

It is my great pleasure to deliver a few words of greeting on the convening of the 20th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Cardiovascular Intervention and Therapeutics (CVIT2011).



President: **Shinsuke Nanto, MD., Ph.D., FCVIT, BMCVIT**

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Cardiovascular Intervention and Therapeutics (CVIT2011)

(Department of Advanced Cardiovascular Therapeutics, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine)

In 2007, the Department of Advanced Cardiovascular Therapeutics was launched at Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, where I took the office of professor last year. This Department aims at the furtherance of clinical activities, research and education in cardiovascular interventional therapy. As our Department is celebrating the 5th anniversary of its foundation this year, we are deeply honored by the opportunity given to us to contribute to the organization of the 20th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Cardiovascular Intervention and Therapeutics, a renowned scientific community with many achievements. This is quite a daunting task, compelling us to reflect on how much progress we have made towards our goals during the past five years. Delighted though we are, the fulfillment of our responsibilities for CVIT2011 is foremost in our minds.

I am pleased to report that, thanks to support from many parties, 956 abstracts for oral presentations were submitted altogether, from which 874 were finally accepted after fair and stringent screening. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the screening committee. The main theme of CVIT2011 is “Towards greater knowledge, skills and technology”. Included in the program are 3 Special Lectures, 12 Special Program Sessions, 10 Educational Lectures, and 44 symposia or panel discussions. In addition, two live demonstration sessions will be broadcast. One will be relayed from Osaka University on PCI, and the other from Kansai Rosai Hospital on EVT. We are confident that CVIT2011 will provide participants with great opportunities to acquire a wide range of knowledge concerning the diverse technology of interventional cardiology, as well as observing the evidence for its efficacy. The program will lead us to better performance of this therapy. Cardiologists will obtain information about innovative medical devices designed and manufactured in order for intervention to be made over the entire spectrum of cardiovascular diseases. The live demonstrations will be superb opportunities for participants to witness and learn the most promising and innovative technology available today.

We deeply mourn the loss of so many lives in the East Japan Earthquake, which struck the north-eastern part of the country in March, followed shortly after by the deadly tsunami. While many people are still suffering from tremendous difficulties, strenuous efforts are being made for reconstruction. Against this background, it has been decided to forego the traditional Presidential Dinner this year. Instead a Special Program entitled “What Can and Should Cardiologists Do in Major Disasters?” is to be held. I hope that we can discuss and reflect on the services cardiologists might contribute to a society facing such tragic experiences. Should a similar situation arise in the future, what can and should we do? I sincerely hope that there will be a constructive discussion on these matters. Donation boxes will be placed in the conference hall. I would deeply appreciate kind support from as many people as possible, so that Japan will be able to progress towards a better future.