topics in the educational sessions and free talks, I would like to highlight some of them.

The correlation with pemphigus vulgaris (PV) and bullous pemphigoid (BP) with CD20+B cells which might produce the autoantibody was interesting. The clinical therapeutic trials of “Rituximab” (anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody) for treatment of PV and BP were performed and were effective. It was suggested that this type of treatment may be effective for these kinds of autoimmune bullous dermatoses in future (Dr. June Yamagami, Keio Univ.). Recently, BP like bullous lesions were reported to be associated with 2nd type of diabetes mellitus (DM) patients treated with dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor (DPP-4i) but routine anti-BP180NC16 antibody was not detected. However, the BP antibodies were detectable by the modified method of ELISA against full-length of BP180 molecule (Dr. Hideyuki Ujii, Hokkaido Univ.). It was an impressive demonstration that psoriatic treatments by biologics with monoclonal antibodies were similar to treatment for malignant melanoma (MM) by check-point inhibitors (anti-PD1 and anti-CTLA-4 antibodies). The sessions of new treatments using biologics seemed to be popular with young participants. Especially, the IL-23/Th17 responses that focused on the correlation with the epithelial cells of psoriasis and also application of phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE 4) which inhibits cAMP reduction in psoriatic cells were notable. Dermoscopy sessions including diagnosis for MM and other cutaneous malignancies were popular for young dermatologists. They were also interested that the revolutionary treatments for MM were made by so-called ‘Check-point inhibitors’. For AD treatment, there were discussions about various cytokines causing dermatitis and itch. Biologics of antibodies to interleukin (IL)-4, IL-13, IL-31, etc. were discussed as future treatment.

In the sessions on dermatology research for young dermatologists, non-dermatologists, Dr. Winau Florian from Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, Boston Children’s Hospital, USA, and Dr. Kenya Honda from Microbiology Department of Keio Univ., Tokyo gave informative lectures as following; Dr. Florian discussed that the immune response is exclusively driven by CD1a-expressing Langerhans cells and that they elicit CD4 T cells producing inflammatory cytokines IL-17 and IL-22 as seen in poison ivy dermatitis. The phenomena are similar to psoriasis in which CD1a massively amplifies inflammation mediated by Th17 cells reactive with self-lipid antigen from skin. These expressed CD1a might be a novel target for future therapeutic strategy. Dr. Honda demonstrated analysis of intestinal bacteriology and possibility that T-reg and Th17 cells might be introduced by intestinal bacteria. We



Figure 1 A bronze statue of riding Commander Masamune Date in the ruins of Sendai Castle located at Aobayama Hill of Sendai City, Sendai was started with Sendai Castle raised by Masamune Date in 1601. Now a day, the city developed to be biggest and having 1.06 million population in Tohoku region (Northeast of Japan) where it takes 2 hours by bullet train from Tokyo.



Figure 2 The main venue of 116th JDA Meeting was the International Congress Site located at Kawauchi of Sendai City.



Figure 3 The marquee event halls were prepared near the main venue of the meeting. The poster sessions, commercial displays, banquets and so on were performed there.

Kaneko F. Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA) in Sendai

(A. Togashi, et al., Koriyama, Fukushima) demonstrated a rare case of middle aged lady with polymorphic light eruption who mimicked lupus erythematosus tumidus associated with mucin deposition in the upper dermis due to sun light exposure.

Although new knowledge was actively discussed at the 116th JDA meeting, further problems remain in future. The next 117th JDA meeting (President: Prof. Michihiro Hide, Hiroshima Univ.) will be held in Hiroshima on June 1-3, 2018.