Introduction

Message from the Editor in Chief

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The Japanese Society of Strategies for Cancer Research and Therapy was founded in 1992 for the purposes of (1) the study of the association between cancer biology and individual hosts, (2) the optimization of cancer therapy for individuals (by developing tailor-made therapies) and (3) the improvement of the quality of life in cancer patients.

Since then for over 17 years the Society has been developing and playing an important role in cancer research and cancer therapy in Japan. And the Surgical Department of the Tokyo Women's Medical University Medical Center East has been holding a close relationship with it. In 2001 Dr. Tetsuro Kajiwara, former Professor of the Department, organized the Society's 10th Annual General Meeting and so did I the 16th Meeting in 2007. It is my great honor that I have been appointed Editor in Chief in the Society's official journal, "Annals of Cancer Research and Therapy" (English) and "W'Waves" (Japanese).

In Japan even at present cancer ranks first as the cause of the nation's death. This has not changed since even before the time of the foundation of the Society. However, with every effort made by those who are engaged in medical treatment, the treatment results have steadily been improved, which has led us to expect a bright prospect to conquer cancers in the near future.

One of the reasons for the successful results is mainly attributed to the diversification and developments of cancer treatment methods. The techniques of operation, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, various types of modality, etc. have been rapidly progressed in recent years and the evidence of increasing successful results can be held in common all over the world.

At present the best and most optimal treatment for each patient is selected based on these high level methods and world-wide information. This is the Society's very idea and concept.

Furthermore, the collaboration of basic medicine and clinical medicine, i.e. the translational research has contributed to the increase in survival rate of cancer patients. It also has helped in rapid progress of elucidation of cancer biology, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy (vaccine therapy, cell therapy etc.). We are now discussing the cancer to be a life-style related disease and from this point of view the cancer prevention will be added to the themes of our study in the near future.

Today, "The Annals of Cancer Research and Therapy" is an electronic journal. Anybody can make contributions in internet and a time to come to publication is dramatically shortened. Contributions of your original papers and review articles on cancer biology and cancer therapy as well as your case reports are most welcome.

The spread of internet helps information to be internationalized. I, Editor in Chief, make an every effort not to slip down off this trend. With the cooperation by the members of the Society, I hope the outcome of our research will reach you on earth through "Annals of Cancer Research and Therapy" on line.

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