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## MEETING REPORT

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### The 36th International Symposium of The Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund ‘Developments in Cancer Epidemiology - Prospects for Cancer Control in the Asian Pacific’ November 15-17th, 2005

In November of 2005, the 36th International Symposium of The Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund (PTCRF) was held in Tokyo, the theme this year being ‘*Developments in Cancer Epidemiology - Prospects for Cancer Control in the Asian Pacific*’. Dr Suketami Tominaga acted as Chairman of the Organizing Committee, with Kazuo Tajima and Shoichiroi Tsugane as the other Japanese members, myself as the non-Japanese member and Dr Takashi Sugimura as Advisor. This represented a new departure for the PTCRF symposia series, since particular emphasis was given to the situation in Asia, and for this purpose one third of the speakers were selected from Asia, one third from Japan and the remaining third from the Western world (see the Table below for the Program).

All aspects of cancer epidemiology were covered, from cancer registration, through analytical and molecular, to pathophysiological, especial attention being paid to those cancers which are prevalent in Asia due to particular risk factors in the local environment. The audience included all of the Japanese scientists active in the field and the level of discussions was commensurate with the problems which have yet to be solved if cancer prevention is to become a real possibility in the Asian Pacific.

Introductory Remarks: **Takashi Sugimura**

Keynote Address ‘Geographical Variation in Cancer Incidence Rates - What are the Underlying Causes?:  
**Malcolm A Moore**

Estimating the World Cancer Burden Based on Cancer Registration: **Donald Maxwell Parkin**

Role of the Cancer Registry in Determining Cancer Mortality in Asia: **Balkrishna B Yeole**

Cancer Statistics and the Registration System in Japan: **Tomotaka Sobue**

Cancer Statistics and the National Cancer Control Strategy in Korea: **Hai Rim Shin**

Colorectal Neoplasia: What We Know and Don’t Know About Genes and Environment: **John D Potter**

Molecular Cancer Epidemiology - Panacea or Plague?: **Paolo Boffetta**

Molecular Epidemiology on Immune Defense against Cancer: **Kei Nakachi**

Influences of Genotypes on Helicobacter Pylori-related Gastric Cancer: **Nobuyuki Hamajima**

Overview of Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogens:

**Peter Boyle**

Occupational and Environmental Contaminants and Cancer:

**Robert N Hoover**

Smoking and Morbidity & Mortality from Cancer in India:

**Vendhan Gajalakshmi**

Tobacco Control - A Big Challenge for Cancer Epidemiologists in Japan: **Akira Oshima**

Epidemiology of Head and Neck Cancers in Pakistan:

**Yasmin Bhurgri**

Virus Related Cancers in the Asian Pacific with Special Reference to ATL: **Kazuo Tajima**

Cholangiocellular Carcinoma in Thailand: Epidemiology and Control: **Supanee Sriamporn**

Prevention of Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Immunization against Hepatitis B Virus Infection: **Ding-Shinn Chen**



**Suketami Tominaga**

Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Prospective Studies of Fruits, Vegetables and Risk of Gastric and Colorectal Cancers in Japan:

**Yoshitaka Tsubono**

The Epidemiology of Vitamin D and Cancer Incidence and Mortality: **Edward L Giovannucci**

Randomized, Placebo Controlled, Esophageal Squamous Cell Cancer Chemoprevention Trial Using Selenomethionine and Celecoxib in Linxian, China: **You-Lin Qiao**

Nakahara Memorial Lecture 'Genetic Determinants of Breast, Prostate, and Colorectal Cancer in a Multiethnic Cohort': **Brian E Henderson**

Epidemiology of Esophageal Cancer in Iran: **Alireza Mosavi-Jarrahi**

Salt, Salted Food Intake and Risk of Gastric Cancer in Japan: **Shoichiro Tsugane**

Genetic Polymorphisms: A Means for Investigation of Lifestyle Factors and Colorectal Cancer: **Suminori Kono**

Risk Factors for Breast Cancer: Dietary Fat and Soy: **Chisato Nagata**

Lifestyle, Genetic Susceptibility and Future Trends of Breast Cancer in Korea: **Keun-Young Yoo**

Epidemiology of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer: An Asia-Pacific Perspective: **Penelope M Webb**

Etiology and Prevention of Ovarian Cancer: **Marc T Goodman**

Prostate Cancer: Risk Factors for the Lethal Phenotype: **Graham G Giles**

Soy Isoflavones and Prostate Cancer: **Hideyuki Akaza**

Regarding actual details, I am hoping to be able to persuade a number of the speakers to provide reviews of their field for the APJCP in the future, after the official PTCRF commemorative issue is published. For now I would personally like to thank Dr Sugimura for providing the opportunity to myself to participate (and also for his plug for the APJCP!), to Drs Tominaga, Tajima and Tsugane for their warm collaboration, and all the speakers and audience participants who contributed to the success of the symposium. Especial thanks are due to Dr Sobue, Secretary-General, and his team, for their admirable management of the entire proceedings. What I personally learned from meeting can be summarized very briefly - we have a great deal of information regarding risk and beneficial factors, and clues abound to further progress, but we still have a long way to go. What seems essential is that we work together in the Asian-Pacific to contribute to the worldwide efforts for cancer control. Finally, on behalf of everyone involved, I would like to express our grateful appreciation to the Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund for its generous support and to H.I.H. Prince Tomohito of Mikasa for his patronage and hospitality.

**Malcolm Moore**



**Active Discussion at the Princess Takamatsu Symposium on Epidemiology in the Asian-Pacific!**