



New Year Greetings

General Manager

Toshio Fujimoto
MBA, MD



Looking back on 2020 it's hard to think of an organization that hasn't been tested by the ongoing global public health crisis. All of us at iPark have been inspired by the resilience of businesses worldwide to keep growing despite the many challenges, and we are honored to be playing a role in helping those in the life sciences continue to thrive as we boldly enter 2021.

The extent to which the world has changed in the space of a year is startling, so it is to be expected that priorities are changing too. Healthcare is currently the No.1 agenda for everyone in the world. The remarkable speed at which vaccines have been developed and made available in the UK and US is testament to the unique ability of science to equip us with both practical solutions and hope for normalcy. In spite of the hardships, it's a powerful example of cutting-edge science translated into a real-world solution.

Throughout the pandemic, science remained very much in action at iPark too. A survey of residents and members revealed that nearly 70% of researchers continue to use the iPark facilities to advance on-going research each day committed to developing new treatments and technologies. [To learn more about our latest COVID-19 countermeasures at iPark, [check here](#)]

Back in June 2020 I noted that open innovation would advance even under the COVID-19 environment and it seems that now there is no turning back. In fact, 2020 has shown just how much an open innovation network can help us keep progressing, both in terms of science and business.

Now entering its year fourth since its establishment, iPark has become both a virtual and physical collaborative innovation space, bringing together scientists in Japan, Asia, and the world. We are proud to be driving key innovation initiatives and strategic partnerships to accelerate the building of ecosystems - all right here from Shonan, Japan.

Lastly, I would like to share with you my new role. From January 2021, I am taking up Head, Global Public Affairs at Takeda, on top of continue fulfilling the General Manager role at iPark. Through exposure to policies in the world that enable innovation forward, I hope to bring the voices of those in the field of innovation to the table, create an opportunity for dynamic movement of policies, and further enhance our network.

I look forward to continuing to work together with you to further values of the innovation community.