

\* This English manuscript is a translation of a paper originally published in the *Psychiatria et Neurologia Japonica*, Vol.124, No.4 p.239-244, which was translated by the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology and published with the author's confirmation and permission. If you wish to cite this paper, please use the original paper as the reference.

## **Special Feature Article**

### **A Report on the General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology in Kanazawa**

Nariyoshi YAMAGUCHI

Medical Corporation of Matsubara Aiikukai Matsubara Hospital

*Psychiatria et Neurologia Japonica* 124: 239-244, 2022

#### **Abstract**

On May 20, 21, and 22, 1969, the 66th General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology was held in the former Kanazawa City Hall for Sightseeing, presided by President Yasuo Shimazono and Vice-President Ryosaku Otsuka. Although a lecture by the president, two symposiums, and 188 general lectures were scheduled at this general meeting in Kanazawa, there were no academic presentations, and only a public councilor meeting and a general conference were held. On the morning of May 19, the day before the general meeting, a board meeting was held. Following this, a council meeting was held in the Hall for Small and Medium-sized Companies around 13:00, which eventually became a public council meeting in response to a suggestion made by a few council members. In this council meeting, the board chairperson presented a general report and the 1968 business report and settlement of balance were approved, followed by presentations of reports by the committees and Q&A sessions/discussions. As the deadline for the use of the hall, 9:00 p. m., approached, a proposal for the cancellation of symposiums, general presentations, and a lecture by the president scheduled for the following day was submitted and approved. Therefore, on May 20, the public council meeting continued in which a no-confidence motion against the executive board was submitted and passed followed by the selection of new executive board members. When the council meeting

resumed, a proposal of discontinuing it and moving on to the agenda of the general meeting was submitted and approved. On May 21, during the reporting of business operation and settlement of balance in 1968 as general meeting proceedings, a question about the expenses of general meetings was raised, and the following proposal was submitted by Mr. Ozawa and adopted: "The 66th General Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology was held with the support of the capitals of pharmaceutical companies and donations from associated hospitals and at the sacrifice of the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Kanazawa University. These conventions have been distorting the objectives of psychiatric care and medicine, and we must reflect on this. Therefore, we have passed a resolution that the General Meetings of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology shall be administered with the financial support of its members", which has since been one of the guidelines for the administration of the society. Following this, activity plans and an income and expenditure budget draft were approved. On May 22, the Kure Award and Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology Award Selection Committees announced the names of the recipients. However, since the recipients of the award of the society expressed their intentions to withhold or refuse to receive the award, it was not awarded to them. Following this event, the number of attendees decreased below the minimum number required to hold a general meeting, and the president declared the termination of the 66th general meeting. Discussions and opinions expressed in the 66th general meeting became a foundation of the "basic principles of the academic society", which has been published at the end of every issue of the Psychiatry and Neurology Journal.

**Keywords:** General meeting in Kanazawa, cancellation of academic presentations, public councilor meeting, resolutions on the administration of the general meetings, basic principles of the academic society

### **Introduction**

At the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (Kanazawa Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, 1969), the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology

suspended all presentations and engaged in four days of earnest discussions, including the Board of Trustees meeting, about the conventional state of the society. Since then, the society has been reforming

itself under the basic theme of reflection on Japanese psychiatry and medicine and the way forward. The year 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the Kanazawa Annual Meeting, and to commemorate this anniversary, a symposium, entitled: "50 years after the Kanazawa Annual Meeting: The subsequent reform of the society and its future prospects", was held at the 115th Annual Meeting. In this article, entitled: "On the Day of the Kanazawa General Meeting," we would like to describe the earnest discussions that took place during the four days from May 19 to 22, 1969.

The late German President Weizsaecker famously said: "Anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present," and so we would like to look back 50 years into the past and open our eyes to the future.

### **I. Preparations for the Kanazawa Annual Meeting**

In October 1967, Professor Yasuo Shimazono, the President of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, moved to Tokyo to take a professorship at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, and Professor Ryosaku Otsuka of Kanazawa University became the Vice President. The Department of Neuropsychiatry, Kanazawa University School of Medicine prepared for the 66th Annual

Meeting of the Japanese Psychiatric Society.

Abstracts of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Neuropsychiatric Society were published in the Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 71, No. 3,<sup>1)</sup> including the Presidential Address, two symposia, and 188 abstracts of general presentations, divided into 24 sections. The Department of Neuropsychiatry, Kanazawa University School of Medicine prepared a bag containing the program book with a Kutani porcelain plate on the cover, the program of the Board of Councilors Meeting, and a guide to accommodation and sightseeing at the 66th Japan Neuropsychiatric Society. The last one led to criticism by a member at the general meeting, as people should come for the academic conference, not for sightseeing. The following is a list of the discussions, divided by the date of the meeting.

### **II. May 19: Board of Directors Meeting and Board of Councilors Meeting**

The fourth meeting of the Board of Directors in FY 1968 was held at the Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on May 19, 1968. After the report on the financial statements for the fiscal year 1968, some members requested to sit in on the board meeting. The board stated that: "it is undesirable to open the

meeting to only a few people without prior negotiation," and told the members who requested to observe the meeting, but more than a dozen members overcame the staff members' resistance and entered the board room. However, the proceedings of the Board of Directors meeting proceeded without any problems. Later, President Hiroshi Utena reported: "This request for an audience was based on a decision made at a meeting of members from 10 universities, and they expressed their opposition to the board's viewpoint."

On the same day, the Board of Councilors meeting was held in the main hall of the Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small and Medium Enterprise Hall a little after 1:00 p.m. (Figure 1). Soon after the opening of the meeting, one of the councilors proposed that the meeting be open to the public, and the proposal was approved by a show of hands. The chairpersons were then organized, and in addition to the chairman, councilors Satoru Tsuji and Yoichi Eguma were elected as chairpersons. A proposal was then passed to "allow the observers to speak on specific issues deemed necessary by the chairpersons. The meeting then proceeded according to the printed schedule: "Program of the Board of Trustees," and the general report of the president, the business report for 1968, the settlement of accounts, and

the report of the auditors were approved. The chairpersons then summarized the meeting, but there were some objections to the summary, and the summary was tabled.

As the last possible time to use the venue (9:00 p.m.) was approaching, Councilor Kenichi Harada's proposal to cancel the symposium, general lectures, and presidential address scheduled for the next day and continue the open meeting of the Board of Councilors at the Kanazawa Kanko Kaikan was approved.

### **III. May 20: Board of Trustees Meeting and General Assembly Agenda**

The Board of Trustees meeting was held at 9:24 a.m. in the main hall of Kanazawa Kanko Kaikan, continuing the meeting held the previous day. In front of the hall, there was a cloth (Fig. 2) and signboard (Fig. 3) criticizing the society. On the other hand, inside the hall (Figure 4), there was no room to stand, and more than 1,500 members attended the meeting and participated enthusiastically in the discussions.

A motion of no confidence in the Board of Directors was submitted over the certification system, and after a vote of no confidence, the Board of Directors was rejected and new members were elected. The new board of trustees met straight away and said: "The meeting of the board of trustees is hereby

adjourned, and an ordinary general meeting will be held immediately." The proposal was passed by a show of hands. The chairman's proposal to open the General Assembly at 9:00 a.m. on the following day was subsequently approved by a show of hands.

#### IV. May 21 General Meeting

A motion was made to elect the chairpersons, and they were Yasuo Shimazono (President), Ryosaku Otsuka (Vice-President), and Masanao Kurihara (Member).

First, Mr. Jun Sugamata, counselor, talked about the business report and settlement of accounts for 1968 on behalf of the former president. On the expenditure side, the issue of the 250,000 yen fee for the General Assembly was raised and whether the General Assembly could be held for 250,000 yen, and Vice President Otsuka explained the activities of the Preparatory Committee for the Kanazawa General Assembly. After various discussions, Isao Ozawa proposed the following regarding the operation of the Annual Meeting: "The 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology has been conducted at the expense of pharmaceutical capital, donations from affiliated hospitals, and the members of the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Kanazawa University School of

Medicine. We regret that such conventional practices have distorted the state of psychiatry, and we resolve that from now on the society shall be managed at the expense of its members." The resolution was passed by a show of hands with a majority of votes in favor.

Next, the business report and settlement of accounts for the fiscal year 1968 and the settlement of accounts for the Folia Publication Society were approved, and a matter concerning the relocation of the society's offices and accompanying revision of the Articles of Incorporation were also approved.

The proposal to recommend the dissolution of the Board of Trustees was then approved by a show of hands. Next, regarding the duties of the new Board of Directors, a proposal by Mr. Shigeo Shima: "Approves the new Board of Trustees under the following conditions: (1) The new Board of Trustees shall summarize the questions raised at the 66th General Assembly and organize a serious discussion of all members as soon as possible. (2) Based on the General Assembly's recommendation to dissolve the Board of Trustees, the new Board of Trustees will prepare for the election of a new Board of Trustees as soon as possible," was approved by a majority of raised hands in favor of the proposal. The two auditors were also approved, and the new offices of the

society were hereby officially decided.

The proposed business plan and income and expenditure budget for 1969 prepared by the previous Board of Directors were approved with the condition that the new Board of Directors would make some changes. The chairman's proposal to continue the General Assembly on the following day was then approved by a show of hands.

### **V. May 22 General Meeting**

At 10:10 a.m., as the number of members had not yet reached that required for the General Assembly, Director Masahisa Nishizono reported on the meeting of the new Board of Directors held on the previous night. At 10:40 a.m., there were 456 members present, which was the quorum required for the General Assembly, and the meeting was called to order. First, there was the report of the Kure Shuzo Award Selection Committee and presentation of the Kure Shuzo Award to Dr. Junji Kaneko. The awarding ceremony was omitted due to the absence of Dr. Kaneko. Next, the meeting moved on to the report of the Academic Society Award Selection Committee and presentation of the awards. It was reported that the Academic Society Award would be given to Akio Asaka and Kimio Moriyama. However, since Mr. Asaka commented that he would like to withhold the

award until the normalization of the society, and Mr. Moriyama said that he would like to decline the award, the awards were not given.

After that, during the discussion on the resolution "against the University Security Legislation," the number of participants was less than that required for the General Assembly, and even after the lunch break, the quorum for the General Assembly was not reached, so President Yasuo Shimazono called the meeting to a close. Director Yoichi Eguma also thanked the president, vice presidents, and Kanazawa class members, and the General Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. After that, the members of the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Kanazawa University School of Medicine began to clean up the venue. Even now, 50 years later, I clearly remember that Vice President Otsuka was crying in a corner of the hall.

### **Conclusion**

At the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (Kanazawa, 1969), the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology cancelled all presentations and held four days of earnest discussions, including a meeting of the Board of Trustees, on the conventional state of the society. This was known as the Kanazawa General Meeting. An outline of the meeting is given in: "The

66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology," by Yasuo Shimazono<sup>4</sup>, President of the Society, and "Report of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology," by the Board of Directors of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology<sup>3</sup>), while the detailed version is based on the notes written by Nariyoshi Yamaguchi, with some omissions, and edited by three directors: Yasuo Okada, Toshio Hara, and Ken-ichi Harada. The detailed version is the: "Minutes of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology,"<sup>2</sup>) edited by Yasuo Okada, Toshio Hara, and Ken-ichi Harada.

Since then, the society has been reforming itself under the basic theme of reflection on Japanese psychiatry and medicine and the path it should take in the future. The results of these efforts are summarized in the: "Basic Philosophy of the Society," which has appeared at the end of every issue of the Journal of Psychiatry and Neurology since 2005 (Vol. 107, No. 1).

Editor's note: This special issue is based on the content of the symposium at the 115th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology in 2019, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the Kanazawa Annual Meeting.

After the Kanazawa Annual Meeting, the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Kanazawa University School of Medicine held a meeting every Tuesday afternoon, and young doctors in the department submitted various problems to the meeting, but such an atmosphere of the meeting only lasted for about six months, and we returned to the traditional meeting where new papers were abstracted and case reports were made. Professor Ryosaku Otsuka passed away from stomach cancer on October 16, 1974. He was 48 years old, and we were sorry to hear of his death; whether it was because he was tired from the conference or because he did not pay much attention to his health.

There is no conflict of interest to disclose in relation to this paper.

#### References

- 1) 第 66 回日本精神神経学会総会抄録. 精神経誌, 71 (3); 215-309, 1969
- 2) 日本精神神経学会理事会: 第 66 回日本精神神経学会議事録. 精神経誌, 71 (11); 1029-1222, 1969
- 3) 日本精神神経学会理事会: 日本精神神経学会第 66 回総会の報告. 精神経誌, 71



(6); 607-616, 1969

4) 島藺安雄: 第 66 回日本精神神経学会  
総会について. 精神経誌, 71 (5); 517-518,  
1969



**図 1 評議員会会場 (金沢商工会議所中小企業会館内)**

Figure 1: Venue of the Board of Trustees Meeting (in the Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small and Medium Enterprise Hall)





図2 総会会場（金沢市観光会館）前の  
垂れ布

Figure 2: Hanging Cloth in Front of the Venue of the General Meeting (Kanazawa Kanko Kaikan)



図3 総会会場（金沢市観光会館）内の立て看板

Figure 3: Signboard in the Venue of the General Meeting (Kanazawa Kanko Kaikan)



図4 総会会場内（金沢市観光会館大ホール）

Figure 4: Venue of the General Meeting (Kanazawa Kanko Kaikan Main Hall)

表 公益社団法人日本精神神経学会 基本理念

公益社団法人日本精神神経学会は明治35年（1902年）に創立され、「精神医学と神経学の研究を進め、会員相互間の連絡提携を図り、もって学術、文化の発展に寄与する」（定款第3条）ことを目的として、学術研究のみならず、精神科神経科臨床に関する広範な現実的課題とも取り組んできた。特に第66回総会（金沢、1969年）以来、学会が日本の精神医療・医学の反省と今後の進むべき道を基本テーマに真摯に検討して来た経緯に鑑み、各学会員は常に下に掲げる学会基本理念を堅持することを求められる。

1. 会員は、常に倫理的配慮のもと、精神医学と神経学の発展に寄与しなければならない。
2. 会員は、患者の人権を尊重し、精神・身体・社会・倫理の各面を総合的に考慮して精神保健・医療・福祉の質的向上に貢献しなければならない。
3. 会員は、学会を民主的に運営し、会員相互の研鑽・点検の機能を果たさなければならない。

Table. Basic Philosophy of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology

The Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology was founded in 1902 with the purpose of: "promoting research in psychiatry and neurology and promoting liaison and cooperation among members, thereby contributing to the development of science and culture" (Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation). We have been tackling not only academic research but also a wide range of practical issues related to clinical psychiatric neurology. In particular, since the 66th General Meeting (Kanazawa,

1969), the society has been sincerely reflecting on Japanese psychiatry and medicine and the way forward as its basic theme, and each member is required to always adhere to the following basic principles of the society:

1. Members must always contribute to the development of psychiatry and neurology in an ethical manner.
2. Members shall respect the human rights of patients and contribute to the qualitative improvement of mental health, medical care, and welfare by comprehensively considering mental, physical, social, and ethical aspects.
3. Members must manage the society democratically and fulfill the function of mutual study and inspection among members.