

Guest Editor Introduction

As the Chair of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Tokyo Bay Urayasu-Ichikawa Medical Center in Chiba, Japan, Professor Minoru Tabata is undoubtedly one of the leading academic surgeons in Japan. Following graduation from the University of Tokyo in 1999, Professor Tabata began his general surgical training at the University of Tokyo Hospital and Affiliated Hospitals, subsequently specializing in cardiovascular surgery. In 2004, he moved to Boston, where he stayed for three fruitful years at Brigham and Women's Hospital. During this period, he received a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. After two years at Columbia University Medical Center, New York, as a Clinical Instructor and also several months at the OLV Clinic in Aalst, Belgium, as the Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow, Professor Tabata returned back to Japan to share his experience and skills with his local colleagues. For the past five years, he has held professorial positions at three universities, as well as in his position as Chair of Cardiovascular Surgery.

With a keen interest in research, Professor Tabata completed his PhD in 2014. He has published over 90 articles and 15 book chapters throughout his career, and has been an invited speaker more than 100 times at various national and international meetings. He is member of numerous Japanese and international societies, including the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, the Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery, and more, and similarly has appointments with various professional Working Committees.

The *Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery* is honored to have Professor Tabata helm this special issue on the topic of transcatheter aortic valve implantation. His leadership has been critical in attracting an impressive array of leading experts and opinion leaders to generate an up-to-date compendium on this topic. We hope the readers enjoy this issue and the exciting developments that this field heralds.

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