

Declaration of Kyoto 2004 concerning the Academic and Social role of the Anatomical Sciences

Proposed by the Japanese Anatomical Association, and approved by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Anatomical Associations, at the Sixteenth Federative International Congress of Anatomy, Kyoto, Japan, 22-27 August 2004.

The Sixteenth Federative International Congress of Anatomy in Kyoto, this twenty-fifth day of August in the year two thousand and four, requests action by all Anatomical Associations/Societies (together with their appropriate educational groups) to develop and promote the progress of the anatomical or morphological sciences for the benefit of the health and well-being of all the people in the world. We hereby declare:

I. The Congress strongly reaffirms that anatomical and morphological sciences are, and should remain, key disciplines in modern biological and life sciences.

II. Anatomy is, and will remain, one of the cornerstones of the curriculum in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and other life sciences, contributing a major part to the language of medicine. Anatomy must expand its frontiers further in the field of cell biology, developmental biology and neurobiology to correlate with advancements in modern bioscience, the ultimate goal being the understanding of the processes serving the functions of cells, organs and organisms.

III. It is incumbent upon the Associations/Societies of Anatomists to develop means whereby their respected members are increasingly involved in policymaking at all levels (institutional, local, state, national and international) in order to pursue innovation and thereby change anatomical and morphological sciences to fit contemporary, and future, needs in the world. Governments have a responsibility for the health of their people through the establishment of a series of task forces by the community of Anatomists.

IV. Through the promotion of international scientific congresses and other meetings, the community of Anatomists should contribute to the development of academic vitality, as well as to better the quality of life.

The Congress and the International Federation of Anatomical Associations call upon all the aforementioned to collaborate in maintaining the discipline of anatomy in accordance with the spirit and content of this Declaration.