LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor will be published, if suitable, as space permits.
They may be subject to editing or abridgement

Reply to Dr. Oguma

Re : "Effect of Changes in Breast-feeding on the Age Distribution of HTLV-I Carriers Using a Mathematical Model"

Sir : This is in response to a letter written in Japanese by Dr. Oguma to the effect that the mathematical model used in our article¹⁾ was the same as that already proposed in an article²⁾ by Oguma, and that his article was not cited and disregarded. He requested an apology for this disregard and an acknowledgment of priority of his proposal of the model.

After reading his paper, we must admit that the mathematical model we used is identical to that proposed by Dr. Oguma. However, we did not cite his article simply because of being unaware of its presence although it had been published a year and several months before. We had already presented orally and in abstract form³⁾ the outline of the model as well as some results obtained through it in the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Society of Public Health which was before his article was published. The month and year we published coincides with that when he did so⁴⁾ at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association. While these publications occurred after his article was received by the Japanese Journal of Cancer Research, in actuality we developed this model independent of his proposal. We are not certain

how priority is to be judged, but we do agree with him that as far as the full article describing the model is concerned, his²⁾ was received, accepted and published earlier than ours¹⁾.

REFERENCES

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3. Hashimoto S, Fukutomi K, Mori H, Soda K. A study on routes of HTLV-I transmission using a mathematical model. *Jpn J Public Health*, 1989; 36(10) II: 742 (in Japanese).
4. Oguma S. Simulation of dynamic changes of HTLV-I carriage rates. *Proc Jpn Cancer Assoc*, 1989; 32 (in Japanese).

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