

Cooperation Agreement Established Between VAS and JSDA!

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Japanese and European Access Congresses have maintained exchanges for a number of years. In 2006, Dr. Di Giulio, Dr. Haage, Dr. Malovrh and Dr. Baktiroglu were invited to Kobe for the 10th Congress of the JSDA. Dr. Di Giulio was asked to present a special lecture. His talk centered on the role of the nephrologist in vascular access in Italy. It was informative and contained many interesting suggestions. These four gentlemen along with Dr. Haruguchi and I exchanged opinions in an International Symposium discussing vascular access.

Other doctor members of the VAS have also presented special lectures at our yearly JSDA Congresses as well. Furthermore, every year a number of Japanese vascular surgeons submit presentations to the VAS and are provided with the opportunity to present. In a mysterious coincidence, the location of this year's congress was Istanbul, where Europe and Asia come together, and the Congress Chairman was Dr. Baktiroglu. With the efforts of Dr. Sato and Dr. Kawanishi as well as the helpful and swift responses of Dr. Haage, Dr. Di Giulio, Dr. Baktiroglu, Dr. Mickley and others, a cooperation agreement between the two societies was established. After making final adjustments, on May 15, in a room of the Hilton Istanbul Hotel, it was an honor for Dr. Mickley, the next VAS Chairman, and me, Dr. Ohira, the current President of JSDA, to sign the cooperation agreement. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the VAS for the warm response shown every time during friendly and fruitful conversation as well as during the many times dining together with the Executive Board of the VAS and the President and Officers of the Vascular Access Society of the Americas (VASA). Although essential for maintenance hemodialysis, there are still many unresolved problems regarding vascular access. To solve these, both societies, Japanese and European, must gather knowledge together leading towards solutions. As medical practitioners working at the same time, in the same field, it is my hope that we be able to share the joys, hardships and anguish that experienced in our work. It is my wish that the cooperation of societies will continue to provide steady and effective advances. For the Japanese Dialysis Physicians, the 7th International Congress of the Vascular Access Society (Istanbul, Turkey, May 5-7, 2011) was a stimulating, thought provoking experience and much was learned. It was an enjoyable gathering and I could feel that many of the participants thought the same. I would first like to thank Dr. Baktiroglu as well as all those involved for their hospitality.