

(会 告)

公益社団法人日本超音波医学会
第 26 回特別学会賞受賞者



中谷 敏 (1957 -)

中谷 敏先生の特別学会賞受賞を讃えて

このたび、大阪府済生会千里病院院長であり、大阪大学名誉教授の中谷敏先生が、日本超音波医学会第 26 回特別学会賞を受賞されました。中谷先生は、長年にわたり心臓超音波検査（心エコー法）および循環器医学分野において数々のご業績を上げられ、その功績が国内外で高く評価された結果です。先生のもとでご指導を賜った立場から、今回のご受賞を心よりお祝い申し上げます。

中谷先生は、1983 年に大阪大学医学部をご卒業後、第一内科および麻酔科での研修を経て、大阪警察病院にて臨床経験を積まれました。その後、1987 年から 2008 年までの長きにわたり国立循環器病センターに勤務され、心臓病診断と治療の最前線に立ちながら、研究活動にも従事されました。1993 年から 1995 年にかけては、米国 Cleveland Clinic の James Thomas 先生のもとにご留学され、国際的な視野を広げられるとともに、最新の技術と知識を深められました。2008 年から 2020 年にかけては大阪大学大学院医学系研究科機能診断科学講座の教授を務められ、多くの学生や医師を育成されました。私もそのご指導を受けた一人として、先生の豊富な知

識とご経験に触れ、数多くの学びを得ました。

先生の研究は循環器領域の多岐にわたりますが、その中でも、1988 年に発表された「僧帽弁狭窄症における連続の式を用いた弁口面積計測法」に関する研究¹⁾は、心エコー法を用いた弁膜症の評価において大きな成果を上げたものです。これを契機に、先生は弁膜症や心機能の評価において世界的に著名な研究者としての地位を築かれました。また、感染性心内膜炎に関する研究にも積極的に取り組み、2003 年には全国 848 症例を分析する大規模研究²⁾を主導され、2013 年の日本における全国的な実態調査研究³⁾を経て、2017 年には「感染性心内膜炎の予防と治療に関するガイドライン（2017 年改訂版）⁴⁾の作成班長を務められました。このガイドラインは、日本国内の感染性心内膜炎診療に広く貢献しています。

心機能評価においても、1994 年当時実験レベルでの概念であった左室拡張における「diastolic suction」を、経皮的僧帽弁交連切開術患者において初めて証明した研究⁵⁾や、1996 年には左室補助人工心臓（LVAD）患者における左室の形態変化を心エ

コー法で評価した研究⁶⁾により、心不全患者の診断と治療における重要な知見を提供されました。また、2001年には左室流入血流の圧力勾配に関する新たな理論を提唱され⁷⁾、心エコー法による診断精度の向上に寄与されました。さらに、近年の心筋ストレインの研究においても、先生のご業績は非常に重要であり、ストレインイメージングを用いた心機能評価が臨床で広く応用される道を切り開かれました。

教育面でも、中谷先生のご指導のもとで育った医師や技師は数多く、そのご指導は私たち後進にとって非常に大きな影響を与えています。2016年から2020年には日本心エコー図学会の理事長を務められ、リーダーとして心エコー技術の普及と標準化に尽力されました。また、第27回日本心エコー図学会（2016年）、第44回日本超音波医学会関西地方会（2017年）、第91回日本超音波医学会（2018年）

を主催され、これらの学会での先生のご指導は、参加者にとっても貴重な学びの機会となりました。

先生はこれまで英文業績約300、和文業績約600を発表されており、これらのご業績は心エコー法の実践にとどまらず、循環器医学領域において非常に大きな貢献を果たしておられます。多くの学術誌で編集委員や査読者を務められ、アメリカ心エコー図学会（ASE）の名誉フェローとしてもその功績が世界的に評価されています。

中谷先生のこれまでのご業績は、心エコー診断技術や循環器診療における発展に多大な影響を与えており、今回の日本超音波医学会第26回特別学会賞の受賞は、その集大成といえるものでしょう。先生のさらなるご活躍をお祈り申し上げるとともに、このたびのご受賞を心よりお祝い申し上げます。

（島根大学医学部循環器内科/富田町病院 浅沼俊彦）

2024 JSUM Prize Winner

Satoshi NAKATANI, MD, FJSUM, SJSUM (1957 -)

Dr. Satoshi Nakatani, director of Osaka Saiseikai Senri Hospital and professor emeritus at Osaka University, was awarded the 26th Special Award of The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine. Dr. Nakatani received the award based on his many accomplishments in the fields of echocardiography and cardiovascular medicine over many years, with his achievements being highly regarded both at home and abroad. As one who had the privilege of receiving guidance from Dr. Nakatani in the past, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on this occasion.

After graduating from Faculty of Medicine of Osaka University in 1983, Dr. Nakatani spent his residency in the First Department of Internal Medicine and Department of Anesthesiology, after which he gained further clinical experience at Osaka Keisatsu Hospital (currently called Osaka International Medical & Science Center). He subsequently worked at the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center for many years (1987-2008), where he was engaged in research while working at the forefront of diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. He studied abroad under the

tutelage of Dr. James Thomas of Cleveland Clinic in the United States from 1993 to 1995, where he gained a broader international perspective and a deeper knowledge of the latest technology. He served as a professor in the Department of Functional Diagnostic Sciences, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, from 2008 to 2020, where he taught and trained many students and doctors. I was among those who had the good fortune of receiving his guidance there. I learned a lot by being exposed to his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Dr. Nakatani's research has covered a vast array of subjects in the field of cardiovascular medicine, but his paper on measurement of mitral valve area using the equation of continuity in patients with mitral stenosis published in 1988, in particular, was groundbreaking in terms of evaluation of valve disease using echocardiography¹⁾. This solidified his status as a world-renowned researcher in the area of evaluation of valve disease and cardiac function. In addition, he has been actively engaged in research on infective endocarditis. He spearheaded a large-scale study that analyzed 848 patients nationwide in 2003²⁾. Following

a nationwide fact-finding study in Japan in 2013³⁾, he served as team leader in the creation of Guidelines for Prevention and Treatment of Infective Endocarditis (JCS 2017) in 2017⁴⁾. These guidelines are contributing widely to the diagnosis and treatment of infective endocarditis in Japan.

In terms of evaluation of cardiac function, as well, Dr. Nakatani provided findings important to the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure patients based on his research in 1994 that demonstrated for the first time “diastolic suction” in left ventricular distension, a concept that was still at the experimental level at the time, in patients who underwent percutaneous mitral commissurotomy⁵⁾, and his research in 1996 evaluating left ventricular morphological changes in left ventricular assist device patients using echocardiography⁶⁾. In addition, he put forward a new theory on the pressure gradient of transmitral flow in 2001⁷⁾, which helped improve the diagnostic accuracy of echocardiography. Furthermore, the achievements he has made in his research on myocardial strain in recent years have been extremely important; his results paved the way for the widespread clinical application of strain imaging for evaluation of cardiac function.

In the realm of education, as well, there are many doctors and sonographers who have been trained under the guidance of Dr. Nakatani. His guidance has had a powerful impact on the next generation. He served as the president of the Japanese Society of Echo-

cardiography from 2016 to 2020, where he was instrumental as a leader in the widespread adoption and standardization of echocardiography technology. In addition, he hosted the 27th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Society of Echocardiography (2016), 44th Kansai Regional Congress of the Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine (2017), and 91st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine (2018). These scientific meetings proved to be valuable learning opportunities for the participants thanks to the guidance he provided.

Dr. Nakatani has published about 300 papers in English and about 600 papers in Japanese to date. These papers have made a huge contribution not only to the field of echocardiography but also to the realm of cardiovascular medicine. He has served as an editorial board member and reviewer for many academic journals, and he is renowned globally for his achievements as honorary fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography.

Dr. Nakatani’s achievements to date have had a major impact on advances in echocardiographic diagnostic technology and cardiovascular care, and one could say that his being awarded the 26th Special Award of The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine is the culmination of those achievements. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to him once again on this occasion, and I am looking forward to his continued success.

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