Editorial

The Globalization of JSSX and DMPK and Progress in Research

Full text of this paper is available at http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/dmpk

After the founding of the Japanese Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (JSSX) in 1985, the academic society has steadily developed and broadened with over 2000 current members from academia, industry, hospitals and other related institutions. The 25th anniversary of JSSX will be celebrated at the Annual Meeting in October 2010 in Tokyo.

Progress of JSSX during the past decades has yielded a fruitful outcome in terms of globalization by fostering active communication between Japanese and overseas scientists. With the strong and farsighted leadership of past presidents and the devoted tireless efforts of previous and current council members, the scholarship activity of JSSX has metamorphosed to an internationally well-recognized level. Thanks to the great efforts of the editors and editorial board committee members, our society journal Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics (DMPK) has reached an impressive status with worldwide development and appreciation: DMPK received an impact factor (IF) of 2.641 for 2008 from Thomson Reuters in June 2009, being ranked 83rd among journals in the field of pharmacology and pharmacy, and was given the 2009 IF of 2.544 in 2010. In addition, DMPK will further improve publication efficiency by publishing accepted manuscripts on J-STAGE in PDF form from the autumn of 2010 (http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/dmpk).

At the Annual Meeting of JSSX in 2009 in Kyoto, the epoch-making decision to adopt the English language as the official language for oral presentation brought the following valuable achievements to JSSX members and the Japanese scientific community: contribution of overseas advertisements in DMPK, improved scientific status for Japan, and a strong impact on young Japanese scientists by motivating them to interact and serve as enthusiastic scientists in the international arena. We are now ready to send our young members abroad, and in return extend open arms to welcome young foreign scientists to Japan for further interactive studies and constructive scientific collaborations. A good trusting partnership with the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (ISSX) will drive globalization of JSSX with our Asia-Pacific neighbors, America and Europe.

The scholarship activities of JSSX have developed on the basis of classical pharmacokinetics, population pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, drug metabolizing enzymes and relevant molecular biology, pharmacogenomics, gene regulations and others. Among the broad spectrum of scientific studies presented by JSSX in particular and by the world as a whole, the research field of drug transporters has markedly expanded. From a PubMed search, the number of articles published globally per month has been increasing steadily, from 80.6 publications/month in 2000 to 158 publications/month in 2010 (Fig. 1). Although only 7 gene-modified animals and mutants were available in 2000, there were 34 gene-modified animals available for in vivo pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic research focusing on drug transporters by the end of 2009. As an outcome of progress in the field of drug transporter research, a white paper on membrane transporters in drug development by the International Transporter Consortium was published in Nature Reviews Drug Discovery in March 2010.

We sincerely hope that globalization of JSSX will be accompanied by the expansion of academic exchange and research activity on drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics to further contribute to drug discovery, development and pharmacotherapy. To facilitate further development and maturation of globalization, JSSX must not be afraid to champion new concepts and take up challenges that include venturing into uncharted territory by promoting constructive exchanges of views and ideas among many researchers working both inside and outside Japan.

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