



## Revival From the Disaster in Japan – Mission of the *Circulation Journal* –

Hiroaki Shimokawa, MD, PhD

### 1. Revival From the Disaster in Japan

On March 11, at 2:46 pm, a huge earthquake (magnitude 9.0) occurred off the coast of Miyagi prefecture, followed by multiple aftershocks along the coast of the Tohoku area, which was 500 km long and 200 km wide. The earthquakes caused multiple huge tsunamis that struck the Pacific coast of the Tohoku and Kanto areas, with resultant casualties of ~28,000 deaths and missing people to date. To make the situation worse, the nuclear power plants in Fukushima prefecture were seriously damaged and the subsequent nuclear reactor problems are not fully under control (as of April 5). On behalf of the Society, I would like to express our deep sorrow and sympathy for those whose loved ones are missing or dead, those who lost their homes, and those who have been forced to evacuate because of this disaster.

Japan is a beautiful country, surrounded by the sea and with many volcanoes. Many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions have occurred in the past in Japan, but each time we have overcome these natural disasters. I personally believe that we Japanese will be able to overcome and revive from this disaster.

Fortunately, the Journal's editorial office at Tohoku University did not sustain any serious damage and we were able to continue our editorial work as usual. I sincerely thank the many Japanese and foreign friends whose kind words and thoughts encouraged us to continue with this important work.

As the Editor-in-Chief of the *Circulation Journal*, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS), I would like to re-emphasize the mission of the Journal, which is to promote health through high-quality cardiovascular research and medicine in the world in general and in the Asia-Pacific region in particular. I believe that this endeavor will assist in the revival of the Japanese people from the current disaster and I look forward to continuing to receive excellent manuscripts from all over the world.

### 2. JCS 2011 Activities

Although the JCS 2011 Annual Meeting has been canceled because of the disaster, the following winners of the Young Investigator's Award (YIA), the YIA for International Students and the Co-medical Award have been selected with no final presentation. These awards should not only promote their careers, but also help them contribute to Japan's revival from the disaster.

#### 1. Young Investigator's Award (28<sup>th</sup>) (in alphabetical order)

Katsuhito Fujiu, MD, PhD

(Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Translational Systems Biology and Medicine Initiative, University of Tokyo)

“Renal Collecting Duct Epithelial Cells Control Tubulointerstitial Inflammation in Chronic Kidney Disease”



Takahiro Horie, MD, PhD

*(Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University; Department of Clinical Innovative Medicine, Translational Research Center, Kyoto University Hospital)*

“MicroRNA-33 Encoded by an Intron of Srebp2 Regulates HDL In Vivo”



Koji Ito, MD, PhD

*(Emergency and Critical Care Center (Cardiovascular Medicine), Kyushu University Hospital)*

“Decreased Brain Sigma-1 Receptors Expression Contributes to Sympathoexcitation Associated With the Facilitation of Depression in Mice With Pressure Overload”



Sho Okada, MD, PhD

*(Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine)*

“Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor Protects Against Cardiac Dysfunction After Myocardial Infarction via a Central Nervous System-Mediated Pathway”



Shugo Tohyama, MD

*(Cardiology Department, Keio University School of Medicine)*

“Metabolic Selection of Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Cardiomyocytes”



## 2. Young Investigator's Award for International Students (9<sup>th</sup>) (in alphabetical order)

Yi-Fei Dong, MD, PhD (China)

*(Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Therapeutics, Kumamoto University Graduate School of Medical Sciences)*

“The Cerebral Protective Effects of Direct Renin Inhibitor Aliskiren in a Mouse Model of Chronic Cerebral Ischemia”



Meihua Jin, PhD (China)

*(Cardiovascular Research Institute, Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine)*

“Oxygen-Induced Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor Contributes to Anatomical Closure of the Rat Ductus Arteriosus”



Mochamad A. Sobirin, MD, PhD (Indonesian)

*(Department of Cardiovascular Medicine Graduate School of Medicine Hokkaido University; Faculty of Medicine, Diponegoro University, Semarang-Indonesia)*

“The Activation of Natural Killer T Cells Ameliorates Post-Infarct Heart Failure in Mice”



Luong Cong Thuc, MD (Vietnam)

*(Department of Laboratory Examination and Diagnostics, Faculty of Medicine, Oita University)*

“Inhibition of Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger as a Mechanism of Cardioprotection by Resveratrol”



Wanting Wang, MD, PhD (China)

*(Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine)*

“Cardioprotective Effects of Recombinant Human Erythropoietin in Pressure-Overloaded Hearts in Mice In Vivo”



### 3. Co-medical Award (1<sup>st</sup>) (in alphabetical order)

Naoko Kobayashi

*(Keio University Hospital)*

“A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Quality of Life in Patients With Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension”



Noriyuki Minegishi

*(Department of Rehabilitation Services, Tokai University Hachioji Hospital)*

“Related Factors to the Favorable Circulatory Responses to Exercise Training”



Yuka Nishida

*(University Hospital, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Advanced Cardio Vascular Center)*

“Facilitating Factors of Atrial Fibrillation After Off-Pump CABG – Psychosomatic Status and Autonomic Nerve Activity –”



Masakazu Saitoh, PhD

*(Department of Physiotherapy, Sakakibara Heart Institute)*

“Effect of Preoperative Kidney Function and Acute Kidney Injury on Postoperative Cardiac Rehabilitation – A Multicenter Study in Elective Cardiac Surgery Patients –”



Masashi Takahashi

*(Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Hiroshima Prefectural Hospital)*

“Basic Examination Concerning Protocol of Low Dose Exposure Heart Function Evaluation by 64 Row MDCT”



Toshikazu Yagi

*(Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital)*

“Left Internal Mammary Artery Graft Flow Pattern Predicts the Risk of Long-Term Cardiac Events – Analysis Using Duplex Doppler Echocardiography From Supraclavicular Fossa –”



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Editor-in-Chief  
*Circulation Journal*  
(April 5, 2011)  
(Released online April 7, 2011)