

## Message from Satoshi Kawata

28 June 2011

Dear OSA President Professor Chris Dainty, Nominating Chair Thomas Baer and OSA CEO Elizabeth Rogan,

This year I was honored to be asked to stand for election as a candidate for the 2012 OSA Vice President, and I accepted this wonderful opportunity to continue to serve OSA. I have been a member for more than 30 years and have volunteered on both the Board of Directors and the International Committee, providing a global perspective to OSA.

Unfortunately, circumstances that have occurred over the past six months present significant difficulties and challenges to me and my country. The recent earthquake in Japan, followed by troubles with the nuclear power plant, have added additional responsibilities on scientists living in Japan. We are reassessing our commitments and focusing on helping our country recover from this disaster. Our goal is to help rebuild the social, educational, and scientific systems, all of which have been impacted by these events.

Recently, I have been asked to contribute to these efforts by acting as head of one of Japan's major scientific organizations. Given the current circumstances, I feel I must accept this request from the Japanese scientific leadership. However, I know it will be impossible to do justice to both assignments simultaneously. Under normal circumstances, I would gladly choose to stand for election and, if elected, continue serving the OSA as Vice President. Due to the current demanding situation in Japan, I feel it is my moral, social, and scientific responsibility to assist in the earthquake rebuilding efforts. For this reason, and with great regret, I must withdraw from the election.

My regrets to the Board, the Nominating Committee and staff. I trust you and my fellow OSA members will understand why I must make this request.

With my deepest apologies,

Satoshi Kawata

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and Chief Scientist, RIKEN, Japan