

## **Preface**

This special issue of ANTICANCER RESEARCH presents the Proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the Society of Biotherapeutic Approaches. It is my great pleasure to introduce this issue as a follow-up to the previous twelve meetings and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Editors of Anticancer Research for kindly accepting the proceedings of our regional meeting in Japan for publication.

The 13th meeting was held in Takamatsu on December 5, 2009, chaired by Prof. G-I. Soma, Institute for Health Sciences, Tokushima Bunri University and Kagawa University School of Medicine, and Prof. S Miyake, Miyake Medical Institute. At this conference, the special lecture of Prof. T. Ayabe, Dept. of Cellular Life Science, Faculty of Advanced Life Science, Hokkaido University was one of the highlights. In addition, there were three workshops focusing on innate and/or adaptive immunity and many oral presentations on a wide range of basic and clinical topics offering impressive advances in the field.

The main aims of our society are to facilitate good communication among basic researchers and clinicians, and to perform clinical trials with adequate informed consent in an appropriate and professional manner. These aspects remain important issues for the progress of biotherapy as well as for medicine in general.

These days the world is in a chaotic state due to clashes of civilizations and religions. Perhaps the most basic idea within the frame of the philosophy of medicine, for remolding the world is, I believe, the nurturing of a deep reverence for individual life and the establishment of modern bioethics.

It is my sincere hope that these proceedings will contribute to further progress in the field of biotherapy and that our members will continue to foster the aims of our Society.

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