

Dear International Guests and Participants,

On behalf of all the members of the organizing committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your hearty cooperation to the 56th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Neurology, which was held from May 20 to May 23, 2015, in Niigata City, Japan.

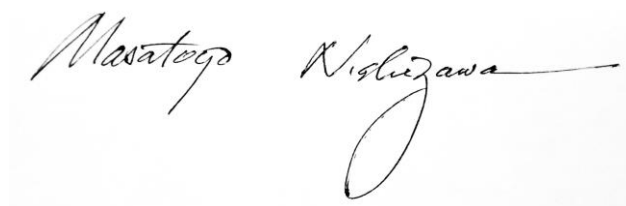
With your great support to the meeting, we could have 6,952 participants, including 186 distinguished guests from 26 overseas countries. As well as many valuable presentations, we could exchange active and fruitful discussions that will contribute to further progress in the field of neurology. Owing to your kind cooperation, we feel certain we could make this meeting a worthwhile experience for all concerned.

April 2015 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Department of Neurology, Brain Research Institute, Niigata University. Dr. Tadao Tsubaki was appointed as the first professor in April 1965, and our ward of neurology was opened in May. At the same time, Niigata Minamata disease was also found along the Agano River in Niigata Prefecture. In September 1970, Prof. Tsubaki reported that the cause of subacute myelo-optico-neuropathy, SMON is quinoform, which was a commonly used medicine for diarrhea at that time. In this way, the Department of Neurology, Niigata University, has had profound connections with our society through these serious social issues since its founding. Moreover, in Japan, neurological disorders are increasing due to rapidly progressing population aging. Needs for adequate neurological assessment, treatment, and care are constantly increasing in the Japanese society. Based on these social changes and the historical background of our Department of Neurology, the main theme of this Congress in Niigata was determined to be “Neurology in today’s society: what contributions can we neurologists make to the society?” We are deeply gratified if all the participants find this meeting rewarding.

Fortunately, we were favored with fine weather throughout the congress, and we would be happy if you could also enjoy beautiful nature and cuisine in Niigata.

Thank you so much again for your contribution and support to the Niigata meeting and we are looking forward to seeing you again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Masatoyo Nishizawa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Masatoyo Nishizawa, M.D., Ph.D.
Congress President, the 56th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of
Neurology
Director, Brain Research Institute, Niigata University

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