

Prof. Atsushi Tanaka was graduated with M.D. degree in 1988 from the University of Tokyo, Japan. After spending three years as residency at St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo, he started his career as a researcher in liver diseases with a main focus on autoimmune liver diseases and viral hepatitis. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Tokyo in 1996, and thereafter he stayed at the University of California, Davis since 1996 to 1999 as a visiting scholar with M. Eric Gershwin, M.D., where he elucidated T cell mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis and progression of primary biliary cholangitis (PBC).

Coming back to Japan in 2000, he rose through the academic ranks to become a Professor of Medicine at the Teikyo University School of Medicine in 2011. His area of expertise is autoimmune liver diseases, especially PBC, PSC and AIH. He has authored 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts devoted to these topics. In addition, he was Co-Director (along with Prof. Xiong Ma from China) of the first APASL satellite symposium on the epidemiology and treatment of AIH and PBC in the Asian-Pacific region, which was held during the 2016 APASL meeting. He has provided exceptional leadership to Japanese hepatology, including ongoing service as Secretary-General of the Drafting Committee for Hepatitis Management Guidelines of the Japan Society of Hepatology (JSH) and play a central role in publishing as well as revising the JSH Guidelines for the Management of HBV/HCV infection. Currently he also serves as a Secretary-General of the Intractable Hepatobiliary Disease Study Group supported by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan, and is one of the leaders for research of autoimmune liver diseases in Japan.