PREFACE

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The fourteenth International Scientific Meeting (ISM) of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) was held in Nagoya, Japan, August 27-30, 1996. A total of 1,045 participants, including 168 local clerical staffs who were all solely volunteers, came together from 55 different countries around the world. And 541 papers, including 283 posters, were presented and discussed.

For publishing this monograph, which devotedly aimed to memorize the 14th ISM, the editorial board asked all the speakers of two Keynote lectures, Cruickshank lecture and 18 Special lectures, and 26 symposists in five main symposia to submit their full papers only about one month before the meeting date. Nevertheless, almost half of the speakers had readily submitted their papers immediately before or after their presentation. Most of the papers not handed at the meeting were submitted thereafter in a few months. These papers were all included in this monograph, though some papers not received due to various reasons were not unfortunately included.

In short, 38 papers among 47 papers requested were finally available for your reference in this monograph.

On behalf of the local organizing committee, the editorial board would deeply like to appreciate all contributors to this monograph, and thank all persons who have worked directly for the 14th ISM, including numerous unsung heroes who deserve a great deal of credit, for their generous efforts. Special thanks for four ladies (Mrs. Kato and Hiraoka, and Miss Kodama and Ohtake) should be given by naming them here for their long and enthusiastic efforts.

The editorial board is also very grateful to the decision, made by the council members of Japan Epidemiological Association (JEA), of publishing this monograph as a supplement of *Journal of Epidemiology*, an official journal of JEA.

Finally, the editors earnestly hope that this monograph again reminds you of the 14th ISM in Nagoya, and that you can again refresh and study very informative scientific messages from the distinguished contributors around the world.

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