IHPBA

International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association

IHPBA Distinguished Service Award 2026

Professor Norihiro Kokudo



Professor Norihiro Kokudo, has dedicated more than four decades to advancing the field of hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery, liver cancer research, transplantation, and global surgical leadership. A graduate of the University of Tokyo Faculty of Medicine in 1981, Professor Kokudo completed his surgical training in Tokyo before pursuing research training at the University of Michigan Department of Surgery from 1989 to 1991.

Following appointments at the University of Tokyo Hospital, Cancer Institute Hospital, and several leading surgical centers in Japan, Professor Kokudo was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Artificial Organ and Transplantation Division at the University of Tokyo Hospital in 2007. He later served as President of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine from 2017 to 2025 and currently serves as President of the Japan Institute for Health Security.

Professor Kokudo has played an extraordinary leadership role within the international HPB community. He served as President of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA), as well as President of the Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (A-PHPBA), contributing significantly to the growth and global influence of HPB surgery throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. His leadership has strengthened international collaboration, education, and scientific exchange across continents.

Beyond IHPBA, Professor Kokudo has held numerous distinguished leadership positions including Vice-President of the International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists (IASGO), immediate Past President of the Asia-Pacific Primary Liver Cancer Expert Meeting (APPLE), and past President of the Japanese Society of Surgery and the Japanese Liver Cancer Association. He has also served on governing and editorial boards for many of the world's leading surgical and hepatology organizations and journals, including HPB, Annals of Surgery, Surgery, and the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Professor Kokudo's scientific contributions have had a transformative impact on liver surgery and hepatocellular carcinoma management worldwide. With more than 900 scientific publications and an internationally recognized body of research, he has contributed substantially to advancing surgical strategies for hepatocellular carcinoma, portal vein invasion, liver transplantation, and modern liver surgery techniques. Among the many clinical trials he participated in, the SURF trial was one of the largest, for which he served as a primary investigator. This trial was a head-to-head randomized controlled trial comparing liver resection and radiofrequency ablation for small oligo HCCs. His team has also pioneered ICG fluorescence-guided surgery, including the first-ever intraoperative fluorescence cholangiography, liver cancer imaging, and fluorescence-guided anatomic liver resection. His work has influenced clinical guidelines and improved outcomes for patients globally.

His distinguished career has been recognized with numerous international honours, including the Lorenzo Capussotti Award from IASGO, the A-PHPBA Distinguished Service Award, and national honours from Vietnam and Mongolia for his contributions to global health and surgery.

In addition to his academic and clinical accomplishments, Professor Kokudo has been a passionate advocate for international cooperation, surgical education, and mentorship. Through visiting professorships and collaborations across Asia and around the world, he has helped train and inspire generations of surgeons while promoting excellence in HPB surgery globally.

The IHPBA proudly recognizes Professor Norihiro Kokudo with the Distinguished Service Award in acknowledgement of his remarkable contributions to HPB surgery, global surgical leadership, research excellence, education, and his longstanding dedication to the mission and values of the Association.