

Press Release

Contact: Zachary Brousseau
Manager, Communications
+1 301 770 2920, ext. 245; zbrousseau@raps.org

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RAPS Opens Tokyo Office

Rockville, MD—The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS), an international membership organization of regulatory professionals in the medical device, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology sectors, today announced the opening of the RAPS Japan office. Located at Tokyo Women's Medical University, the office will support operations throughout Japan, one of RAPS' most important and rapidly growing markets, and help the organization further expand its Japanese membership.

“Understanding the regulatory environment in Japan is essential to the process of developing, improving and introducing life-saving and life-enhancing healthcare products and technologies there,” said RAPS Executive Director Sherry Keramidas, PhD, CAE. “As regulatory science continues to play an increasingly important role in making products safe, effective and available on a global scale, highly-qualified, well-prepared regulatory professionals in Japan, will be key assets in that process. RAPS' Japan office will be a great resource for regulatory professionals in Japan and we are very excited to have a presence there.”

The opening of the office in Tokyo is the latest example of RAPS' increased focus on Japan in recent years. Last year, RAPS hosted its first Japan Seminar, where more than 200 senior-level professionals and high-ranking Japanese officials from the healthcare product sector convened for discussion of the importance of regulatory affairs professions for the development of advanced medical technology. A second Japan seminar is slated for November or December of 2008.

RAPS Board Member and Chief Representative of RAPS Japan Shuichi Matsunaga helped spearhead the new affiliate office. Matsunaga previously served as President/Representative Director at Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics KK in Japan and is a 24-year veteran of Johnson & Johnson KK.

“Bringing RAPS to Japan is a very important step for the Japanese regulatory industry,” said Matsunaga. “It not only provides a central place for regulatory professionals in Japan to connect with one another, it also provides a critical link to the leaders in the field all over the world.”

The RAPS Japan office is located at the new Advanced Biomedical Center of Tokyo Women's Medical University, 2-2 Wakamatsu-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo.

About RAPS

The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) is an international membership organization of regulatory professionals in the rapidly growing medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. As regulatory professionals, RAPS members perform vital work in all areas of the healthcare product lifecycle, ensuring these products are safe and effective, while driving organizational strategy and sound decision-making. RAPS supports these individuals and the regulatory profession as a whole by providing education and training, certification, professional standards, research, knowledge-sharing, publications, networking opportunities and other valuable resources; and is committed to helping its members continually develop the knowledge and skills they need to excel. www.raps.org

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