

# Recollections: the 1st CJSTDM and the 1st ICTDM

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## **Scope of the lecture:**

Recollections of the 1st CJSTDM and the 1st ICTDM

## **Learning objectives:**

1. Behind the 1st CJSTDM
2. Behind the 1st ICTDM

## **Extended abstract:**

### **Recollections: the First Congress of Japan Society for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (the1st CJSTDM) and the First International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (the1st ICTDM)**

Way back when - in 1978 or thereabout - I worked as a clinical doctor for the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) at the National Cardiovascular Center (NCVC). I was not even aware of the term TDM (Therapeutic Drug Monitoring). Around 1982, Mr. Shigeki Ogitani, a medical technologist at the Clinical Laboratory there, informed me that it was now possible to swiftly measure drug concentration in the blood. So, Mr. Ogitani and I started working together. By monitoring concentrations of various drugs in blood, we were led to better pharmacological treatments with an increasingly clearer view on the dose-effect relation.

These experiences made us realize the importance of TDM. We felt the need for a study group to learn more about TDM in or around 1983; there were Mr. Ogitani and myself, as well as Dr. Takashi Mimaki (Pediatrics, Osaka University Hospital) - and there came more. In January 1984, we set up the Japan Society for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (JSTDM), with me as President. On May 13th of the same year, the first congress (1st CJSTDM), with me as Chair, was held in the auditorium at the NCVC; it attracted nearly 200 participants from around the country. Since then, an annual Congress and biannual 'TDM Seminar' have been held. This year, the 34th AMJSTDM (Annual Meeting for the Japanese Society of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring), with Prof. Masahiro Okuda as Chair, and the 15th ICTDMCT (International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Clinical Toxicology), with Prof. Yusuke Tanigawara as Chair, are held at the same time, both in Kyoto.

On May 17th, 1987, the 4th CJSTDM was held in Tokyo. A few months before that, Dr. Mimaki informed us that Prof. Philip Walson, who had supervised his studies, suggested that there should be a TDM meeting in Hawaii to accommodate participants from both the U.S. and Japan. We discussed this, and decided that it should be an international conference involving people from all over the globe; thus the 1st ICTDM (International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring), with me acting as Chair, was now to be held. Needless to say, there was no IATDMCT (International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology) back then. We knew very little about how TDM was recognized in countries around the world. We simply appreciated the clinical implications that TDM had,

and wanted to know more about it in wider contexts as well as to build new international communities wherever possible.

Making decisions was one thing; actual implementation was quite another. We started by forming the Organizing Committee of the 1st ICTDM. Fellow JSTDM conference members were young and had little experience with international conference organization, let alone its financing aspects. We booked the International Congress Hall of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry from October 20th to 22nd, 1988. We started distributing the first circular in October 1987. There came 181 pre-registrations from eleven countries, as well as 62 poster session submissions.

I was also fortunate enough to be invited to the symposium called “Therapeutic Drug monitoring and Toxicology: Issues and Perspectives for the ‘80s and ‘90s” chaired by Prof. Steven Wong, and held in Chicago for three days starting from October 6, 1988. I learned a lot about TDM and CT, as well as about conference organization. I also got acquainted with quite a few key figures in the field.

The opening ceremony for the 1st ICTDM was scheduled at 10 in the morning, when there were just short of 100 people in the audience; we had no idea how it was going to go. Internationally prominent figures acted as chair for sessions. There were lively discussions at poster sessions, with international members exchanging valuable information. The 1st ICTDM was thus held - organized by those who had little experience with organizing international conferences. We can only express our sincere gratitude here to Prof. Walson, who helped us from preparation stages, as well as to Prof. Wong, Prof. Charles E. Pippenger, Prof. Folke Sjöqvist, Prof. Halina Matsumoto, and other participants. They brought us new knowledge about TDM & CT, as well as a great number of friends.

The 1st CJSTDM was held in 1984, and the 1st ICTDM was in 1988, when everything had to be organized from scratch. It was made possible because we all had a shared passion: we recognized the importance of TDM, we wanted to know more, and we wanted to get to know more people like us.