

Preface

This special issue of ANTICANCER RESEARCH presents the Proceedings of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biotherapeutic Approaches. It is a great pleasure to introduce this issue expressing my sincere gratitude to the Editors of Anticancer Research for kindly accepting the proceedings of our regional meeting in Japan for publication.

The 17th meeting was held in Fukuoka on December 7, 2013, chaired by Prof. Senji Shirasawa, Department of Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka University, and Dr. Takashi Morisaki, Fukuoka General Cancer Clinic, Fukuoka, Japan. One of the highlights in this conference was the special lecture on “Embryonic Regulation of the Hematopoietic Niche and its Implications for Haematotherapy” presented by Associate Prof. Taisuke Sugiyama, Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. In addition, there were two workshops focusing on therapeutic approaches based on cancer cell properties or novel biotherapeutic strategies for cancer, and many oral presentations on a wide range of basic and clinical topics, offering impressive advances in this 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. It is our 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.

Masamichi Tomonaga, Ph.D., MD.
President of the Society of Biotherapeutic Approaches (SBA)