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## ■ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ■

### Welcome to JRS 2021

President of the 80th Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiological Society  
Chairman and Professor  
Department of Radiology,  
Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine  
Noriyuki Tomiyama, MD, PhD



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 80th Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiology Society (JRS) in conjunction with the 77th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Radiology Technology (JSRT), the 121th Scientific Meeting of the Japan Society of Medical Physics (JSMP), and the International Exhibitions of Medical Imaging (ITEM 2021) as Japan Radiology Congress (JRC) 2021. This is a 4-day long event from April 15 to 18, 2021, Thursday to Sunday, at PACIFICO Yokohama in Japan.

As the congress president of the JRS, I cordially invite you to these conferences. Radiology is becoming a more important field in the world along with the rapid development of recent medical technology and diagnostic imaging devices. The primary objective of the JRS scientific assembly is to promote high-quality radiological practice in science and education. Each year, more than 5000 radiologists attend the Annual JRS Meeting. English and Japanese are the official languages of the meeting, many researchers not only from Japan but also from overseas will be able to participate and engage in high-quality discussions. English is used for most of the programs, including oral presentations and scientific exhibits. We invited many distinguished international speakers, and several keynote lectures have been planned to stimulate the oral sessions.

COVID-19 continues to affect our ordinary life and has grossly impacted our economy and the whole world's as well. It erupted in December 2019, eventually spread throughout the world, and was declared pandemic on March 11, 2020 by the WHO. Almost all the congresses and meetings were either postponed or cancelled so far and research, education, medical treatment have stagnated. After the state of emergency was lifted in Japan, the infected population increased again and now, we are uncertain when the pandemic will be subdued. I sincerely hope it comes to an end soon. Meanwhile, we have to find the best possible way to overcome it and hold the congress safely.

Last year, the 79th Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiological Society (JRS2020) was successfully held online. After rigorous discussions among JRC 2021 organizing committee members from all 4 societies including JRS, JSRT, JSMP, and Japan Medical Imaging and Radiological Systems Industries Association (JIRA), we decided to push through with the

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JRC 2021. The congress shall be a hybrid of On-site and On-line format. The conference will take place on-site at the Pacifico Yokohama where active discussion during research presentations and symposiums will be held, and some of the sessions and educational lectures will be delivered On-line and/or On-demand.

The theme of JRC2021 is “Milestones and Beyond”, since this is the 80th annual meeting which marks another decade of our organization. What have enabled us to come this far in doing radiological diagnosis and treatment now are the achievements of leading doctors. We must maintain its prosperity and hand it over to the next generation. The JRS is a scientific meeting that covers the entire field of radiology. It is an exhibit of the latest research reports, medical education reports, and many symposiums on various fields. We invited many distinguished scientists from all over the world. Three honorary members, Prof. Nestor L. Müller from Vancouver General Hospital and UBC, Prof. Lorenzo E. Derchi from the University of Genoa, and Prof. Jung-Gi Im from Seoul National University will be given recognition for their outstanding achievements in radiology during this meeting.

The 18th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOCR) will be held at the Pacifico Yokohama North at the same period. The Pacifico Yokohama North is newly built and is next to the Pacifico Yokohama. The Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR), the host organization of the AOCR, marks their 50th Anniversary this year. It is my great honor to host and celebrate the milestones of both congresses at such a historic year. Attendees for the 80th Annual Meeting of JRS will be able to join all the 18th AOCR programs including excellent lectures.

To ensure the health and safety of attendees, we will make absolutely sure that our venue will be strictly guided in avoiding the Three Cs: Closed spaces, Crowded places and Close-contact settings.

Yokohama is famous as one of the world’s most beautiful port cities and the cherry blossoms (Sakura) are in full bloom in spring. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy both the scientific assembly of JRC2021 and the beautiful city, Yokohama.

May we all continue to emerge from the challenges brought about by the pandemic and make another milestone as we move forward.

I look forward to meeting all of you.