

President's Remarks

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I would like to greet all endoscopists. At the board meeting of the 97th Congress of JGES (Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society) held in Tokyo on May 31, 2019, I was selected as the new President of JGES and as a successor of Past-president Dr. Hisao Tajiri. I am the 6th president of JGES in its history. Dr. Sadataka Tasaka was the 1st President of JGES, followed by Dr. Takao Sakita (2nd), Dr. Hirohumi Niwa (3rd), Dr. Michio Kaminishi (4th) and Dr. Hisao Tajiri (5th). Because of their strong leadership, JGES has steadily increased its membership and now it has more than 34,000 members. JGES regularly organizes bi-annual congresses, administers the examination to certify Board-certified fellows of JGES, and has organized more than 20 seminars and local conferences.

JGES was established in 1959. The first conference of JGES was the Gastro-camera conference. Past-president Dr. Hisao Tajiri in his six years as president of JGES achieved and established many important projects. "Internationalization" of JGES is one of his most prominent works. For example, he established the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE)-JGES joint symposium and American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)-JGES joint symposium, which have expanded every year and have been recognized important programs of United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW) and Digestive Disease Week (DDW), respectively. He also introduced the JGES STARS program, which invites young Asian endoscopists to Japan to learn advanced endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. Another important project started during Dr. Tajiri's presidency is the Japan Endoscopy Database (JED), in which all endoscopic activities in Japan are recorded and centralized to create a nationwide database. JED will greatly enhance endoscopic medical science in the near future with its world's largest database. Regarding the JED project, we need to closely collaborate with our partners. During the next decade, computerized medicine including AI (artificial intelligence) and robotic technology will rapidly expand. It will change the circumstances around endoscopy dramatically. JGES has to catch up to the new trend and establish a new paradigm of endoscopic medicine.

I will continue these policies and expand our achievements. Recently, as a new project with ASGE, the ASGE–JGES endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) hands–on training course which includes peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) has been established. I would like to push these projects forward and to strengthen our collaborations with other international endoscopy societies all over the world.

JGES will expand and strengthen our English–speaking program. Then, we would like to invite many overseas endoscopists to become international members of JGES and to push our endoscopic medicine forward together to achieve and establish minimally invasive diagnosis and treatment for patients' welfare.

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