

WCHR2017 Report

The 10th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR2017) was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC) from October 31 to November 3, 2017 and was the result of a collaborative effort of the Society for Hair Science Research (SHSR) and the Japan Society



of Clinical Hair Restoration (JSCHR). The organization of the WCHR2017 was headed by Dr. Hideoki Ogawa (CEO, Juntendo University), Dr. Ryoji Tsuboi (Tokyo Medical University), Dr. Satoshi Itami (Osaka University), and other local organizing committee members. WCHR2017 attracted 709 participants and 380 abstracts from 39 countries to become one of the largest WCHR meetings yet. We were also blessed with splendid weather and brilliant autumn foliage throughout the period.

Scientific program

The local organizing committee was comprised of 17 members from the SHSR and the JSCHR, with Dr. Manabu Ohyama as the chair and Dr. Taisuke Ito as the vice-chair. The committee decided on “Visiting the old, finding the new” as the theme of the meeting to match the image of Kyoto, collected abstracts from various fields including regenerative medicine and hair restoration, and organized 17 concurrent sessions by having each member take charge of at least one session. The sessions on clinical research, basic science, and hair restoration were held in three rooms, and the general abstracts submitted were scored by the committee members and sub-divided into plenary, concurrent, and poster categories. The program of the WCHR2017 included two keynote lectures, two plenary sessions, 17 concurrent sessions, a learning course, and five sponsored seminars.

Preceding the official opening of the meeting, the learning course provided basic knowledge of hair science and clinics for residents and young researchers. The topics of the keynote lectures were stem cells of the hair and regeneration of the hair follicle. The innovative research results concerning the dermal papilla stem cell and epithelial stem cell of the hair follicle, including keratinocytes and melanocytes, were presented by Dr. Jeff Biernaskie (Calgary, Canada) and Dr. Emi Nishimura (Tokyo, Japan), respectively. Dr. Ohsang Kwon (Seoul, Republic of Korea) focused on hair regeneration targeting permanent hair loss due to chemotherapy.



The speakers in Plenary Session discussed the key points and major issues in recent hair research and clinical treatments. The concurrent sessions, held in three rooms and managed by the chairpersons of the international organizing committee, were generally filled with attendees and replete with intense discussion despite the lure of fine weather and scenery outside. The 17 topics of the concurrent sessions were as follows: stem cells and their niche; alopecia areata (research and clinical topics); hair transplantation; androgenic alopecia; hair follicle morphology and cosmetology; scarring alopecia; stem cell and tissue engineering; hair diseases, endocrinology and metabolism; hair anti-aging; diagnostic techniques; hair and regenerative medicine; new horizons in hair disease management and research; frontiers from the world; female pattern hair loss; hair follicle biology; and genetics. The keynote speakers in each concurrent session summarized the main points and current issues.

The sponsored Seminars were supported by Aderans (Tokyo, Japan), GSK (Brentford, UK), Shiseido (Tokyo, Japan), P&G (OH, USA), MSD (NJ, USA), Unilever (Rotterdam, Netherlands and London, UK), Taisho Toyama Pharmaceutical (Tokyo, Japan), and Kao (Tokyo, Japan). All the speakers gave excellent talks on recent topics on hair biology and clinical research. However, due to the unexpectedly large attendance, we ran short of conference bags, lunch boxes, and coffee. For this we sincerely apologize. The meeting was nonetheless well managed by the Kyoto ICC and Congre Co., to whom we owe a great many thanks.

The poster session in WCHR2017 was a great success with 239 posters submitted. The participants were seen gathered in the poster hall amid intense and lively discussion. Some 24 exhibitors also presented new technologies and instruments in the lobby.

Social events



The opening ceremony started with a welcome speech by Dr. H. Ogawa followed by Dr. R. Tsuboi and Dr. S. Itami. The presidents of the sister societies, Dr. Abraham Zlotogorski, Dr. Maria Hordinsky, Dr. Rodney Sinclair, and Dr. Won Soo Lee presented their history, academic activities, and prospects. Medals were awarded to each hair society for their contribution to the progress of the WCHR. Afterwards, Ms. Rieko Ohara, a famous cultural historian, lectured on “The cultural history of the Japanese hair style” using her own illustrations of traditional women’s coiffure.

The Gala dinner was held in the Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto located near the Kyoto ICC, and the participants enjoyed western style fare together with traditional Kyoto cuisine. Japanese traditional dances were performed by Geisha, or Japanese female entertainers trained in singing, dancing, and other arts. The awaodori, one of the famous folkdances of Tokushima, was also performed, and the dinner participants enjoyed together.



Dr. R Tsuboi and Dr. S Itami opened the closing ceremony with a thank-you speech. The photos during the scientific meeting and social events can be seen in the center screen. Afterwards, Dr. Ramon Grimalt introduced the 11th WCHR, which will take place in Barcelona, Spain in 2019, by showing a video of beautiful scenery surrounding the next conference venue.

IFHRS meeting



IFHRS (International Federation of Hair Research Society) meeting (former International Board meeting) was held on the morning of November 1 at the Kyoto ICC. Representatives from each hair society discussed the agenda, with Dr. Wilma Bergfeld chairing. The following future venues of the WCHR were decided: WCHR2021 in Melbourne, WCHR2023 in the Americas, and WCHR2025 in Korea. The representatives from China, Dr. Jianzhong Zhang and Dr. Weixin Fan, and a representative from India, Dr Sandeep Sattur, attended as observers in preparation for their application for membership in the IFHRS and WCHR. This matter is now under consideration among the IFHRS members.

Honorary-President: Hideoki Ogawa

Co-President: Ryoji Tsuboi, Satoshi Itami

Congress Secretary: Shigeki Inui, Kazutoshi Harada

Local Scientific Program Committee:

Chair: Manabu Ohyama, Vice-Chair: Taisuke Ito

Yasuyuki Amoh, Jiro Kishimoto, Sotaro Kurata, Takashi Matsuzaki, Motonobu Nakamura, Emi Nishimura, Norimitsu Saito, Akio Sato, Yutaka Shimomura, Kohei Toyoshima, Rie Ueki, Kuniyoshi Yagyu, Kotaro Yoshimura

