

In recognition of the achievements of Professor Tohru Izumi

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It is a great pleasure and honor to write about Professor Izumi's contributions at this time of his transition to the next phase of his career. I have had the good fortune of working with Dr. Izumi on the boards of the Japanese Society of Cardiology and the Japanese Heart Failure Society. Dr. Izumi has been an outstanding clinician and researcher in the field of cardiology with internationally recognized pioneering work. His seminal work in experimental autoimmune myocarditis has contributed to the understanding of cardiomyopathy. His study on experimental myocarditis induced by myosin injection was a pioneering work which showed the involvement of immune mechanisms in heart failure. His contribution to cardiology has not been limited to basic research. He and his colleagues have established managing systems to treat patients based on plasma BNP (brain natriuretic peptide) levels and to prevent cardiovascular events in the outpatient clinic. He also has contributed to the establishment of clinical guidelines for Japanese patients with heart disease both as a committee member and as Editor-in-Chief of the guidelines for acute heart failure, many of which have been translated into English and are referred to by cardiologists all over the world. His

contributions to these guidelines have added momentum to increasing the presence of the Japanese Circulation Society in the worldwide cardiology community.

Dr. Izumi has not only played an important role as leader of cardiology but also as president of the Japanese Heart Failure Society and Dean of the Department of Medicine at Kitasato University, he has trained many excellent educators, physicians, and scientists who are willing to make their own contributions to medicine. Through these activities, Dr. Izumi has advised the Japanese government to help make decisions regarding policy in science and the nation's health care.

On a personal level, I have appreciated the friendship with Dr. Izumi as we could discuss at anytime many subjects ranging from clinical cardiology to the management of the university hospital, medical education, and the healthcare system in Japan. I am very grateful for his leadership, his foresight, and his understanding of science and clinical cardiology. All of his colleagues and friends certainly wish his success in his new appointment and are looking forward to the chance of working closely with him in the future.