

Welcome Address

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On the occasion of the 9th Tawara-Aschoff Symposium, I offer my congratulations to all of the cardiologists who participate in this symposium, as the president emeritus of Showa University School of Medicine, the promoting institute of this symposium.

Dr. Sunao Tawara, one of the most famous Japanese cardiologists, discovered the atrioventricular node (so-called Tawara's node) in the beginning of 20th century, 1905, in Dr. Aschoff's laboratory in Marburg, Germany, and established the conduction system, "Reizleitungssystem", of the heart.

Nowadays, after 100 years, many clinical evidences have been clarified, for example, the existence of fast and slow pathways in the AV node, and the occurrence of paroxysmal atrioventricular tachycardia by forming the reentrant circuit in these pathways. The high-frequency radio-wave ablation of the reentrant pathways can stop the tachycardia completely.

I strongly hope that the great achievement of Dr. Tawara, discovery of atrioventricular node, should be called to mind once again, and bring further progresses in cardiophysiology and treatment of clinical arrhythmias in this symposium.