



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the two societies are deepening their collaboration to promote research, human resource development, and international exchange

Chairman: **Hiroshi Kosugi**, M.D., Ph.D. President of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma
(Director, Department of Hematology, Ogaki Municipal Hospital)

Attendees (Order of speaking)

Itaru Matsumura, M.D., Ph.D. President of the Japanese Society of Hematology
(Professor, Department of Hematology and Rheumatology, Kindai University Faculty of Medicine)

Masahiro Abe, M.D., Ph.D. President of the Japanese Society of Myeloma
(Professor, Department of Hematology, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Tokushima University Graduate School)

As a special event linked to the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma, a commemorative roundtable discussion was held online on January 23, 2022 by Dr. Hiroshi Kosugi, President of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma, and two guests, Dr. Itaru Matsumura, President of the Japanese Society of Hematology, and Dr. Masahiro Abe, President of the Japanese Society of Myeloma. During the discussion, the activities and efforts of the Japanese Society of Hematology and the Japanese Society of Myeloma were introduced, and it was discussed that both societies would strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation as academic societies in the field of hematological diseases in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to further open the academic societies to the public.

●**Kosugi:** Today, we will host a commemorative roundtable discussion with Professor Itaru Matsumura, who is President of the Japanese Society of Hematology (JSH), and Professor Masahiro Abe, who is President of the Japanese Society of Myeloma (JSM), as a special event linked to the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma.

After two years of suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, this annual meeting is aimed at communicating what the Japanese Society of Myeloma should consider and how it should act as an academic society in the future, documenting this for future generations, and delivering our message to the public by showing our creation and coexistence. In addition, this roundtable discussion is intended to deliver our message not only to the participants in the annual meeting, but also to the public. A vision of the future created through collaboration between the Japanese Society of Hematology and the Japanese Society of Myeloma will be presented by the presidents of the two societies and the president of the annual meeting.

The Japanese Society of Hematology has three missions, involving "Academic Activities," "Medical Care Activities," and "Educational Activities"

●**Kosugi:** First of all, I would like you to introduce the mission, structure, and activities of each society.

●**Matsumura:** The former Japanese Society of Hematology, from which the current Japanese Society of Hematology originated, was established in 1937, and the Japanese Society of Clinical Hematology was established in 1959. The two societies were integrated into the current organization in 2008. Hematology is one of the major specialty areas of internal medicine, and the Japanese Society of Hematology is positioned as one of the eight subspecialty societies within the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine under the new medical specialist system.

Our society has three main missions. The first involves academic activities. It is necessary to develop Japanese hematology in basic and clinical medicine and thereby to collaborate with European and American hematology societies on an equal basis and increase the presence of Japanese hematology in Asia. The second involves medical care activities. It is our social responsibility to maintain a medical care system in which patients with hematological diseases can receive necessary and sufficient treatment wherever they live in Japan. The third involves educational activities. We are committed to educational activities such as human resource development and lifelong education in order to maintain and expand academic activities and medical care activities.

The Japanese Society of Myeloma aims to build networks, train young leaders, and grow into an open academic society.

●**Abe:** Since its predecessor, the Japan Myeloma Study Group, was established in 1976, the Japanese Society of Myeloma has led the field of myeloma in Japan. We have also worked with patient associations, companies, and government agencies to provide the most up-to-date information and communications and to actively support healthcare professionals in clinical settings so that patients can receive appropriate medical care wherever they live in Japan. In particular, we are focusing on the following three points in our academic activities: The first is to build networks that promote basic and clinical research in myeloma. We are working to build a nationwide research network by promoting collaboration and research fusion among different facilities to foster high-impact collaborative research. The second is to train and promote the next generation of young leaders. We want to support research led by young researchers and organize symposia and educational seminars at academic conferences for enlightenment. At present, the Myeloma Web Seminar is held twice a year as a forum for young physicians involved in myeloma treatment and research to facilitate its organization and exchange opinions. The third is to build an open academic society. It will become increasingly important to promote research in collaboration with overseas organizations and other academic organizations, and to be connected with the public. We would like to work from the perspective of a flexible and open academic society in order to draw out and develop the functions of our society to the maximum extent.

●**Kosugi:** Thank you very much. Both societies are expected to collaborate and enhance each other as academic societies in the field of hematological diseases. Could you tell us about the collaboration between the two societies?

Collaboration between the committees of the two societies in research activities: Cooperation in offering information on COVID-19

●**Matsumura:** Dr. Shigeru Chiba, the chairman of the guideline committee for COVID-19, has taken the lead in compiling recommendations on how to provide care for patients with hematological diseases in Japan and to provide information on the website. In addition, the safety information about post-vaccination thrombocytopenia in patients with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura or paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria was distributed via

Hiroshi Kosugi
President of the
47th Annual
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of Myeloma



the Japanese Society of Hematology News. A registry study in COVID-19 is also ongoing.

As for the relationship with the Japanese Society of Myeloma, principal physicians of the Japanese Society of Myeloma have participated in many committees of our society as members, and I have heard that physicians belonging to the Japanese Society of Myeloma have registered many cases in an observational study in multiple myeloma.

●**Abe:** The Japanese Society of Myeloma has expanded its committees such as the Board of Education, the International Affairs Committee, and the Diversity Promotion Committee to promote reforms such as active promotion of young people and women and globalization. At present, physicians in charge of committees of the Japanese Society of Hematology, especially in medical care and clinical trials, are also in charge of the same committees of our society.

Since our members are generally also members of the Japanese Society of Hematology, we have attempted to adopt standards regarding conflict of interest (COI), etc. that are the same as or consistent with those of the Japanese Society of Hematology. We also issued a statement on COVID-19 in contact with the Japanese Society of Hematology. We will continue to work together with the Japanese Society of Hematology to improve treatment, including expanding indications for much needed but unapproved tests and drugs.

●**Kosugi:** Thank you very much. Next, I would like to hear about the current status and future of international cooperation of the two societies.

Both the Japanese Society of Hematology and the Japanese Society of Myeloma strengthen exchanges and cooperation with international academic organizations

●**Matsumura:** The Japanese Society of Hematology collaborates with the American Society of Hematology (ASH), the European Hematology Association (EHA), and various academic societies of hematology in Asia. We have invited the presidents of the ASH and the EHA to

Itaru Matsumura
President of the
Japanese Society
of Hematology



give special lectures at our annual meetings and held joint symposia with them. We have also invited the presidents of major Asian societies of hematology to hold Asian Joint Sessions at our annual meeting.

In the future, we will expand these activities and start a project to develop the next generation of leaders who can play active roles in the world.

●**Abe:** The Japanese Society of Myeloma (JSM) asked Dr. Kosugi to chair the International Affairs Committee and renew the committee. Based on a proposal by Dr. Kosugi, a comprehensive partnership with the International Myeloma Society (IMS) was officially agreed upon by the two societies, and it was decided to examine the newly established JSM Travel Award for IMS/IMW jointly by the International Committee of the JSM and judges invited from the IMS, and to establish invited symposiasts from the IMS to annual meetings of the JSM starting from the 47th annual meeting, leading to the invitation of Dr. Nikhil Munshi, a Professor at Harvard University and President of the IMS. We look forward to further development of international activities on this occasion.

●**Kosugi:** Thank you very much. Finally, please send a message to medical professionals and the general public on behalf of each academic society.

**Teamwork is essential in the management of hematological diseases:
Growing into a flexible academic organization
open to the general public**

●**Matsumura:** First of all, I would like to emphasize to medical professionals that hematological diseases cannot be treated by physicians alone, but require teamwork among nurses, pharmacists, and transplant coordinators. Since we believe that treatment and support given by a team help improve the patients' prognoses and quality of life, please continue to cooperate with us. We also believe that pharmaceutical companies are our important partners in developing new drugs and conducting clinical trials. Continued support given to the academic societies and patients as part of general social contribution will be greatly appreciated.



Poster of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma

We hematologists promise patients that we will continue to do our best to treat them. As an open academic society, we would like to incorporate the opinions of patients more broadly than before.

I would appreciate it if the general public comes to better understand these diseases. The prognoses of cancer patients have greatly improved, and many patients return to society while overcoming or treating their disease. Their general state may not be as good as before due to poor physical condition or necessity of making hospital visits, but I would appreciate it if you would set goals to create and maintain a workplace that makes life worthwhile for patients while warmly watching over them.

●**Abe:** Our society publishes its "Clinical Practice Guidelines for Multiple Myeloma" every four years, providing information on the elucidation of the molecular pathology of myeloma and changes in treatment paradigms. We also accept non-specialist physicians, residents, medical staff, and company personnel from all over Japan to participate in the Myeloma Web Seminar, so please participate.

Activities to support patients are also an important responsibility of ours, and we have been supporting the activities of "Myeloma Patients and Families" for a long period of time. This patient association is conducting a questionnaire survey this year with the aim of clarifying "well-being" of individual patients. I think that patients' frank opinions, for instance, on how they actually see their recent myeloma treatment, will be collected. We will remain close to our patients.

We have also updated our website to enhance our public relations and educational activities. We would like to continue to work as a flexible academic organization open



Masahiro Abe
President of the
Japanese Society
of Myeloma

to the general public.

●**Kosugi:** Both of you kindly introduced us to a wide range of topics related to the Japanese Society of Hematology and the Japanese Society of Myeloma and talked about your personal thoughts from your perspectives as the president. Thank you very much.

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma will be held on the largest-ever scale, under the theme of "Create and Live harmony with!"

Here, let me introduce a little bit about the 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Myeloma. This annual meeting will be held under the theme of "Create and Live harmony with!" with many new attempts made, because it will be the first annual meeting to be held since the Japanese Society of Myeloma became a general incorporated association to strengthen its organizational structure.

The number of sessions will be approximately 50% higher than before. As the special symposium "Create and Live harmony with!" three sessions on basic medical research, clinical medicine research, and international collaboration, five symposium sessions with topics on COVID-19 and myeloma immunotherapy, and three workshop sessions will be available. We will consciously attempt to provide many opportunities for speech and discussion to support the progress of medical research and medical care by the next generation of researchers, even in the midst of the pandemic. We look forward to active participation and active discussion.

Today, we invited Professor Itaru Matsumura, the President of the Japanese Society of Hematology, and Professor Masahiro Abe, the President of the Japanese Society of Myeloma, to talk about the current status and future prospects of their respective societies. I sincerely hope that as many people as possible will come to know about the two societies, which continue to make progress while struggling in the pandemic situation, and find hope for the future. Thank you very much for your attendance today.