



# forum

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## Tamura, Sasakawa, and Fujita Now Translated

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Dr. Masao Sasakawa

**Dr. Masao Sasakawa** appears to have been the earliest of the Japanese hair pioneers. Born in Tochigi in 1887, he graduated from the Tokyo University School of Medicine in 1912. By 1916 he was Professor of Dermatology at Nagasaki University. From 1919 to 1922 he studied abroad in Switzerland, Paris, Austria, Germany, England, and the USA, so he must have been reasonably competent in the German, French, and English languages. He was appointed Professor at Keio University School of Medicine in 1922 but died of a urological disease in 1932 at only 45 years of age.

### The Published Work of Dr. Sasakawa

Concerning hair grafts. *Japanese J of Dermatol and Urology*. Vol. 30, No.5, p. 76 (May 1929).

Dr. Masao Sasakawa summarized hair implant experiments in the past dating back to 1875 and reported on his own experiments on this subject.

**Method:** Using a specially designed needle he inserted doubled-up hairs deep into the subcutaneous tissues and allowed them to become fixed by the connective tissue for a period of up to 10 months.

**Subjects:** 1 case of "malignant total alopecia" (? Alopecia totalis) and 2 cases of cicatricial alopecia were included.

**Results:** Dr. Sasakawa was surprised at the adhesive strength of the implanted hairs. Some required up to 80gm tension before removal compared to the average of 52.3gm for normal Japanese hairs. Experiments with human female hair in rabbits showed less cellular infiltration than expected and poor fixation. He concluded by saying that if the method could be further improved, it would become a promising and interesting method of cosmetic dermatology.

**Editor Emeritus' Note.** This was a very far sighted observation as implants of artificial hair became very popular in the late 1970s. They were eventually banned in 1984 in the United States because of the occasional severe reaction and

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**Registration now open for the 12th Annual Scientific Meeting, Vancouver**