The JRC (Japan Radiology Congress) was established in 1987, in order to jointly sponsor four societies, the JRS (Japan Radiological Society), JRT (Japanese Society of Radiological Technology), JIRA (Japan Industries Association of Radiological Systems) and the JSMP (Japan Society of Medical Physics). JRC2009, which will be held on April 17-19, 2009 in Pacifico Yokohama (Yokohama City), is the leading and most innovative annual radiology meeting in Japan, attracting over 20,000 attendees, including more than 4,000 radiologists, 4,000 technologists and 400 medical physicists.

In these 21 years, radiology has undergone remarkable development and is widely used for the diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment of almost all diseases, including cancer, heart disease, and brain diseases.

JRC2009 features scientific sessions and a complete computer-based poster presentation of all papers, which are expected to number nearly 2,000. In addition, the always interesting exhibition of many of the latest innovative radiology tools, including CT, MRI, PET, angiography, radiotherapy, PACS and more, is anticipated.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Yokohama, Japan.

Keigo ENDO, MD
President The Japan Radiology Congress (JRC)
Greetings

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the 68th Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiological Society will be held at Pacifico Yokohama on April 17–19, 2009, in conjunction with the 65th Annual Scientific Congress of the Japan Society of Radiological Technology, the 97th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Medical Physics, academic meetings of the Japan Radiology Congress, and the International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging 2009.

As is well known, the development of the medical equipment used in diagnostic radiology, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine has been extremely rapid and the number of such instruments in Japan is extraordinarily large. However, in comparison, the number of radiologists and radiation oncologists is extremely small. Due to this, our radiologists and radiation oncologists find it difficult to make time for conducting research. If such conditions persist, this abundance of radiological medical equipment in Japan cannot achieve its optimal utility, and our patients will not be able to reap the benefits from such advanced radiation equipments.

The theme of the meeting is “The glorious path of radiation medicine, from the present to the future: The harmony between humans and technology.” A number of educational courses have been planned which are open to account the busy schedules of radiologists and radiation oncologists, and the above-mentioned theme will be the main focus of discussion. We plan to explore the manner in which we can harmonize with the rapidly progressing technology, and discover what is necessary for the future of radiation medicine.

Recently, the national government set out its long-term strategic guidelines entitled “Innovation 25” with the aims of the reform of social frameworks and the creation of technology innovation. As part of this strategy, R&D in diagnostic and therapeutic devices to improve quality of life (QOL) was identified as a priority area of science and technology in order to achieve the formation of a society with lifelong health. The Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry have also jointly launched a five-year strategy for the creation of innovative medical devices.

Radiation has an important role to play in the sort of innovation desired for medical care — safe, reliable medical care for everyone — and I believe that making this a reality will require the establishment of a harmony between people and technology, involving mutual collaboration and understanding between radiologists, radiologic technologists, and medical imaging systems.

As part of the program, we are planning numerous educational seminars that address the “harmony between people and technology” from this perspective. We hope as many people as possible will participate.

Medical care in Japan is now entering an era of low birthrates and an aging society, meaning that issues such as increased medical costs and the proportion borne by individuals, revision of the system for medical fee reimbursement, and the declining numbers of medical staff and the resulting increased burden they face, are gradually coming to the fore.

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Radiology has an important role to play in the sort of innovation desired for medical care — safe, reliable medical care for everyone — and I believe that making this a reality will require the establishment of a harmony between people and technology, involving mutual collaboration and understanding between radiologists, radiologic technologists, and medical imaging systems. JIRA aims to assist in offering minimally invasive, safe medical care that enables patients to return to everyday life at an early stage, by means such as the use of imaging systems in prevention, diagnosis, therapy, and prognosis, as well as the integration of diagnostic and therapeutic information, in order to continue to offer high-quality, safe medical imaging systems that utilize the latest technology to as many users as possible. To this end, it is actively engaged in collaborations between industry, government, and academia as well as between medicine and engineering.

I anticipate that ITEM 2009 will offer the opportunity of meeting many of you, the participants, especially young researchers and students, to interact with outstanding researchers, to learn from various research activities, and to acquire valuable information helpful for their future researches. We welcome your paper presentations and active participations to broaden your horizons of Medical Physics and other disciplines.

I look forward to greeting you at JSM2009 in Yokohama commemorating its 150th anniversary of the port-opening.