



Pisa, Italy, November 26, 2014

Re: Opening of the Center of Interventional Radiology at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo

The opening of the Center of Interventional Radiology at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo is a new landmark for the development of Interventional Radiology, especially in the field of minimally-invasive image-guided cancer clinical care, also known as Interventional Oncology.

This is a milestone not only for Japan, but for the global Interventional Radiology community. As the Chairman of the World Conference on Interventional Oncology (WCIO), I am aware of the current status of our discipline around the world. I can definitely state that Japan has always been at the edge of research in Interventional Radiology, by introducing novel approaches and techniques and by educating Interventional Radiologists to innovation, excellence, and commitment to better patient care.

It can be easily predicted that the new Center of Interventional Radiology at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo will become the global hub for Interventional Radiology. Under the leadership of Dr. Yasuaki Arai, who is universally recognized as one of the foremost Interventional Radiology specialists in the world and as one of the pioneers of Interventional Oncology, the Center of Interventional Radiology at the National Cancer Center will become the reference for both Eastern and Western interventionists.

We, as global Interventional Oncology community, are very much looking forward to the new developments and the unparalleled level of excellence that the Center of Interventional Radiology will bring to us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Conference on Interventional Oncology, I would like to express my most sincere congratulations to Yasuaki Arai and to the entire leadership team of the National Cancer Center in Tokyo for having transformed into reality the dream of any Interventional Radiologist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riccardo Lencioni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Riccardo Lencioni, MD, FSIR, EBIR

Professor of Radiology, University of Pisa, Italy

Chairman of the Board of Directors, World Conference on Interventional Oncology



Section of Interventional Radiology and Image Guided Therapy

November 25, 2014

**RE: Opening of the Center of Interventional Radiology
at the National Cancer Center Hospital, Toyko, Japan**

I wish to congratulate the National Cancer Center Hospital for establishing the "Center of Interventional Radiology." This is a major step in helping patients receive the latest cancer treatments with technologies that avoid making incisions. This is good for patients who can recover faster without as high risk for complications. With the use of imaging (such as x-ray, CT, ultrasound, and MRI) physicians can do procedures that do not require cutting patients open to see inside. For example, interventional radiology physicians can use imaging to guide small tubes called catheters through the blood vessels of the body to reach the specific blood vessels that feed the cancer, and then they can deliver the chemotherapy directly at the cancer limiting the toxicity throughout the body.

Dr. Yasuaki Arai and the National Cancer Center Hospital in Tokyo have been international leaders in the field of Interventional Radiology bringing many new advances to people throughout the world. The Japanese Interventional Radiology in Oncology Study Group led by Dr. Arai has set the world example of organized research in the budding field of interventional oncology. Their efforts have led to several significant advances and have demonstrated the value of organized research.

In sum, I am delighted to hear the news of the Center's opening. I think this will improve cancer delivery for Japanese patients and will be the source of many translational advances for the rest of the world.

Omedetōgozaimasu!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen B. Solomon".

Stephen B. Solomon, M.D.
Chief of Interventional Radiology & Image Guided Therapy Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Paris November 22th, 2014

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The opening of a dedicated interventional radiology center in Tokyo National Cancer Center is an important milestone for the integration of interventional oncology treatment in patient cancer care. Interventional oncology was initially used for symptoms palliation but has emerged during the past 20 years as a minimal invasive treatment for localized disease with the possibility to target a specific part of the body where very active treatment can be delivered with low side effect. More recently, namely with development of image guided ablation techniques such as radiofrequency, interventional oncology demonstrated possibility of cure in small tumors. Image guidance is also a key player in personalized medicine due to the possibility of biopsy from nearly any tumor location.

Dedicated interventional radiology centers are developed in prestigious cancer center worldwide, such as Memorial Sloan Kettering in New-York, European Institute of Oncology in Milan, and Gustave Roussy cancer center in Paris. This interest in minimal invasive image guided therapy is probably in its infancy and will developed more in the future. Dr Yasuaki Arai has been a pioneer in such technique namely treating primary and metastatic liver disease with intra-arterial therapies, and also various kinds of interventional radiology for palliative care. It is great news for Japanese cancer patients that such interventional oncology treatments will be widely available in the hand of expert and worldwide known physician.

Thierry de Baère
Head of image guided therapy
Institut de Cancérologie Gustave Roussy
Villejuif France

The new “Center of Interventional Radiology” at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo will be a milestone for the Community of Interventional Radiology in the world.

Nowadays IR is one of the four essential pillars supporting the daily practice in Oncology, together with Clinical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Radiation Therapy. Hospitals with no IR facilities cannot offer the cutting edge of more advanced and minimally invasive treatment options to the patients and this is the reason why such an illuminated initiative should represent a reference for modern health institutions.

To my knowledge there are very few outstanding representatives of this field so clever and prepared as Prof Yasuaky Arai.

I’m so proud to be a friend and colleague to Prof Arai and I wish him and his new IR Center a bright future.

Milan 5.12.2014

Sincerely

Franco Orsi, MD, PhD, EBIR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Orsi', written over the printed name.

Chief of the Division of Interventional Radiology

European Institute of Oncology

Milan - Italy

I am writing to offer my great congratulations for the opening of the Center for Interventional Radiology at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo. This marks yet another important and defining step in Japanese and worldwide recognition of the central role of interventional radiologists in cancer care.

Decades of innovation by interventional radiologists have changed the daily practice of medicine everywhere—from the origins of endovascular care of peripheral arterial and aneurysmal disease, to solid organ, visceral and gynecological disease, to advanced oncological care.

Specially trained interventional radiologists (IR) now provide the full axis of subspecialty clinical care for their patients, from their admission to hospital to post-operative and long-term longitudinal care. In the last decades, the IR's role has become central in the care of primary and metastatic liver cancer, renal, lung, pancreas, and other malignancies through increasingly potent, synergistic and evidence-proven locoregional therapies. The combinations of increasingly targeted regimens such as chemo- and radioembolization, thermal ablation and electroporation, now routinely prolong life, palliate cancer, and amplify the effects of conventional chemotherapy and surgery. Finally, IRs provide a host of purely palliative oncological therapies for the management of ascites, portal hypertension, intravenous therapies, nutritional support etc.

The inauguration of this Center marks yet another important nexus for collaborative care, research, and provision of advanced interventional radiological care in support of control, cure, and palliation of cancer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ziv Haskal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Professor Ziv J Haskal MD FSIR FAHA FACR
Editor in Chief, *Journal of Vascular And Interventional Radiology*
University of Virginia School of Medicine