INVITED SPEAKERS

Dr. Ryoko Kyan is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Clinical Toxicology within the School of Medicine at Saitama Medical University. With a robust background in emergency and critical care, Kyan has accumulated extensive experience through various roles in prominent medical institutions across Japan, including Sapporo Medical University and Hakodate City Hospital. Her educational journey began with an M.D. from Sapporo Medical University in 2003, followed by residencies and medical staff positions in departments ranging from traumatology and critical care to gastroenterology and pediatrics. Kyan's professional memberships include the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine, the Japanese Society of Intensive Care Medicine, and the Japanese Society of Clinical Toxicology, among others. She is a certified specialist in acute medicine, critical care medicine, and clinical toxicology. Her primary research interests lie in emergency medicine, clinical toxicology, and intensive care medicine, reflecting her commitment to advancing these critical fields.

Toxic plant poisoning in Japan

In Japan, plants are not only part of the diet, but have also been used as medicines since ancient times and are familiar to people all over the country. Nevertheless, it is important to note that some plants contain ingredients that are toxic to the human body. Therefore, it is essential to exercise caution when handling these plants. Even if an ingredient is considered beneficial to the human body as a therapeutic agent, it may have adverse effects when consumed in excess. According to the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, there have been 831 cases of poisoning by poisonous plants in Japan over the past 10 years, including some fatalities. This report will discuss toxic plants, including aconite, which has been used as herbal medicine since ancient times in Japan, and other poisonous plants whose use in accidental ingestion or suicide attempts has become a problem, presenting case examples.