

Opening remarks from the past chairman of the 7th Tawara-Aschoff Symposium

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It was a great honor for me to chair the 7th Tawara-Aschoff Symposium in November, 2010 at Tokyo, immediately after the annual American Heart Association meeting. I appreciate the efforts of many German and Japanese guests who came to Tokyo for this Symposium at the very memorial year of friendship between Germany and Japan for 150 years.

Today, I will comment on Tawara's and Aschoff's great contribution to modern cardiology citing from the original book published in 1906 and stress the importance of pathology, anatomy and physiology combined all together.

Because of their outstanding work, atrioventricular node is now regarded as a central controlling tower in cardiac conduction system. Atrio-ventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia is one of the frequently observed arrhythmia for the cardiac physicians. However, despite our efforts with the advanced modern technology, there still remains many mysterious areas in the atrioventricular node, especially in its pacemaker function and conduction property including the slow pathway. Recent advance in cardiac electrophysiology make it possible to optically map the perfused human hearts after cardiac transplantation.

Together with our clinical experience, I would like to focus on these exciting topics on the atrio-ventricular node.