

INVITED LECTURES

KSS-ACS-JSS LEADERSHIP FORUM

Korean Surgical Society of Tomorrow : How to Prepare for What's Next ?

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Update of Activities of The American College of Surgeons

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The Future of The Japanese Society of Surgery

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The Japanese Society of Surgery has more than 40,000 members. Each member has his/her area of specialty such as gastrointestinal surgery, cardiovascular surgery, thoracic surgery, pediatric surgery, breast surgery, and endocrine surgery. In Japan, freshly-qualified doctors undergo two years of basic training, rotating through specialties including internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and etc. After completing the basic training, each doctor will enter a training program in a specialized field. In the field of surgery, doctors must first become certified in general surgery, before advancing onto and becoming qualified in a subspecialty.

The Japanese Society of Surgery celebrates 120 years since its establishment, and now faces a number of challenges in the future. In this talk, I would like to talk about these challenges and the efforts to solve them.

1. Encouraging young doctors to become surgeons

More than 8000 students pass the national medical examination every year. Among them, almost 800 young doctors, about 10% of them, aspire to become surgeons. At one time in the past, more than 1600 young doctors chose surgery, so the decrease in the number of surgical applicants is serious. The reasons for the decline in surgical applicants include the long working hours, the relatively small salary when considering the heavy work-load, and the risk of medical litigation. It is necessary to reduce working hours through work-style reforms, consider the introduction of financial incentives, and reduce the risk and the burden of litigation. I want to make a career in surgery worthwhile in the eyes of the medical students by implementing these measures.

2. Promoting the work of female surgeons

The role of female doctors in surgery is becoming more and more important. Up to now, there have been 20 JSS directors, and all were male. Therefore, we made an effort to have two female directors this year. We are making efforts to create an environment that makes it easier for female doctors to work.

3. Changing the ways in which academic meetings are held

The many number of academic societies is a burden on young surgeons in particular. In the future, I would like to discuss the ways of holding the meetings of the Japanese Society of Surgeons and related academic societies together at the same place and time. By setting up a surgical week to hold such meeting together at once would reduce the burden on young people. There is also the possibility of expanding use of the web-based meetings, which have been promoted by the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Strengthening internationalization

A cooperative development with many surgical societies including the KSS and ACS becomes more and more important. So we will promote internationalization. For this purpose, the development of Surgery Today, the official journal of the JSS, is of the highest most important point, so we will do our best to develop it.

In addition to the above, there are many other problems that need to be solved. We would appreciate your continued guidance and support so that we can bring together the wisdom of our members and become the world's crowned Japanese Society of Surgery. Thank you very much.