

The 7th and 13th AOSR Past Presidents from the Japan Radiological Society: Hitoshi Katayama, MD, PhD and Kazuro Sugimura, MD, PhD

August 2026, collated by Dr Evelyn Ho, Archives Committee Member through an e-interview with Dr Sugimura; referencing History of the AOSR At A Glance 1969-2011 & [AOSR History 1971-2021](#) and RSNA newsletters 2006, 2010. Photos are from Dr Sugimura and Dr Evelyn. This write up also attempts to highlight and appreciate the important roles the Japan Radiological Society played in the AOSR.



Professor Dr Hitoshi Katayama: The 7th AOSR President 1998-2001

Professor Dr Hitoshi Katayama, MD, PhD, was born in 1932 and passed away on August 25, 2008. He served as Professor of Radiology at Juntendo



University and later as President of Juntendo University from 1996 to 2000. He was the 7th AOSR president, and the first from the Japan Radiological Society (JRS). He presided over the 8th AOCR which was held in Kobe in 1998. Dr Katayama conducted pioneering research on contrast media at a global level and was awarded the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Honorary Membership in 2006 and even earlier in 1999, he was awarded the ESR Honorary Member. For his many contributions he was also awarded the AOSR Gold Medal in 2004.



Courtesy of the JRS secretariat: Scan of past brochure showing Prof Katayama in 'action'.

The JRS has been a stalwart support for the formation of the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR) and particularly throughout the early years until today. In October 1969, Hotel Otani in Tokyo, Japan was where the “first” meeting of the regional radiological societies took place, with a total of 30 delegates made up of radiologists, and radiotherapists. From inception and for many years until 2001, the AOSR did not have a permanent address and the AOSR executive meetings were held during the Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOCR) and through the support of the member societies. Whilst not the only AOSR society member to support executive committee meetings, the Japanese Federation of Medical Congress Promotion and JRS were then regularly inviting the AOSR Executive Committee (Council) members to their annual congress for such purposes.



In recognition of the contributions and support of the JRS, the AOSR presented a certificate of appreciation in April 2001 to the JRS. Dr Katayama is pictured holding one side of the certificate in this photo.

Hitoshi Katayama was both colleague and friend to you, Prof Kazuro Sugimura. How did that come about?

K Sugimura: I became Chair Professor of Radiology at Shimane Medical University in 1995. Dr Katayama, who was a board member of the Japan Radiological Society, had a close relationship with Professor Michio Kono of Kobe University, and I had frequent interactions with him.

Dr Katayama, then President of Juntendo University, co-hosted the 8th AOCR in 1998 in Kobe together with Professor Kono, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiological Society. I succeeded Professor Kono as Chair Professor at Kobe University in 1999, and my interactions with Dr Katayama continued thereafter. Most of the materials related to the AOCR 1998 were unfortunately discarded at the time of relocation of the JRS except for the physical copy of the 1998 AOCR.

My interactions with Dr Katayama continued after the 8th AOCR and I accompanied him to the RSNA in 2006 where he was awarded Honorary Membership.



The photo shows Dr Michio Kono, flanked by Dr Lilian Leong left and Dr Evelyn Ho right. He was recognised for his contributions to the radiology profession, with a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to him at the AOCR2014, where Prof Kazuro Sugimura was congress president.

RSNA 2006 Honorary Members

Honorary Membership in RSNA is presented for significant achievements in the field of radiology. At RSNA 2006, Honorary Membership will be given to Andy Adam, M.B.B.S., of London, Hitoshi Katayama, M.D., of Tokyo and Kofoworola Oluwatoyin Soyebi, M.B.Ch.B., of Lagos, Nigeria.

Andy Adam, M.B.B.S., is a distinguished interventional radiologist known for his work in promoting the subspecialty worldwide.

"Those of you who know Dr. Adam, know you cannot escape his charm, enthusiasm, depth of knowledge and character," said 2006 RSNA President Robert H. Hattery, M.D. "You will also marvel at his vision of the future."

Dr. Adam said receiving RSNA Honorary Membership is a huge honor and tremendous pleasure. "It really means more to me than words can express," he said.

Upon completing training at the University of London's Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Dr. Adam spent four years in internal medicine, cardiology and oncology. He then trained in radiology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, obtaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists. Dr. Adam is also a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons for clinical and academic distinction, making him one of just a few physicians to hold the fellowship of three English Royal Colleges.

In 1992, he was appointed to the first

professorial chair of interventional radiology in Europe, at Guy's and St. Thomas' Medical School at the University of London. He remains in that position today.

An RSNA member since 1993, Dr. Adam has been president of the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe, International Society for Minimally Invasive Therapy, the

British Society of Interventional Radiology, International Society of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Radiology and British Institute of Radiology. He has been awarded the gold medal of the British Society of Interventional Radiology and the medal of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Currently board chair of the European Congress of Radiology (ECR), as 2006 president he helped merge ECR with the European Association of Radiology to create the European Society of Radiology (ESR).

Hitoshi Katayama, M.D., is an internationally recognized authority on the safe and appropriate use of high osmolar contrast media.

Dr. Hattery said Dr. Katayama's research had a significant impact on his professional life. "Dr. Katayama has my personal congratulations and thanks from many patients who have benefited from his work," he said.

Receiving the RSNA honorary membership is a joyous event, said Dr. Katayama, adding, "I promise you I will



Andy Adam, M.B.B.S.



Hitoshi Katayama, M.D.

RSNA honorary membership recognizes outstanding contributors to medicine and its allied sciences. Nominated by the RSNA president, candidates are then elected by the Board of Directors. RSNA has awarded 91 honorary memberships since 1970.

devote my remaining energy to present and future radiology."

Now the director of the Daito College of Medical Technology in Tokyo, Dr. Katayama is perhaps best known to some as an author of what has come to be called the "Katayama Report." This pivotal large-scale study, published in *Radiology* in 1990, concluded that non-ionic contrast media significantly reduced the frequency of severe and potentially life-threatening adverse drug reactions.

A graduate of the Kyushu University School of Medicine in Fukuoka, Japan, Dr. Katayama helped his family work in rice paddy fields during high school. "I believe this was a very good experience for me, to become a hard working fellow," he said.

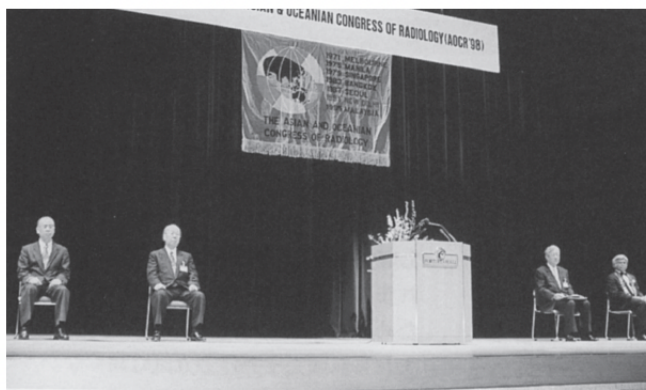
After working as a research associate in the Department of Radiology at the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Hiroshima, Japan, Dr. Katayama spent several years as a professor and lecturer at his alma mater. He eventually served as a professor, chair of the Department of Radiology and president of Juntendo University for more than 25 years.

An RSNA member since 1984, Dr. Katayama has served as president of the Japanese Radiological Society and 8th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology and currently serves on the board of directors of the Japan-North America Medical Exchange Foundation. He has received gold medals from the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology and honorary membership from ECR.

A screen shot composite of the write up in the October 2006 RSNA Newsletter on Honorary Members, on this page, featuring Hitoshi Katayama.

Excerpt of the 8th AOCR from the AOSR History 1971-2021

AOCR 1998 was held in Kobe city, which had been heavily damaged by the Great Hanshin earthquake, occurred on January 17, 1995. Thus, this congress symbolized the recovery of Kobe city from the earthquake that killed over 6,000 people only three years before.



[Figure 4] Opening Ceremony of AOCR '98



[Figure 5] Prof M. Kono,
President of JRS'98



[Figure 6] Prof. DK. Kulavee-
rasingam, president of
AOSR

The 8th AOCR 1998 was held under the presidency of Prof. Hitoshi Katayama, Juntendo University, in conjunction with Japan Federation of Medical Congress Promotion (JMCP) '98. JMCP, which is currently known as Japan Radiology Congress (JRC), was the aggregation of radiology related congresses; namely Japan Radiological Society (JRS), Japanese Society of Radiological Technology (JSRT) and Japan Medical Imaging and Radiological Systems Industries Association (JIRA).

JMCP '98 was held between April 9 (Thursday) and 11 (Saturday), 1998 in Kobe International Conference Center, Kobe International Exhibition Hall, and World Hall, located in Kobe Port Island, Kobe, Japan. In ahead of JMCP '98, AOCR '98 was held at Kobe International Conference Center from April 5 (Sunday) to 8 (Wednesday), as a part of "Radiology Week in Kobe". As International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging (ITEM) was held between April 7 to 10, both the participants of AOCR and JMCP could enjoyed the technical exhibitions of state-of-art medical imaging.

Additional reading:

Koichi Yamaguchi. In Memoriam - Prof Hitoshi Katayama – Radiology, Volume 249, Number 3. <https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.2501082547>

Professor Dr Kazuro Sugimura: The 13th AOSR President 2012-2014 and the 2014 15th AOCR in Kobe City.

Kazuro Sugimura became involved in the AOSR circa 2008 under the encouragement of Dr Osama Matsui who was then in the AOSR executive committee.



Photo of RSNA Honorary Members at RSNA 2010

L to R: Kazuro Sugimura, Iain McCall, Hedvig Hricak (RSNA President), Claude Manelfe

The Successful AOCR2014 and About the JRS Major Congresses



Coincidentally, Kobe has been host not only to the 8th AOCR but the 15th AOCR as well where Dr Sugimura presided over this AOCR as Congress President. Both these AOCRs were the first and second time the AOCR was held in Japan. The 15th AOCR was held towards the end of Dr Sugimura's tenure as AOSR president. He shares his thoughts on the 15th AOCR which coincided with the JRS Autumn Meeting. He provides the background of the major congresses/meetings of the JRS and how Kobe City became host to the AOCR yet again in 2014.

The JRS holds two major meetings each year: the Annual Meeting in spring and the Autumn Meeting, which is more clinically focused. The spring

Annual Meeting attracts over 20,000 participants, including radiological technologists, and features a large-scale equipment exhibition—second only to that of the RSNA. For this reason, it has been held regularly in Yokohama. In contrast, the Autumn Meeting is attended primarily by radiologists, and the scale of the equipment exhibition is more modest. This allows the meeting to be held in major cities across Japan (from Kyushu in the south to Hokkaido in the north), typically at the location of the congress president. Kobe University, where Dr Sugimura served as Professor then, is located in Kobe City.



For 2014, he decided to jointly host the meeting in Kobe with Professor Shozo Hirota of Hyogo College of Medicine (as it was known then, later it was renamed to Hyogo Medical University) which is located in nearby Nishinomiya. Professor Hirota was then only junior to Dr Sugimura by one year and also an alumnus of Kobe University. The organization of the AOCR2014 held jointly with the JRS Autumn Meeting proceeded very smoothly. This was due to several factors: a stable expected participation from Japanese members, strong demand for hosting meetings outside Yokohama where they are usually held, and the fact that the presidents of AOCR and the Autumn Meeting shared the same academic background, which facilitated consensus-building.

The AOCR2014 was indeed a very memorable experience with the local Japanese culture incorporated into the various ceremonies held during the meeting in addition to the scientific and educational program.



Prof Shozo Hirota speaks at the Welcome Reception AOCR2014



Geisha performance at the Congress Banquet

AOSR Challenges

In addition to successes, Dr Sugimura shares some of the challenges faced by the AOSR as an organization. AOSR society member, the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) had raised issues related to governance, representation and communication within the AOCR and AOSR activities. These required attention and had been under consistent discussion for several years, prior to his time as AOSR president.

According to the minutes from that period, the possibility of IRIA distancing itself from the AOSR was formally discussed, indicating a situation that required careful and prudent handling. During Dr Byung Ihn Choi's presidency (2010-2012), the approach was to acknowledge the situation calmly and to emphasize the continuation of dialogue. These issues carried over into the presidency of Dr Sugimura (2012–2014), where the matter was no longer merely institutional but also involved the need to reaffirm mutual trust. Specifically, IRIA expressed concerns regarding the process of selecting invited speakers for the AOCR program, as well as the mechanisms for information sharing among member societies.

Dr Sugimura recalls: “Against this background, the opportunity of the IRIA Annual Conference held in Agra in January 2014 was utilized to convene a direct leadership meeting between the AOSR and IRIA leadership. The face-to-face discussion provided an important opportunity to clarify differences in understanding that could not be fully resolved through written or indirect communication.

During the meeting, both sides openly shared their concerns and confirmed practical measures for future improvement, including enhancing transparency in program planning, strengthening communication among member societies, and promoting mutual exchange. The discussion was characterized less by confrontation than by a process of adjustment in the course of organizational maturation.

Subsequently, IRIA reconsidered its engagement with AOSR in a positive manner and expressed interest in hosting future AOCR meetings. As a result, the situation did not lead to organizational fragmentation but instead became an example of rebuilding trust through dialogue.”

In summary, Dr Sugimura said, ***“The IRIA issue represented a challenging period for AOSR, it also served as an important opportunity to reaffirm the values of inclusiveness, transparency, and mutual respect within a regional organization.”***

Since then, the continuity of leadership across successive presidencies played a crucial role in achieving eventual stabilization, built upon the roles played by Drs Choi and Sugimura. In fact, the IRIA hosted the 2018 (Mumbai, India) and 2025 AOCRs (Chennai, India). [Reports](https://theaosr.org) of these are available on theaosr.org website.

Thoughts About A Fixed Location for the AOCRs and Why Dr Sugimura Supports the AOCRs Varying Venues

***K. Sugimura:** While there are many advantages to holding meetings at a fixed location, as seen with major radiological societies in Chicago (RSNA) and Vienna (ESR), I believe that for Asia, it is preferable to rotate the venue. Asia is characterized by significant cultural diversity and substantial differences in healthcare systems among countries.*

The opportunity to directly experience local conditions is highly valuable. Fortunately, the number of participants at AOCRs is relatively manageable, making it feasible to organize the meeting even when the location changes.

When considering whether to hold a congress at a fixed venue, it is necessary to look at the issue from three perspectives: that of the participants, that of the organizers, and that of the development of radiology in Asia.

For large congresses such as the RSNA, European Congress of Radiology (ECR), and the Japan Radiological Congress (JRC), there are clear advantages to holding the meeting at a fixed location. The number of cities that can provide suitable convention facilities, exhibition space, and sufficient hotel capacity is limited. In addition, repeated use of the same venue allows organizers to accumulate experience and operational know-how, which contributes to efficient and stable congress management.

On the other hand, from the participants' perspective, a fixed venue may increase the burden on members who live outside the host city or country, as they must bear higher travel and accommodation costs. In other words, part of the burden that would otherwise fall on the organizers may effectively be shifted to the participants.

In the case of the AOCR, where participants come from many countries with different cultures and healthcare systems, there is great value in actually visiting different countries and experiencing their medical environments and cultures firsthand. Holding the congress in different locations also provides strong encouragement and stimulation to radiologists in the host country, and may help raise the visibility and recognition of radiology across Asia.

“From these perspectives, I would support holding AOCR in many different countries rather than adopting a fixed venue.”

What is Dr Sugimura doing since retirement?

Kazuro Sugimura retired from the Chair position, Kobe University in 2021 but is not resting on his laurels. He is in fact, just as busy if not more so, as COO of 13 Prefectural Hyogo Hospitals. He shares several other nostalgic photos from his time in the AOSR.

AOCR2010



Group photo after Opening Ceremony AOCR2010



With colleagues at AOCR2010

AOCR2014



Executive Council at AOCR2014*AOSR General Assembly Group photo at AOCR2014***Acknowledgements**

The AOSR Archives and AOSR Public Relations and Communications Committees thank Dr Sugimura for his time spent sharing and recalling his experience in the AOSR. Wisdom shared and the foundation that he laid for the future of AOSR have been invaluable to the growth of the AOSR. He was awarded the AOSR Gold Medal in 2018 for his contributions to radiology and the AOSR. He was also awarded Honorary Member of the RSNA in 2010, and European Society of Radiology in 2014.