



Greetings from Vas-Cog Japan Society

Koji Abe, MD, PhD (President)

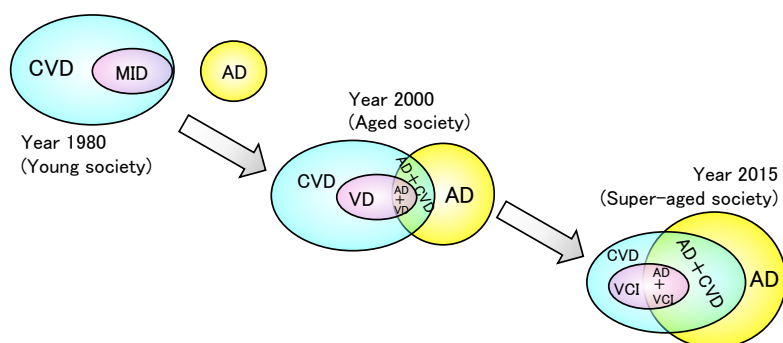
There is an explosive expansion of dementia patients in Japan, Asia, and in the world, where the societies are quickly ageing. Among them, Japan is now the only country of super-aged society with the elder people (≥ 65 years old) more than 20% of the general population in the country, followed by many developed countries and even by many developing countries. The super-aged society will be the world problem in the near future we are actually facing.

Among many subtypes of dementia, AD occupies more than 60%, followed by MCI, VD, DLB and FTD. However, within the late elderly dementia patients (≥ 75 years old), AD occupies more than 70%, because AD is the completely age-dependent disease. With the increase of the number of later elderly AD patients, their MRI-based white matter lesions become more evident and even autopsy studies proved common presence of vascular abnormalities. Of interest is that cognitive function of AD downs according to the severity of white matter change, while PD does not, suggesting that AD is more sensitive than PD for the presence of white matter changes. Recent subanalysis of ADNI also demonstrated that presence of white matter

abnormality is the most important factor for MCI subjects converting into AD, regardless of PIB-based A β deposit positive or negative. CAA (cerebral amyloid angiopathy) is another emerging topics with advanced MRI detection technologies.

Based on such background (picture below), Vas-Cog Japan society now launched for elucidating vascular contribution to AD development and vascular dementia. Our society is interested in many vascular risk factors such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia (dyslipidemia), diabetes mellitus, metabolic syndrome, small vessel disease and microvessel disease for parts of AD mechanisms and important risks for MCI into AD conversion. Our society was originally established as a national symposium on this Vas-Cog field (since 2010), and now newly launched as an official academic society which is parallel related to Vas-Cog Asia (Since 2012) and Vas-Cog World (Since 2002). I hope you to actively join our society for fighting against dementia in aged societies.

October 1, 2014



VAS-COG JAPAN 2014 report

Department of Neurology, Mie University Graduate School of Medicine

Hidekazu Tomimoto, MD, PhD

VAS-COG JAPAN 2014 meeting was held in Kyoto Japan on 2014, Aug. 23. This conference is the 5th meeting and the 1st one held outside Tokyo area. The president of this conference is Prof. Toshiki Mizuno from the department of Neurology, Kyoto Prefectural University and me. There were 36 oral and poster presentations, special lectures, symposium and educational talks, and all audience enjoyed fruitful discussions. Kyoto is a fantastic city with long history and scientific atmosphere which permits sincere and productive debates. It is very hot and humid every year in Kyoto, but exceptionally we had a relatively comfortable weather with a light rain.

On the day before, Prof. Wallin A from Gothenburg University in Sweden has made a preconference seminar on MCI in the neighboring hotel. On the 23th morning, we had oral and poster presentations, and in the afternoon, a symposium with the title of “How we can diagnose vascular dementia”. Four speakers had introduced diagnostic criteria on vascular cognitive impairment (VCI), subcortical

ischemic vascular dementia and genetic vascular dementia including CADASIL and CARASIL. Vascular dementia has an unclear differentiation from Alzheimer’s disease and moreover, vascular risk factors themselves contribute to the development of Alzheimer’s disease, thereby implying a closer interrelation between these two entities.

In special lectures, Prof. Wallin had talks on biomarkers of vascular dementia. He is the first who reported BBB abnormalities in vascular dementia and indicated an increased albumin ratio in cerebrospinal fluid. Subsequently, Prof. Hiroshi Mori, president of Japan Society for Dementia Research, has reported a recent progress in Alzheimer research. After the conference, there was a ceremony for young investigator’s award and an announcement on VasCog world 2015 and its joint conference of VasCog-J 2015 by Prof. Koji Abe, president of VasCog-J. Finally, we cordially thank all participants and contributors for the success of this VAS-COG JAPAN 2014 conference.

Reports of VAS-COG Japan 2014

Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine

Toshiki Mizuno, MD, PhD

The 5th annual meeting of VAS COG Japan 2014 was co-organized by Professor Hidekazu Tomimoto in Mie University and me on 23th of August in 2014. While previous meetings were held in Tokyo, it was the first trial in Kyoto. Compared with Tokyo, Kyoto is too hot and humid especially in August. Therefore, I was afraid that researchers might hesitate to attend the meeting. Fortunately, however, we felt a little cooler than usual in Kyoto this summer, and as many as 121 researchers including the members living in Kansai area attended the meeting and discussed vascular dementia.

The main subject of the meeting was on how to diagnose vascular dementia, which was discussed in the main symposium in the first place. We tried more discussion on the subject from various points of view: such as symptoms, biochemistry, neuroimaging, blood supply, and blood brain barrier. I could not hear all lectures, but still I'm sure about the abundant intelligent

ones that were held in both rooms. Dr. Shinya Kawabata lectured on the neuropsychological background of strange symptoms in patients with dementia; Professor Kenichi Meguro on the issue of diagnosis, background of executive dysfunction, rehabilitation in subcortical vascular dementia; Professor Wallin on the cerebrospinal fluid aspects of cerebral small vessel disease. We also discussed the criteria of vascular dementia, particularly mixed types of dementia as well as CADASIL and CARASIL in the main symposium. Young researchers presented their new research in the morning session and poster session. Their nice trial must be important seeds for the future research about vascular dementia.

After the enriching day, we enjoyed delicious beef from Matsuzaka. I hope that this VAS-COG Japan meeting will develop increasingly with more researchers and contributes to VAS-COG world 2015 in Tokyo.



Professor Mizuno, Dr. Uemura as the winner of young investigator awards, and Professor Tomimoto

The 6th Organizers' Meeting for Japan VAS-COG was held on the 23rd of August, 2014 in Mielparque, Kyoto, with 16 organizers.

Osaka University

Ryuichi Morishita, MD, PhD

The titles of the meeting were “The Plan for Future Conferences,” “Preparation for Forming a Society,” and “Entrusting a Full-time Secretariat.” Following is a report of the meeting, with the topics discussed and plans approved.

[Plans for future conferences]

The 6th conference (2015) organizer:

Dr. Nobuya Kawabata, Dr. Shuhei Yamaguchi
*19th September 2015 at Tokyo Fashion Town Building in parallel with VAS-COG World

The 7th conference (2016) organizer:

Dr. Masatsugu Horiuchi, Dr. Masahito Yamada

The 8th conference (2017) organizer:

Dr. Shinichiro Uchiyama, Dr. Issei Komuro

The 9th conference (2018) organizer:

Dr. Katsuya Urakami, Dr. Etsuro Matsubara

The 10th conference (2019) organizer:

Dr. Masahiro Akishita, Dr. Yoshio Ikeda
Dr. Etsuro Matsubara, Dr. Masahiro Akishita and Dr. Yoshio Ikeda were approved to be the organizers.

(For future conferences, one chairperson will be selected)

[International Conferences]

1. Vas-Cog World 2015:

Dr. Ken Nagata, Dr. Koji Abe for the chairs.

*It will be held in the Tokyo Fashion Town Building from 17th -19th September 2015.

At this meeting, conference organization and cooperation will be discussed.

Mr. Hiroshi Mori who is the executive advisor for this society, Dr. Kenji Nakajima (Honored Professor in Kyoto Prefectural Medical University) and Dr. Taihei Miyagawa (former psychiatry professor in Kumamoto University) were nominated as special advisors due to their great contributions in this field.

2. Vas-Cog Asia (APSC2015)

2nd October 2015 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[Membership fee]

Price will increase to JPY 5,000 from the 1st of April 2015 from JPY 2,000 currently.

[Forming a Society]

Necessary requirement to apply for authorization of the Japan Science Counsel:

- * Purpose = increase scientific/technical /learning basic and clinical research
- * Membership fees managed by researchers
- * Membership numbering over 100
- * Must issue a specialized periodical at least annually

(Digital format is acceptable, abstracts will not be accepted)

It was decided to refer to the group as the VAS-COG Society from this point forward.

*The chairperson for the promotion of becoming a society, Dr. Katsuya Urakami,

explained the above-mentioned requirements.

* The chairperson for increasing membership and public relations, Dr. Haruo Hanyu, discussed present membership with a view toward asking for support for increased membership and membership fees.

*The chief editor of the academic magazine, Dr. Mikio Shoji explained starting an academic periodical in e-letters.

*The chairperson of financial affairs, Dr. Ryuichi Morishita discussed a need for an increase in membership and collection of membership fees, and the necessity for auditing of the bookkeeping. As an auditor, Dr. Etsuro Matsubara was approved. A support member system should be created, and movement toward greater financial strength.

*Regarding the full time secretariat: The President of the Secretariat, Dr. Ryuichi Morishita suggested a contract for entrustment to Conet Ltd., as the full time secretariat at JPY583,102-/yearly base. This plan for management of membership and collecting membership fees was subsequently approved. This contract is for 4 years.

*Regarding board members: All organizers will become the board of directors. The board of directors will later recommend 3-5 councilors.

[Name list]

●Executive Advisor

Hiroshi Mori (Osaka City University)

●President

Koji Abe (Okayama University)

●Executive Directors

Masahiro Akishita (The University of Tokyo)

Yoshio Ikeda (Gunma University)

Shinichiro Uchiyama (International University of Health and Welfare)

Katsuya Urakami (Tottori University)

Nobuya Kawabata (Yachiyo Hospital)

Issei Komuro (The University of Tokyo)

Mikio Shoji (Hirosaki University)

Yasuo Terayama (Iwate Medical University)

Hidekazu Tomimoto (Mie University)

Ken Nagata (Research Institute for Brain and Blood Vessels)

Haruo Hanyu (Tokyo Medical University)

Toshiya Fukui (Kawasaki Memorial Hospital)

Masatsugu Horiuchi (Ehime University)

Etsuro Matsubara (Oita University)

Toshiki Mizuno (Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine)

Shokei Mitsuyama (Kumamoto University)

Ryuichi Morishita (Osaka University)

Shuhei Yamaguchi (Shimane University)

Masahito Yamada (Kanazawa University)

An impression on VAS-COG Asia

**Professor, Clinical Research Center for Medicine,
International University of Health and Welfare
Director, Center for Brain and Cerebral Vessels,
Sanno Hospital and Sanno Medical Center
Shinichiro Uchiyama, MD, PhD**

The VAS-COG Asia was held as a joint conference with the Asia Pacific Stroke Conference (APSC) 2014 in the Taipei International Convention Center in the afternoon on September 12. This joint conference was started when I organized APSC 2012 as the President in Tokyo in cooperation with Prof. Koji Abe, and this was the third conference following the second joint conference with APSC 2013 in Hong Kong. The VAS-COG/APSC joint conference appears to be very successful. Because, the number of participants is rapidly increasing, which was only ten in 2012, but 50 in 2013, and over 100 in this conference. The biggest advantage of this joint conference is that the participants from many Asian countries can enjoy various active exchanges in scientific programs and social activities between the VAS-COG and APSC. The VAS-COG Asia 2014 was very exciting because of a variety of programs including pathology, physiology, epidemiology, prevention, imaging, awareness, education, and case conference with active discussions. Dementia and stroke are leading causes

of shortening health life span, which have been widely recognized to share vascular risk factors in the background, and thereby relationships between dementia and cerebrovascular disease have been paid more attention than ever, which may lead to an increase in the number of participants. In addition, since dementia and stroke are steeply increasing in Asia, which occupies 60% of the world population, the role of VAS-COG Asia will definitely become more and more important in future. I hope many top leaders of dementia research as well as young physicians and researchers interested in this field will attend the conference, which will make a great contribution to the level up of the VAS-COG Asia. The APSC 2015 will be held on October 2-4 and the VAS-COG Asia 2015 on October 2 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The city is safe and the accessibility is good with many resort facilities. The venue is the five stars hotel Shangri-la. Please join the Joint Conference of APSC 2015 and VAS-COG Asia 2015.

Welcome to the VAS-COG J 2015

Neurology, Yachiyo Hospital

Shinya Kawabata, MD, PhD

Department of Neurology, Shimane University Hospital

Shuhei Yamaguchi, MD, PhD

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to welcome you to the VAS-COG J 2015 to be held at Tokyo Fashion Town, September 19, 2015. Fortunately the VAS-COG World will be also held simultaneously at the same location this year. We have a plan that the registration fee for the VAS-COG J will be free if registering to the international conference. Please attend the both meetings this year.

Recent cumulative evidence suggests a significant contribution of vascular pathology to Alzheimer's disease. Epidemiology and risk factors for dementia demonstrated common pathophysiology between Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Specifically cerebral small vessel disease such as cerebral amyloid angiopathy is a pathology located in a watershed of Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. The development of therapeutic drugs for Alzheimer's disease is energetically carried out based on an amyloid hypothesis, but it is important to approach the disease from the

point of vascular pathology. In this conference we plan to have symposiums about these topics. Furthermore, neuroimaging techniques such as functional and structural MRI, SPECT, and PET have increasingly contributed to early diagnosis, monitor of clinical course, and drug therapy for dementia. We plan to invite an international expert for these topics.

Originally the VAS-COG J started as a scientific meeting in 2010, and many researches from basic and clinical areas have participated every year. In 2014 the organizing committee decided that the meeting becomes a scientific society publishing an official journal. There are still several obstacles for the goal, but we think most important thing is to stimulate an exchange of new ideas and lead young researchers toward future breakthrough. The VAS-COG J 2015 will be a first important step to accomplish this goal. We are looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo.

“Prospects of VAS-COG and Dementia Studies”

Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Osaka City University, Graduate School of Medicine

Advisor Hiroshi Mori, MD, PhD

At the seminar held in 2010, I introduced the development of new drugs through a presentation entitled “Severe competition in the development of therapeutic agents.” Subsequently, development of almost all therapeutic agents was stalled, and companies were hesitant to develop new drugs for Alzheimer’s disease, considering it a high-risk business. In that situation, administration of a monoclonal antibody called solanezumab, which had no effect on moderate or severe symptoms, proved effective for patients with mild symptoms in the EXPEDITION studies).

On the basis of this finding, the possibility that therapeutic interventions were performed too late was discussed, and clinical trials are now designed to examine patients in the early stage of the disease, including in some cases, individuals in the preclinical or prodromal stages.

Two new clinical trials using solanezumab are currently under consideration. A new trial of the EXPEDITION study involves early administration of solanezumab, and the other, called the Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease Trial (A4 Trial), would use the same antibody for preventive interventions in individuals ≥ 70 years of age in whom positron emission

tomography revealed amyloids in the preclinical stage. Studies testing the validity of candidate drugs other than solanezumab for use as therapeutic agents are also underway. These include crenezumab, which recognizes amyloid- β oligomers; antibodies such as BAN2401, an anterior fibrous amyloid antibody; and gantenerumab. Crenezumab is used in the Alzheimer’s Prevention Initiative Trial performed in a large group of families with the same mutation in Columbia, South America. Solanezumab and gantenerumab are scheduled to be used in the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer’s Network-Therapeutic Trials Unit (DIAN-TTU) for familial Alzheimer’s disease. DIAN-TTU, in particular, is expected to be a highly accurate trial because the timing of administration would be determined. A trial of apolipoprotein E allele $\epsilon 4/\epsilon 4$ homozygotes is also being planned by the Banner Alzheimer Institute.

It is worth emphasizing that the new drugs have been chosen on the basis of a new etiology in all the clinical studies. Familial Alzheimer’s disease develops in 100% of people with mutations (penetrance). Therefore, time is an important factor, and it is desirable to treat the disease as quickly as possible. In June 2013, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

announced a plan for the DIAN-Japan Study as the latest clinical trial. It could be considered the Japanese version of DIAN-TTU. In the future, clinical studies in Japan are expected to advance greatly, as in Europe and the United States. In clinical trials for vascular dementia, it is important to also confirm the effects of drugs covered by insurance for the control of diabetes

mellitus, hypertension, and dyslipidemia in terms of lifestyle-related diseases. However, most of these drugs covered by insurance tend to be replaced by generic drugs. It is predicted that the issues related to resources for the promotion of clinical studies would also need to be discussed.

日本脳血管・認知症学会(VAS-COG JAPAN)会則

(1) 名称

本会は「日本脳血管と認知症学会 (VAS-COG JAPAN)」と称する。

(2) 目的

本会は日本における血管性病変と認知症との関連について幅広い視野から臨床的基礎的研究を行い、併せて国際的な当該分野研究者との情報交流を通じて、認知症の原因や病態における血管性病変の関与を明らかにすることで創薬の可能性も探り、認知症研究の新しい分野の発展に資するために設立された。

(3) 構成

本会は複数名の理事および評議員によって運営され、代表理事長と事務局を置く。

代表理事は理事の互選で選任され、任期は2期4年とする。

(4) 事業

本会は年1回学術集会を開催する。学術集会は参加者の参加費で運営されるが、共催も可能である。

(5) 会費・会費

本会は、本会の趣旨に賛同する会員で構成され、年会費2,000円は2015年3月31日までとし、同年4月1日以降は5,000円とする。本会の会計年度は毎年4月1日から、翌年3月31日とする。

(6) 発足期日

本会は2014年8月23日に発足し、本会側も同時に施行された。

編集後記

弘前大学神経内科
東海林幹夫



VAS-COG JAPAN News and Letter の第 1 号をお届けします。2010 年に開始された日本血管性認知障害研究会は毎年参加者が増加し発展してきましたが、新たに日本脳血管・認知症学会として発足しました。本号ではこの間の経緯と今後の展望、予定などを掲載しました。Common disease として増加している認知症を血管性因の基礎と臨床の

両面から解明し、国際的な規模でこの分野の発展を目指しています。本 News and Letter が機関誌として、本学会の発展に貢献することを期待しております。編集者として、この様な発展のお手伝いができることを大変光栄に存じております。学会会員皆様のご協力をどうぞお願い申し上げます。

Editors Note

Hirosaki University Mikio Shoji MD., PhD.,

Here, we bring you the first issue of VAS-COG JAPAN News and Letter. This society for scientific study of vascular factor of dementia started at 2010, developing with growing participants. At 4th VAS-COG in 2014, we decided to establish this association as official academic society," VAS-COG JAPAN". In this issue, background, aim, landscape, schedule, byelaw, and board members are

presented. We aimed basic and clinical study of growing dementia as common disease from the aspect of vascular factors to contribute internal development of this field. We are hoping for contribution of this News and Letter as the official journal of VAS-COG JAPAN. I am very honored to edit this journal. I would like to sincere help by all association members.