

To ISAR-6 participants,

We inform you regarding the cancellation of ISAR-6 on the result of discussion by the Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC) met on 26 February 2020.

We analyzed the current situation of the novel coronavirus outbreak in Japan on the following standpoints 1) - 5). After careful discussion, we made a painful decision, which was to cancel the ISAR-6 to avoid a risk of infection of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to the participants during the symposium.

1) It was reported that the number of infected people in Japan has been increasing since 14 February and reached 93 on 21 February 2020. The rate of spread seems accelerating day by day. Presently, the virus transmission routes are not completely identified, and it is suspected that the community-acquired infection keeps spreading.

2) If the ISAR-6 were held as scheduled, the organizer is responsible for providing sufficient numbers of facemasks and alcohol-based sanitizers to help prevent the spread of disease. However, they are currently unavailable to purchase in Japan.

3) The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced on 21 February 2020 as "Organizers of events are requested to reconsider the necessity of holding the event from the viewpoint of preventing the spreading of infection, taking into account the spread of infection and the situation at the venue."

4) Some participants are under the potential risk to be isolated for quarantine after traveling to Japan or to be refused their re-entry to the home country.

5) We have received not a small number of cancellations due to the novel coronavirus outbreak in Japan.

The SOC members have decided the following:

(1) ISAR-6 alternative online meeting:

We will provide an online platform to present and discuss the proposed topics. It is not a webinar-style that presenters and audience get together for discussion at the same time, but by providing a platform for posting presentations and posters that are linked to the abstracts, and the participants and presenters exchange comments, questions, and answers for a certain period. It is like a process of a discussion paper.

(2) Refund the registration and banquet fees:

We will refund the total paid amount upon request, excluding the transaction fee. We will

accept graciously declination of the refund justifying the cost of the online meeting.  
The application form for the refund will be notified later.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best regards,

Teruo Aoki,

Chair, Symposium Organizing Committee