

The President's Lecture

In October 2004, the International Council created a new distinguished lecture, named The President's Lecture, which is a highlight of ISHR World Congresses and Section meetings.

The President's Lecture is held at each World Congress of the ISHR and, in non-Congress years, at the annual meeting of one of the ISHR Sections on a rotating basis. This lecture is intended to be a high profile event and is scheduled as a keynote plenary lecture. The International Council selects the speaker. **The topic of the lecture is in the field of molecular biology, genetics, genomics or proteomics, but the content should be chosen to be of broad interest to the cardiovascular community.** The speaker is reimbursed for travel expenses, and receives a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. A photograph and biosketch of the speaker is published in *Heart News and Views*, and is posted in the ISHR website.

The President's Lecture enhances the content of the ISHR scientific meetings by providing a high-quality presentation in a topical area that is not covered by other distinguished lecture awards, and reflects the continuing growth of the ISHR as a professional Society. This award is funded by a generous donation from Roberto Bolli, MD, winner of the ISHR 2004 Research Achievement Award, who declined to collect the monetary prize associated with the Award and requested that it be used for this purpose.



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ISHR

International Society for Heart Research

The President's Lecture 2019



Honored Speaker

Yoshihiro Saito, M.D.

**“Molecular mechanism
for cardio-renal
connection”**

Yoshihiko Saito, MD

2019 Honored Speaker
Beijing, China

Yoshihiko Saito, a physician scientist in the cardiovascular field, graduated from Nara Medical University in 1981 and started his scientific career in 1985 at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine. At that time, he studied ANP, which was discovered by Adolfo J deBold and by Hisayuki Matsuo and Kenji Kangawa, independently at the end of 1983 and the beginning of 1984. He reported the usefulness of ANP infusion for improvement of cardiac function in patients with heart failure and discovered that the ANP gene is re-induced in the failing ventricle. As a result of these studies, he earned his PhD from Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine. Then he moved to Hisayuki Masuo's laboratory at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Suita, Osaka, to learn protein purification and molecular biology. After he returned to Kyoto University, he became an assistant professor and organized his own laboratory in 1995.

Dr Saito was appointed as a professor of the department of Internal Medicine at Nara Medical University in 2002, and start-

ed to investigate the molecular mechanism of the cardio-renal connection. Based on the clinical findings of heart failure with renal dysfunction, his group proposed that PLGF and its endogenous antagonist, a soluble isoform of fms-like tyrosine kinase-(sFlt-1), play roles in the development of the cardio-renal connection and recently discovered a new long non-coding RNA which works as a MEK inhibitor downstream of the Flt-1 signaling. As for clinical work, he contributed to the JPAD study which investigated effects of the low-dose aspirin therapy on the prevention of atherosclerotic events in patients with diabetes mellitus, and he has also conducted a dynamic cohort of heart failure in the Nara prefecture in Japan since 2007. His laboratory has been actively engaged in searching for new substances (proteins and lncRNAs) which contribute to the pathophysiology of heart failure and hypertrophy. He published more than 400 papers in prestigious journals, including *NEJM*, *JAMA*, *JCI*, *Circulation*, *Circulation Research*, *JACC*, *EHJ*, *PNAS*, *EMBO Journal*, and *JMCC*.

At Kyoto University and Nara Medical University, more than 30 of Dr Saito's graduate students received their PhD degrees and two of them became finalists for the American Heart Association Melvin L. Marcus Young Investigator Award and the ATVB Young Investigators Award of AHA. Four of his trainees became professors of departments of cardiology or nephrology.

Currently he is the president of the Japanese Section of ISHR and he is President-Elect of ISHR-International beginning in 2019. He is also a board member of the Japan Circulation Society, Japan Heart Failure Society, Cardiovascular Endocrinology & Metabolism and others. He was the chairperson of the 2nd JCS Forum on Basic CardioVascular Research in 2018, and will chair the 85th Annual Scientific Meeting of the JCS in 2021.

Previous Award Winners.....

- Jeffery Molquentin, PhD:** Halifax, NS, Canada 2018
- Junichi Sadoshima, MD, PhD:** Osaka, Japan 2017
- Thomas Eschenhagen, MD:** Buenos Aires 2016
- Rui-Ping Xiao, MD, PhD:** Bordeaux, France 2015
- Keiichi Fukuda, MD, PhD:** Miami, FL 2014
- Richard N. Kitsis, MD:** San Diego, CA 2013
- Steven Houser, PhD:** Fukuoka, Japan 2012
- Sian Harding, PhD:** Haifa, Israel 2011
- Issei Komuro, MD, PhD:** Kyoto, Japan 2010
- R John Solaro, PhD:** Baltimore, MD 2009
- Gerd Hasenfuss, MD:** Yokohama, Japan 2008
- Jeffrey Robbins, PhD:** Bologna, Italy 2007
- Mark Sussman, PhD:** Toronto, ON 2006