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## ■ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ■

### Welcome to JRS 2022

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Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Japan Radiological Society (JRS), it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 81st Annual Meeting of the JRS, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan on April 14-17, 2022. The meeting will be a joint conference called Japan Radiology Congress (JRC) 2022 in conjunction with the 78th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Radiological Technology (JSRT), 123rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Medical Physics (JSMP), and the International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging (ITEM) 2022.

At the beginning of 2020, the rapid and global spread of the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) led to a pandemic in the world, in which so many lives were lost, and economic activity in several countries was stalled. Many patients infected with COVID-19 were hospitalized leading to overwhelmed healthcare personnel, which induced healthcare collapse, resulting in the disruption of academic research, education, and medical care in academic institutes, including university hospitals. The declaration of the nationwide state of emergency in April 2020 in Japan forced us to postpone or cancel academic conferences and meetings. However, the situation induced rapid development of web meeting and teleconference systems as a by-product, which provided an opportunity for virtual or hybrid conferences. JRC2020 was held virtually with on-demand web streaming, while JRC2021 was conducted as a hybrid conference with both on-site attendance and on-demand web conference. I offer my heartfelt tribute to the former presidents of the JRS annual meetings, Professor Shigeki Aoki, Professor Noriyuki Tomiyama, and all the people involved, who hosted and held the meeting in these difficult situations with ingenious attempts. Considering the unsettling conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, JRC2022 still requires a combination of web systems and will be held as a hybrid conference including on-site attendance, remote presentation, on-demand streaming, and live broadcasting. I believe that new opportunities for remote presentations and other several ideas should yield a productive international meeting.

The subtitle of this meeting is “Radiology - A key for the paradigm shift.” As mentioned above, several ideas to cope with COVID-19 such as web meetings and remote attendance changed our concept of daily behavior and led to reduced

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travel time and cost of meetings. The subtitle of the meeting therefore conveys a “paradigm shift” in our behavior. The shift has focused on the areas that need improvement after the considerable damage by the pandemic and the several ideas that will make the post-pandemic world a better place.

In JRS2022, more than 40 distinguished scientists and doctors were invited to share ideas and valuable concepts. As new honorary members of JRS, Prof. Hyo Keun Lim from Samsung Medical Center, Prof. Carlo Catalano from Sapienza University of Rome, and Prof. Jay Paul Heiken from Mayo Clinic are invited and will be commended for their significant achievement in radiology. All the invited lecturers will be provided with remote access to attend and talk in each of the 30 symposiums, so that the international meeting will be interactive and productive for all the attendees.

We will take all possible caution to safely hold the meeting on-site in Yokohama, which is a beautiful port town with blooming cherry blossoms in spring. We believe that the meeting will show the paradigm shift in radiology in the post-pandemic world, and we sincerely look forward to the participation of many people worldwide.