

Laudation – Prof. Dr. Shigeru Saito

Professor Shigeru Saito graduated in 1980 at Nara Medical University, Japan, and received a Ph.D. degree at Nara Medical University in 1985. During his postdoctoral period at Kyoto University Virus Center, he studied molecular biology and immunology, especially cytokines. Between 1984 and 1990 he worked as an Assistant Professor, between 1990 and 1998 he served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Nara Medical University. He has been the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University since April 1998. From 2005 to 2009 and from 2011 to 2013 he was the Vice Superintendent of Toyama University Hospital. Since 2013 he has been a Council Member of University of Toyama. He has been the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Reproductive Immunology since 2003.

His research interest is focused primarily on understanding the immunology of the maternal and fetal interface with particular emphasis on the roles of cytokines and chemokines and the immune cells that produce them in reproduction and perinatal medicine. He is also interested in regulatory T cells and regulatory NK cells, and he has studied the pathophysiology of preeclampsia, recurrent pregnancy loss and preterm labor. He described first in the scientific literature that preeclampsia is characterized by a predominant Th-1 type immunity, as well as the role of decreased number and impaired function of regulatory T cells in the development of the disease.

He is the president or council member of numerous national and international scientific societies. The number of his scientific papers exceeds 200. His cumulative impact factor is 733.012, the number of his citations is 7328 (as of February 2015). He obtained 25 scientific grants to support his scientific research.

Professor Saito maintains scientific cooperation with the 1st Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Semmelweis University from 2009. As a result of this scientific cooperation many papers were published in leading international journals of the field, and currently there are ongoing common clinical investigations with participation of researchers of both departments.