



Greetings from the JASTS President,

The Japanese Association for the Study of Taste and Smell (JASTS) was founded in 1991 as the predecessor of the "Taste and Smell Symposium" that started in 1967. JASTS is composed and managed by a large number of taste and smell researchers belonging to universities, research institutes, companies, hospitals, etc., with the aim of advancing the wide-ranging study of the science of taste and smell from basic to applied and clinical research.

JASTS leads the world's taste and olfaction research in collaboration with the Association for Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS) in the United States and the European Chemoreception Research Organization (ECRO) in Europe. JASTS, together with AChemS and ECRO, publishes and manages *Chemical Senses*, an international journal on the chemical senses.

The sense of smell has been thought to be the least important among the five senses, but because of taste and smell disorders by COVID-19, it has been reaffirmed in the past few years that it is a more important sense than we have previously thought, especially in the act of eating. As a sense deeply related to QOL, well-being, and health in our eating habits, olfaction and gustation have been attracting attention in the general public, reaffirming the importance of the standing and research field of JASTS.

Former President Yoshihara introduced a variety of new approaches, focusing on the three pillars of fostering young researchers, internationalizing the society, and disseminating information to society. Specifically, he succeeded in revitalizing the society despite the Corona disaster by establishing the Young Scientists' Association, holding the virtual JASTS seminar series, and revamping the website. I would like to take over former President Yoshihara's direction, and in addition, I would like to promote the following two points.

First, we would like to strengthen our ties with foreign countries, which have been diluted by the Corona Disaster. In 2028, ISOT (International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste), the world's largest international conference on taste and olfaction, which JASTS, AChemS, and ECRO will take charge of on a rotating basis, will be held in Japan. In preparation for this event, we would like to enhance the international standing of JASTS while strengthening ties among chemosensory researchers in China, Korea, and other Asian countries.

Secondly, we would like to broaden the scope of the society to include not only taste and smell, and pheromones from the external world, but also visceral sensation and other broadly defined chemical senses in our internal body. The nerve systems like trigeminal, vagus, and other peripheral areas will also be targets. Furthermore, in addition to the existing exchange between science, medicine, agriculture, and engineering fields, we would like to actively include the humanities and social sciences in our group to explore new avenues of research, which I believe help enhance the attractiveness of our society.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that taste and smell research may seem to be a special field of study, but it is a broad interdisciplinary field that is fundamental to the life sciences. The annual membership fee of the society is reasonable, and we welcome the entry of many people, including not only researchers but also companies and the general public.

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Kazushige Touhara