



News Release

March 20, 2014
Maruho Co., Ltd

For Immediate Release

Maruho Announces the Fourth Maruho Prize Winner, Award Ceremony and Lecture

Maruho Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Osaka, Japan, President and CEO: Koichi Takagi) is pleased to announce the winner of the Fourth Maruho Prize after having received notification of the decision by the Maruho Prize Selection Committee. The award ceremony and lecture will be held on May 31, 2014.

The Maruho Prize, “to honor great contributors in clinical dermatology,” was established in 2010 to recognize dermatologists who have made outstanding achievements in clinical dermatology and contributed to the development of the field of clinical dermatology in Japan. The winners of the Maruho Prize are determined by a selection committee composed of experts who review the nominations.

Fourth Maruho Prize Winner

Hajime Iizuka, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, Asahikawa Medical University
Altered transmembrane signaling system and epidermal remodeling in psoriasis

Award Ceremony and Lecture

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2014

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Center (in conjunction with a seminar co-sponsored by Maruho at the 113th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Dermatological Association)

Professor Iizuka has engaged in research on the pathomechanism of psoriasis since the 1970s. Through Professor Iizuka’s pioneering work, a new concept of epidermal remodeling has been added to the pathogenic theory of psoriasis which has shed new light on the unclear cause of this disease. Based on this concept, various therapeutic modalities have been clarified in terms of psoriasis pathophysiology and are used in treatments that improve the lives of psoriasis patients today.



About Psoriasis

Psoriasis is a chronic skin disease referred to by specialists as “inflammatory keratosis.” It is characterized by the inflammation of the skin resulting from the abnormal life cycle of the epidermal (outermost) layer of the skin. The number of patients in Japan has been estimated at more than one hundred thousand. Psoriasis is classified into five subtypes according to symptoms. About 90% of cases are the most common form, psoriasis vulgaris. The characteristic symptoms are redness/irritation, thickening of the outer layer of skin, and silvery-white scaling of the surface of the skin that flakes off like dandruff. Patients’ quality of life is significantly reduced due to concerns about their appearance which can limit their ability to enjoy or participate in social activities. It is a skin disease, although since it is an autoimmune disease and is not infectious, it is not communicable to others. It is a chronic disease and cannot be cured with current treatments; however, with treatment such as topical medicine, symptoms can be controlled.

Initiatives towards psoriasis treatment

Focusing on the treatment of psoriasis, Maruho markets keratosis treatments Oxarol[®] Ointment 25µg/g and Oxarol[®] Lotion 25µg/g (INN: Maxacalcitol). Additionally, Maruho operates a website providing information to patients with concerns or a desire to know more about psoriasis. This website provides information starting with awareness of the disease, descriptions of treatment, an example patient’s treatment log and other useful information about psoriasis to help patients approach treatment in a positive way. For details please visit www.maruho.co.jp/kanja/kansen (As Maruho only markets Oxarol[®] for customers in Japan, the information is only provided in Japanese).

About Maruho

Maruho Co., Ltd. has its headquarters in Osaka and leads Japan in research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization of dermatological products. Founded in 1915, Maruho has 1,223 employees (as of the end of September 2013), and net sales were approximately 63.1 billion yen in the previous fiscal year. Pursuing its long-term corporate vision of “Excellence in Dermatology,” Maruho is striving to improve the health and quality of life of people all over the world.

For more information about Maruho Co., Ltd., please refer to www.maruho.co.jp/english

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