

2026

4.22 (wed.) 12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

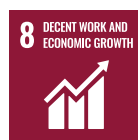
12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
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Understanding and Supporting Stuttering: Perspectives from the Recipient of the 84th Nishinippon Culture Award (Encouragement Prize)



Key Words

Stuttering

Diversity

Physician

Assistant Professor

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When I was in my first year of junior high school, I made a life-changing decision: "To save myself from the challenges of stuttering, I must become a doctor." Following years of intensive study, I graduated from Kagoshima La Salle High School and entered the Kyushu University School of Medicine in 1999. After completing two years of residency, I joined the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Kyushu University in 2007. In 2008, I enrolled in the Graduate School of Kyushu University, where I specialized in brain research regarding stuttering using Magnetoencephalography (MEG) at the Department of Clinical Neurophysiology. My research findings have received high acclaim both domestically and internationally, earning me numerous prestigious awards. Currently, I manage the Stuttering Clinic at Kyushu University Hospital, where I have examined and treated over 600 patients to date. I have authored 16 books on stuttering and frequently travel across Japan to deliver lectures. As a physician, I remain vigorously dedicated to the clinical practice, education, and research of stuttering.

Stuttering is a speech and developmental disorder that affects approximately 1% of the population aged school-age and older. For a long time, individuals who stutter have suffered from heartless misconceptions and discrimination—wrongly told that it was "the result of poor parenting," that it was "contagious," or that it could be "cured with enough effort." I have dedicated my career to evidence-based advocacy, striving to ensure that stuttering is recognized not as a mere "habit" caused by a lack of effort, but as a condition that deserves proper medical and clinical support. It is deeply humbling to have these efforts recognized with this award. For many, speaking fluently is something taken for granted. However, for those who find this "ordinary" task a daily struggle, how can we best provide support? In this brief session, I would like to introduce practical and clear methods for supporting individuals who stutter, grounded in both science and empathy.