



STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Surgery, Division of Abdominal Transplantation



October 4th, 2022

Dear International Pediatric Transplant Association Committee,

I am writing to strongly recommend Dr. Tetsuya Tajima for the IPTA Congress Young Investigator Scientific Awards.

Dr. Tajima completed a 6-year surgery residency and joined the Division of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery and Transplantation at Kyoto University, Japan as a surgical instructor in 2016. The division started the first liver transplantation program in Japan in 1990, and to date, it has performed more than 1,900 living-donor liver transplants, more than any other institution in the country. Dr. Tajima has been involved in both basic and clinical research in liver transplantation. In 2021, Dr. Tajima obtained his Ph.D. and in 2022 an M.P.H. at Kyoto University, respectively.

Dr. Tajima joined our team, at Stanford, as a Postdoctoral Scholar in April 2022. Dr. Tajima has been conducting clinical research on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders (PTLD) in pediatric transplantation using data from a prospective multicenter study in the United States, from which I was the principal investigator, and supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. This study enrolled 944 children (≤ 21 years of age) and identified 34 pediatric EBV+ PTLD (3.9%) by biopsy. Dr. Tajima made the observation that patients ≥ 5 years of age at transplant had more destructive (monomorphic and polymorphic) than nondestructive PTLD (early lesion), and destructive PTLD had significantly earlier onset and higher EBV viral load within six months post-transplant than nondestructive PTLD. Therefore, close follow-up of EBV within six months after transplant, especially in children ≥ 5 years at transplant, may facilitate early detection of destructive PTLD. To our knowledge, this is the first prospective study in the world on risk factors for PTLD in pediatric transplantation.

In summary, Dr. Tajima is a superb clinician and researcher. Dr. Tajima was recently the recipient of the Japan Society for Transplantation award for his clinical research achievements. Dr. Tajima is a trainee working as a postdoctoral scholar who obtained his Ph.D. just two years ago. Dr. Tajima performed the predominant most of the work such as the data analysis, and the writing of the abstract and I have no doubt, he will deliver an outstanding presentation if the abstract is accepted. Based on his impeccable credentials, his enthusiasm, and dedication to clinical investigative research, I recommend Tetsuya Tajima for the IPTA Congress Young Investigator Scientific Awards without any reservations.

Please feel to contact me at any time should you need any additional information.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Carlos O. Esquivel, M.D., Ph.D., FACS

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