

February 26, 2020

## **Cancellation of the ASHBi Symposium 2020**

Dear Participants to the ASHBi Symposium 2020,

Thank you very much for your application to participate in the ASHBi Symposium 2020. We were very much excited about the program as well as the talks and discussions.

However, as you may know, the Coronavirus is gradually spreading in Japan (two patients in Kyoto, who have already recovered) and the Japanese government has made an announcement on February 25 about a number of additional measures to be taken to prevent further spreading as much as possible. The announcement includes a careful re-consideration of holding an event with a large number of participants.

Considering the current situation, I, on behalf of the organizers, would like to inform you that the ASHBi Symposium 2020 will be cancelled for this March and plan to be rescheduled on a future date. The organizers are aware of the importance of holding the symposium as a great opportunity to share knowledge for scientific advancement, but to ensure the safety of all participants, we have regretfully decided to make the decision at this point. It is clearly a tough and painful decision, but we would like to ask for your kind understanding and cooperation to prevent the risk of spreading the Coronavirus.

The organizers will discuss the rescheduling of the symposium and would be pleased if you would consider joining us again. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused by this decision and would be grateful for your kind cooperation and understanding.

If you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact the symposium secretariat.

Sincerely yours,

Mitinori Saitou (ASHBi Director)

ASHBi Symposium 2020 Organizers

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