



STRONGER TOGETHER

UIP promotion of MULTI-SPECIALTY PROPER SYNERGY



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This newsletter cover picture is dedicated to the International Union of Phlebology (UIP) vision of promoting proper vein-lymphatic care among the different specialties, including the ones in which too often vein and lymphatic related issues are forgotten: for example, OBGyn for pelvic venous disorders, Rehab for thrombosis and General Medicine. UIP is currently creating agreements with different specialties large organizations to reinforce the synergy in phlebo-lymphology advocacy in all medical branches.

JAPANESE PHLEBOLOGY in the UIP WORLD

I am very honored to be given this wonderful opportunity to contribute to the Speaker's Corner. I am a vascular surgeon and belong to the Department of Vascular Surgery, Nishinokyo Hospital in Nara, Japan. I would like to take this chance to introduce the current state of medical care in Japan and my activities in the UIP and the Japanese Society of Phlebology.

Japan has one of the highest average life expectancies in the world. The medical system that has made this possible is highly regarded internationally. Japan is also ranked 11th out of 195 countries in the world in terms of the quality and accessibility of healthcare.¹⁾ However, there are some problems such as a chronic shortage of doctors, long working hours of doctors, and lack of time off. In recent years, there has been a trend in Japan to promote labor law reforms, and the working environment has been improving. As the environment surrounding the medical field in Japan is drastically changing, we physicians are faced with the problem of how to protect the health of the people and how to pass on our experience and knowledge to the next generation of medical professionals.

The Japanese Society of Phlebology has a long history, having been established in 1981. After that, the 9th World Congress of the International Union of Phlebology was held in Kyoto, Japan in 1986. In addition to the activities of the Japanese Society of Phlebology, I founded Japan Venous TALK (<https://k-ips.jp/>) as a forum for young Japanese phlebologists.

Takahiro Imai
Head of the Department of Vascular Surgery,
Nishinokyo Hospital in Nara, Japan



The purpose of this group is "education and international exchange of young Japanese physicians in the field of phlebology", with the following three specific activities in mind:

- Interaction among domestic experts and the next generation of phlebologists.
- Free discussion between the next generation of phlebologists and medical staffs who are interested in phlebology.
- Interaction with overseas healthcare professionals online.

We hold the annual Japan Venous TALK meeting on the first Saturday of April every year as an event of UIP's Vein Week, and several Korean doctors are scheduled to visit Japan for the annual meeting on April 6, 2024, in Nara City. This event will hold a variety of programs of great interest to participants, such as a lecture by a popular Japanese YouTuber.

In the EWG of UIP, to which I belong, we have planned a project called "Day in the Life of a Phlebologist". Its goal is to discover new physicians interested in phlebology by focusing on the working environment of the experts and making a short movie about their exciting daily lives. In the future, we wish to plan a collaborative event between EWG and Japan Venous TALK. We hope these activities will contribute to the field of phlebology.