

**The Collegium Ramazzini and the Town of Carpi are proud to recognize
KEN TAKAHASHI,
As Ramazzini Award recipient for 2024.**

Professor Ken Takahashi, MD, PhD, MPH is a physician trained in Epidemiology and in Occupational & Environmental Health who is recognized as one of the world's foremost leaders in the study, treatment, and prevention of the diseases caused by asbestos. He has published extensively, and courageously communicated his scientific findings to policy makers and the public in his unceasing efforts to prevent these diseases, reduce disability, and save lives.

Professor Takahashi obtained his medical degree from Keio University in Tokyo, Japan in 1983. He received a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Occupational and Environmental Health in Kitakyushu, Japan in 1990, and a Master of Public health (MPH) degree from the University of Pittsburgh, USA in 1991. He has been a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini since 2008.

From 1990 to 2014, Professor Takahashi served on the faculty of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, where he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Epidemiology, Director of International Training, and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health. From 2014-2021, Professor Takahashi served as Director of the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) in Sydney, Australia, where he led its international cooperative activities in Asia to earn its designation as the world's first WHO-Collaborating Centre for the Elimination of Asbestos Related Diseases. He is currently an Adjunct Professor in the School of Population and Global Health at the University of Western Australia.

Professor Takahashi has served as an expert consultant on the prevention of asbestos-related diseases to the World Health Organization; as a Board Member in the International Congress of Occupational Health (ICOH), and chaired ICOH's Scientific Committee on Respiratory Diseases. He has been a consultant, advisor, and invited speaker for the WHO in many countries of the Western Pacific region and his native Japan. He has led the "Asian Asbestos Initiative," funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences, which was recognized by the WHO as a "WHO Success Story." In the Collegium Ramazzini, Professor Takahashi led the working group that prepared the Collegium's highly authoritative statement on prevention of the diseases caused by asbestos.

One of Professor Takahashi's most highly cited papers is an analysis of the Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) due to asbestos-related diseases. This powerful report, published in 2013 in *The American Journal of Industrial Medicine* found that between 1994 and 2010, asbestos-related diseases were responsible for the loss of nearly 2.4 million years of human life in countries around the world. Building on this work, Professor Takahashi has contributed importantly in recent years to the Global Burden of Disease Study increasing scientific understanding of the terrible toll taken by asbestos and other occupational causes of cancer.

Professor Takahashi has received major awards in occupational medicine. In 2014, he was the recipient of the Irving J. Selikoff Lifetime Achievement Award from the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. In 2011, he received the Jorma Rantanen Award from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. He has served as Visiting Professor and invited lecturer at universities and schools of medicine around the world.

It is an enormous privilege for the Collegium Ramazzini and the Town of Carpi to bestow the Ramazzini Award for 2024 upon our dear friend and colleague – Professor Ken Takahashi. We present this award, the highest honor of the Collegium Ramazzini, to Professor Takahashi in recognition of his many years of service to the Collegium Ramazzini, his exceptional contributions to understanding the disease caused by asbestos, and his unrelenting efforts in countries around the world, and especially in Asia and Australia, to the current and future prevention of the asbestos-related diseases.