

POLEPOLE April 2013

–Here is brief summary of issues dealt with in the AAJ Newsletter of April 2013–

1. WORLD NEWS AND INFORMATION

”The treatment for dementia with iPS cells”

By Shigenobu Nakamura

2. AAJ HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

*AAJ held a board meeting to prepare the annual general conference in June. The members discussed several important bills to be submitted to the plenary session at the conference.

3. INFORMATION OF CLINICAL TRIAL OF DRUG FOR SEVERE STAGE OF DEMENTIA

4. PROFESSIONAL ’ S COMMENT

By Dr. Ishou Matsumoto

Care for family carers

“The outreach services of medical facilities and the respite care are two major keys for the carers ’ s support.”

5. LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

* I have been a member of AAJ for 13 years since my mother died. Last year my brother was diagnosed with Alzheimer ’ s. It was lucky for me not to have canceled my membership. I will be an active member again. (66-year-old woman)

*My husband, 66 years old, was diagnosed with the early stage of Alzheimer ’ s. He still has the ability to manage daily life but has problems, such as aggravation from being under the ban of driving, forgetfulness, and sending me 20 emails a day. I am very anxious about our future.

6. TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

<Question>

My mother is living alone in a distant prefecture and makes more than 50 lengthy phone calls a month.

I cannot refuse but am exhausted. How can I deal with it?

(56-year-old daughter)

7. CARE EXPERIENCE

By Matsuyo Kamada

Dad ’ s Birthday

“All of my family gathered to celebrate Dad ’ s birthday, which might be his final one. It was his ninth after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer ’ s. We wish he stays healthy as long as he can. However, we already decided and told his doctor not to provide life-prolonging treatment and to provide palliative care with consideration. We hope his debilitating process goes peacefully and naturally like a tree withers and returns to the soil. The birthday was the day for us to prepare ourselves for his last day.

8. THE REPORT BASED ON THE RESEARCH OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF MEMORY CAFÉ

By Kazuyo Suzuki, A board member of AAJ Research Study Committee

9.ESSAY

By Dr. Hiroshi Mori, The director of Japan Society for Dementia Research

10. FROM NORTH TO SOUTH – News from AAJ branches around Japan–

- *Ishikawa Branch recruited three nursing school students onto the editing board to bring a new perspective to their 30-year-old newsletter.
- *Kagawa Branch called for messages from their members which express their genuine feeling as carers. They received a letter that said “I whisper love to my husband who cannot tell even who his wife is, praying for a miracle to happen unrequitedly.”
- *Ehime Branch holds monthly or fortnightly meetings on weekday afternoons, because the carers can take time to join the meetings while their family members attend the daycare centers.
- *Tochigi Branch conducted a dementia supporter training seminar. A participant who is a high school boy said, “I believe we can make a change and prepare for a more advanced aging society.”

11.Global Family

By Noriyo washizu

“What family can do for a parent with dementia” (From website of Alzheimer’s Disease Association of Philippines)

12•NEED TO MEET, NEED TO TALK –MESSAGE FROM PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA –

By Eiko Nakanishi

Ms. E. Nakanishi is a former elementary school teacher. She was diagnosed with early onset dementia three years ago. She made an impressive speech at The Kyoto Community Dementia Care Conference in February.

“I feel so nervous now. I didn’t know why I made a speech in front of a huge audience. But I came here because my daughter had said to me that if I spoke of my own feeling freely at the conference, it must be helpful for the people who are suffering from dementia. I had to retire from my job as a schoolteacher because of dementia. I love kids and my work so that it was so painful. But now I get along in my life with dementia. I am getting forgetful gradually but I can make it through with devices and support from people around me. I want to talk and play with kids again. I and my daughter are looking for those chances. Thank you!”

12. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Kunio Takami, AAJ president

Take heart and take care till next month