

Report on the 34th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Cancer Nursing

The 34th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Cancer Nursing was held on February 22 and 23, 2020 at Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, with Ms. Chiharu Arakawa (Director of Nursing Department, Showa University Hospital · Showa University Hospital East Branch) serving as chairperson.

The theme of the conference was “Helping cancer survivors live better with cancer: Diversity and deepening of cancer nursing”. The conference was managed successfully with keeping prevention of COVID-19, with more than 4,300 participants who were mainly domestic oncology nurses, educators, and researchers. Although some programs and presentations were cancelled, 129 oral and 326 poster research presentations were provided.

The conference focused on supporting patients with cancer to live a better life for themselves. Programs were constructed from various perspectives to address to several issues to be solved. The topics of lectures and symposiums were including patient advocacy, decision-making on cancer therapy, nursing management, local cooperation, supports based on patients’ life stage, and care for patients receiving innovative treatment (ex., immunotherapy and precision medicine).

The International Activities Committee held a session on February 23rd, 2020, entitled “What can we do in the age of precision medicine for cancer patients?”. The speaker was Dr. Chieko Tamura who was working as a genetic counselor in the medical institutions. In the lecture, Dr. Tamura talked about current status of precision medicine for cancer patients in Japan and the United States. Dr. Tamura pointed out that patients and healthcare professionals in Japan were overwhelmed and shrunk by the situation that hoping for precision medicine in the severe conditions of patients with cancer and possibility of revealing the genomic information to their families. In addition, Dr. Tamura talked about the situation in the United States that genetic information would be used to discuss the options of diagnostic tests and prevent cancer occurrence. Dr. Tamura suggested that oncology nurses should have a role of telling patients that knowing genetic information could provide greater potential for medical care they could receive.

