

# Social Program

## GALA

All Asia-ARVO 2015 participants are invited to the evening Gala on February 17. Experience the atmosphere of an authentic Japanese festival complete with lanterns, stalls, games, and performances. Champagne will be served at the reception area where attendees can make their own cotton candy and participate in traditional festival games such as yoyo-fishing and gallery shooting. Traditional Japanese cuisine such as *sushi*, *tempura*, *soba* noodles and more will be served.



Entertainment will be provided by famous performers such as calligrapher Koji Kakinuma, *Shino-bué* (bamboo flute) player Kaoru Watanabe, and *Taiko* (Japanese drum) ensemble.

The gala is a unique opportunity to meet with old friends and forge new connections with fellow doctors and researchers in a casual party setting. We look forward to seeing you on the 17th!

**Date:** Feb. 17, 2015

**Welcome Reception:** 17:00 - 18:00

**Gala:** 18:00 - 20:00

**Venue:** Ballroom, Intercontinental Yokohama Grand

## Overview of Performers



### **Koji Kakinuma, calligraphist**

Koji Kakinuma is an award-winning Japanese calligrapher whose work extends beyond the conventional category of calligraphy. His notable works include large-scale calligraphies using an enormous brush and a new method he developed which he named Trancework. Kakinuma has performed and exhibited in numerous sites around the world including the Metropolitan Museum, NY, Washington D.C. Kennedy Center, Philadelphia Museum, London County Hall, and the Earth Celebration – KODO.



### **Tetsuro Naito, Japanese drum (Taiko) performer**

Originally a member of the renowned Japanese *taiko* group Kodo, Naito became a solo musician in 2002 and has since collaborated with various musicians such as DJ Krush, Soul Flower Unicorn, and Yoshida Brothers. Naito aims to spread and further develop the art of Japanese *taiko* through his teaching activities and performances across a wide variety of genres.



### **Kaoru Watanabe, Shino-bué (bamboo flute) and taiko player**

Kaoru Watanabe, a former member of the Japanese *taiko* ensemble Kodo, is a practitioner of various Japanese transverse bamboo flutes, the *taiko* drum as well as Western flute. His music can be best described as an ever shifting blend of the folk and classical traditions of Japan with contemporary improvisational and experimental music.



### **Shogo Yoshii, Kokyu (Japanese violin) and taiko performer**

Shogo Yoshii was a member of *taiko* performing arts ensemble Kodo for 10 years and performed almost 800 concerts. In 2010, he joined the musical ensemble of "Babel (words)," choreographed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Damien Jalet, receiving many awards, including Lawrence Olivier Awards. He left Kodo and started his solo activities from 2013.