

## **Welcome Note from the President of the International Society for Gender Medicine (IGM)**



### **To the Participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Gender-and Sex Specific Medicine**

On behalf of the **International Society for Gender Medicine (IGM)** it is my great pleasure and honor to extend to you the best wishes for a very successful and exciting meeting.

I congratulate our congress president, Prof. Hiroaki Shimokawa on his excellent work for organizing this meeting and in putting together a cutting-edge program which has not been an easy task. Thanks are also due to the members of the local and international organizing and scientific committees for their valuable input.

The new science of gender specific medicine is constantly gaining momentum and high quality research is being performed on an ever- increasing scale. Workshops, symposia and congresses are being organized worldwide and more and more universities and academic institutions are incorporating gender and sex specific medicine in the curricula for medical students.

The IGM is an umbrella organization which aims to develop gender medicine in an international context by promoting gender –specific research in basic sciences, clinical medicine and public health. In doing this, IGM has gained worldwide reputation and is being instrumental in “..putting gender on the agenda“. We have currently over 750 members from 14 countries and we are growing steadily. IGM strongly supports and sponsors national and international congresses dedicated to Gender-and Sex Specific Medicine and this congress is certainly another highlight in this endeavor.

This congress, held in the beautiful city of Sendai, will provide a platform for participants from around the world to meet and present state of the art research from many disciplines, to meet old friends and to make new friends. During this congress we will also conduct general elections for the board. Some of the board members who were at the cradle of our society and contributed so tremendously to the development of sex and gender specific medicine worldwide will be soon followed by new board members and for me too, after serving for seven years as president of our society it will be time to hand over the leadership to a new president. I take therefore this opportunity to thank my friends on the current board and all of you for a marvelous experience and for the great privilege and honor of being allowed to help and promote gender and sex specific medicine.

Looking at the program of this congress I am certain that you can expect a very rewarding personal, intellectual and cultural experience.

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