San Diego is a wonderful convention city, with near perfect weather and many rewarding sightseeing attractions. The meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues and catch up on new developments in Internal Medicine. As the meeting began, a new aftershock earthquake of March 11, 2011 was being reported, somewhat dampening the spirits of the Japan Chapter delegation.

**ACP Convocation.**

As the Convocation seating began, Japan Chapter representatives realized how small our delegation was. Five individuals were sandwiched between Iowa and Kansas. We were represented by Kurokawa sensei, Kawana sensei, Kageyama sensei, Omori sensei and Dr Gremillion, the sakura awardee. Each delegation stood when announced in alphabetical order with several thousand attendees and their families cheering loudly and clapping with each chapter announcement. There was a slight pause after Iowa and then Dr Ralston, the ACP president, announced the Japan Chapter. The applause by all attendees seemed endless and at that moment several thousand doctors from throughout the world and their families became Japan Chapter members, if only in spirit. It was a recognition of the hardship, suffering and challenges that the Japanese medical community was enduring and an expression of solidarity and support. Most people in attendance will never forget this special moment.
Eve Swiacki

Retirement Tribute

Eve recently retired from a highly successful and productive career with the American College of Physicians. She took a special interest in the Japan Chapter and as the director of the international division was instrumental in overcoming the barriers to the J Chapter, the first outside of the Americas. During her tenure she touched the lives of many members in Japan and provided encouragement and leadership in Chapter development.

She was recognized at the International reception for her work and career. She privately told us that her highest priority was to attend the ACP Japan Chapter reception.

Eve worked for ACP for 32 years. She has served in a number of capacities within the Membership Division. She was instrumental in the development of the ACP’s credentialing process, including the four pathways for Fellowship. She had a wealth of knowledge of how internal medicine is practiced in other countries which has been critically important to ACP’s success in international expansion. Her last effort was to establish the Saudi Arabian Chapter, the second international chapter outside of Americas.

Eve will forever remain a special friend of the Japan Chapter of the ACP.

Dr Mamiko Ohara presented Eve with a special label pin recognizing her support and special kinship with the Japanese.
The Japan Chapter reception was held in the Madeleine ballroom in the Grand Hyatt near the Convention Center. Chapter members and their families were small in number but large in their hosting and good will.

As the evening progressed it became clear that the ACP J chapter was “the place to be” with many visitors and speakers who expressed their sadness and support for Japan during their time of great crisis following the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. The energy, good will and concern was evident as many guests rose to speak and add their expressions of support. Several past presidents have visited the Japan Chapter meetings and each made a visit to the Chapter reception. These included Dr David Dale, Dr Jeffrey Harris and Dr Joseph Stubbs. Also in attendance were the current president Dr J. Fred Ralston and the president elect Dr Virginia Hood. Several representatives of international Internal Medicine societies visited with Japan Chapter members and new Fellows.

Visitors and Chapter members did not focus just on the disaster, but spent time encouraging members and describing ACP resources and programs, pathways to fellowship and membership development.

Many distinguished guests arrived early then went to their required functions at other receptions. Later they returned to spend time with the gracious Japan Chapter members. Dr Kurokawa invited visitors to give speeches.

Dr Faith Fitzgerald, Regent, and Dr Kurokawa reflect on the catastrophe in Japan.
Student Poster Competition

Akito Oshima presented an very interesting poster on gastric ischemia. He won the Japan Chapter medical Student Poster competition last fall and participated in the National competition in San Diego as the Japan Chapter winner. Several Japan Chapter members visited his presentation to provide support and encouragement. He was able to respond to questions and represented the Japan Chapter well.
New ACP Fellows
Of the Japan Chapter

Dr Masatoshi Kawana, FACP
and Dr Yoko Kawana

Dr Kawana is a cardiologist at Tokyo Women’s Medical University. He had been active in the publication committee of the Chapter. He and Yoko have a son who has just started Medical School in Tokyo.

Dr Fumihiko Omori, FACP
and Mayumi Omori

Omori sensei is from Miyazaki, Japan and has served on the Professionalism committee of the Japan Chapter. He and Mayumi celebrated their wedding anniversary on the day prior to the meeting.
Drs Yoko and Masatoshi Kawana describe earthquake damage photographs to Dr Joseph Stubbs and Dr David Dale, past ACP presidents.

**Eastern Japan Earthquake**

Just 3 weeks prior to the San Diego Internal Medicine meeting a historic and devastating earthquake struck Sendai, Japan. The human toll is huge with 20,000 or more deaths. As the meeting convened on April 6 a major aftershock was reported in the same region. The impact on the health care system and our ACP members throughout Japan has been significant with many patients transferred out of the region and many physician teams traveling to the area to provide emergency services. Not surprisingly, only 3 of the new Japan Chapter fellows were able to attend and Dr Tsuyoshi Watanabe, a new ACP master from the stricken region of Fukushima was unable to attend. Many members could not attend due to clinical responsibilities. The Japan Chapter meeting scheduled for April 16, 2011 in Tokyo had to be cancelled.

Throughout the meeting, members and leadership from throughout the USA and international chapters were mindful of the painful burden on their Japan colleagues and friends and took every opportunity to express sympathy and support.

In this time of great crisis Chapter members were supported by their friendship and associations with ACP members in the USA and other International chapters.
Images of friendship, shared collegial experience and camaraderie.