

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing the Editor-in-Chief of *Trends in Immunotherapy*

The new journal aims to contribute significantly to new strategies in the field of immunotherapy



Emeritus Prof. Dr. Furukawa is formerly the Vice President of Wakayama Medical University, Wakayama, Japan, and he currently serves as the President of Takatsuki Red Cross Hospital. He is continuously providing support for researchers, clinicians and academicians in cancer studies.

The reason that brings Prof. Dr. Furukawa to become the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the journal *Trends in Immunotherapy* is his vision to gather together the young, strong-spirited, and promising team of editors and investigators in their efforts to fight cancer. “If possible, I will open the doors especially to the young investigators and young clinicians who are making new hypotheses for the treatment of patients who suffer many diseases,” he said.

In his editorial “[From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief: Welcome to the first issue of Trends in](#)

[Immunotherapy](#),” Prof. Dr. Furukawa invites submissions of manuscripts from related fields to the journal *Trends in Immunotherapy*. He also mentioned that the long-term goal of journal is to contribute to the perfect cure and care of patients through immunotherapy and to deepen the field of immunology.

In an exclusive interview with the media team of EnPress Publisher, Prof. Dr. Furukawa recalled his childhood which brought him to choose a career in the field of medicine. “When I was a student in high school, I had a kidney disease. Probably a bacterial infection was triggered by an immune complex, and the antigen was mixed with antibodies and deposited in the kidneys, inside the small vessels of the kidney, injuring the small vessels and this affected the kidney functions,” he described.

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“I was sixteen years old and I had to take a one-year break from school — spending one year on the bed in the hospital. So, I decided to become a doctor,” he said. “Why did I select dermatology? Because dermatology covers everything — skin surface, internal medicine, so on. Also, it is easy to expand into basic research. But, actually, I went to the Department of Pathology in university to study immunopathology, autoimmune and also systemic lupus disease,” he added.

According to Prof. Dr. Furukawa, immunotherapy and cancer treatment are a combination of treatments for cancer patient. The combination is very important, which includes chemotherapy, surgery, immunotherapy or immune checkpoint. It is impossible to treat cancer patients completely by using only one way, he asserted. “How to make the right combination, patient by patient — this is the key point for treatment. That is personalized treatment,” Prof. Dr. Furukawa added.

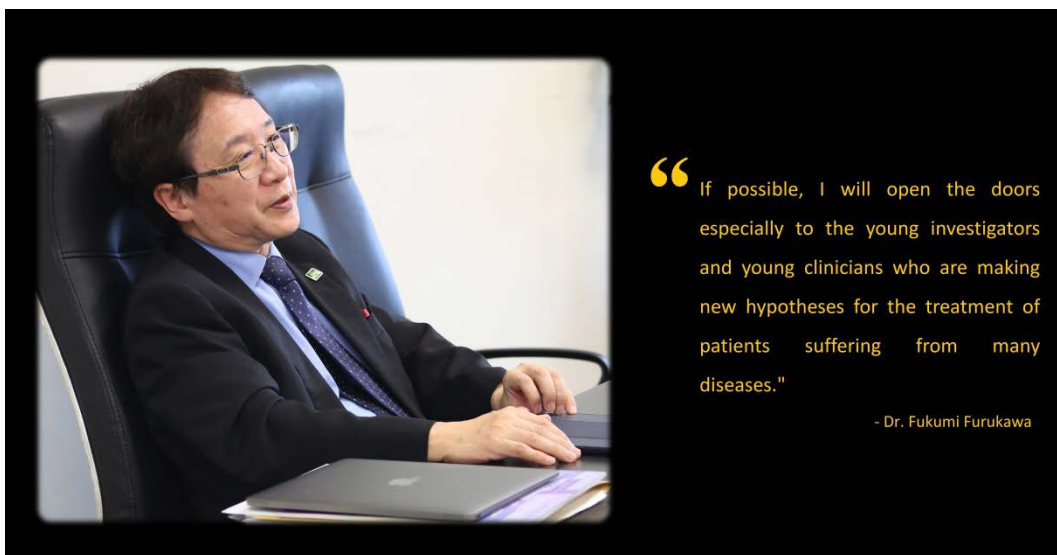
Immunotherapy is a fast-growing field and is actively studied by researchers. Prof. Dr. Furukawa explained immunotherapy in terms of malignant melanomas: “Thirty years ago, BCGs (vaccine for tuberculosis) were injected subcutaneously into many patients of malignant melanomas — it is the first step in immunotherapy treatment for malignant melanomas. So why was BCG applied to patients? Because BCG induces non-specific immuno-defense

mechanisms. BCG induces many T-cells, many humoral immunities, *etc.*, and a part of the humoral immunity and a part of T-cells probably attacked the malignant melanoma cells,” he explained.

“But the [BCG’s] efficiency was very low,” he said. “The second generation is the antigen-specific T-cell induction *in vitro*, which means that an antigen is isolated from the malignant cells of the patient, and the antigen of the malignant melanoma is co-cultured with the patient’s lymphocyte. The lymphocyte stimulates the melanoma’s antigen and is activated in the patient again. The activated T-cells, or cytotoxic T-cells, probably will destroy the malignant melanoma cells.

“And thirdly, as well as chemotherapy, the recent topic is that the immune checkpoint inhibitor agent is very useful in the treatment of malignant melanoma. This is the PD-1. This was discovered by a famous Japanese scientist [Dr. Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University]. From first generation, second generation and third generation immune checkpoint inhibitors, this agent also opens new treatment possibilities for patients with malignant melanomas,” he said.

He told the media team, “So I want to contribute, and if I can contribute to these new strategies, I’d be very happy. With this new journal, I dream that the journal will bring big contribution to these strategies.”



“If possible, I will open the doors especially to the young investigators and young clinicians who are making new hypotheses for the treatment of patients suffering from many diseases.”

- Dr. Fukumi Furukawa

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Trends in Immunotherapy

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Trends in Immunotherapy is an open access, peer-reviewed journal encompassing various disciplines related to the immune-based therapeutic method. The journal covers all areas of immunotherapy including:

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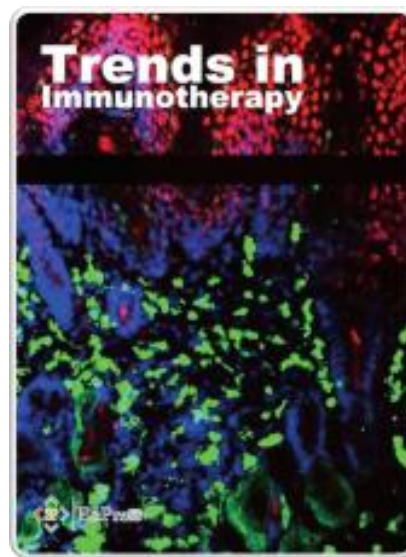
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