

Editorial

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists

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It was the day before May 1, 1954, the date of the general meeting of the Japan Surgical Society (JSS), that a preparatory committee for the founding of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists (JSA) was held. Two days later, on May 2, JSA was effectively established. Thanks to all of your support and kindness, JSA will have its 50th Annual Meeting this year, in 2003. The society started with only 266 members and now has grown to a membership of nearly 9000.

Shortly after the foundation of JSA, anesthesiology seemed to be regarded as a part of surgery. In fact, for several years the chairman of JSA was a professor of surgery. Hideo Yamamura (The University of Tokyo) was the first professor of anesthesiology to become the president of JSA, in 1959, when the 6th Annual Meeting of JSA was held in Tokyo. Since then, our society gradually has become organized and systematized with annual meetings as our core activities.

Unlike other departments, a department of anesthesiology of a hospital, because of its medical significance, is firmly based on a highly specialized system which is administered by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. One is not allowed to announce oneself as an anesthesiologist just by graduating from a medical school. From the early stages, Board Certified Anesthesiologists were required to go through certain training, which can be said to be the beginning of a board-certified doctor. To foster Board Certified Anesthesiologists who educate registered anesthesiologists, JSA established the Board Qualification System and qualified many doctors. This examination consists not only of written and oral tests, but of a practical test as well, and examinees are expected to pass all of these tests. We are convinced that Board Certified Anesthesiologists are capable enough to be accepted in society

for their skills and knowledge. Many other medical societies are now introducing educational curricula and examination systems for qualifying board-certified doctors. JSA was the first to adopt this system in Japan. More than 5000 Board Certified Anesthesiologists have been qualified by JSA.

In view of these facts, we thought JSA should be incorporated in consideration of its responsibilities to society and the importance to the public of the work that we do. We began preparing for this step, and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Atsuko Toyama, approved the foundation of JSA as an incorporated association on June 20, 2001. The foundation of JSA as an incorporated association made our responsibilities and obligations more significant, and at the same time it has become easier to have our suggestions and requests accepted. We are trying to lead the way to a better future based on our 50 years of history and achievement. Toward that end we adopted the following mission statement on April 17, 2002, embodying our principles.

The Mission of JSA

The Mission of JSA is to protect patients' lives and to provide appropriate medical services in the field of vital care in emergency treatment and intensive care, and pain relief and palliative care caused by various diseases and operations. The principal activity is the vital care of patients in the perioperative period.

JSA accomplishes the mission stated above through the following activities:

- Fostering of high-quality anesthesiologists
- Promotion of leading-edge study and creation of new medical technology
- Education and dissemination of correct knowledge
- Collaboration with other medical fields
- Contribution to international health care

Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.