The International Conference on New Trends in Computational Statistics with Biomedical Application (ICNCB) was held in Osaka, August 30–September 1, 2001 as a part of satellite meetings to the 53rd Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI 2001) held in Seoul, Korea, August 22–29, 2001. The conference was organized under the auspices of the organizing committee of the ICNCB and the Japanese Society of Computational Statistics and was also co-sponsored by the International Association for Statistical Computing and the Graduate School of Engineering Science of Osaka University. Over one hundred scholars from 15 countries gathered, and a wide range of topics related to the computational statistics in the fields of biomedical applications as well as general theory and applications of statistical methods were discussed at the conference, including the clinical and medical evaluation process, statistical modeling and methods for biomedical data, computational issues in clinical data analysis and so on. The conference was characterized by excellent presentations and stimulating discussions.

During the course of the preparation of the ICNCB, the publication of a memorial issue of the conference was planned and the Japanese Society of Computational Statistics Editorial board accepted and took over the project to publish the papers given at the conference as a special issue of the journal of the society. After the conference, we called for submission of full papers of presenters and many responded back for the publication. After the peer review process, we accumulated 33 papers for this volume. Because of the diversity of the topics discussed by these papers, we decided to reorganize the sections according to the fields of the papers and sorted out them into 9 sections. We feel that papers in each section make substantial contributions to the field and this volume represents an essential and provocative discourse on the various issues in this realm of computational statistics.

The editors would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this volume, so that we could issue this invaluable collection of works. We also thank many referees for reviewing submitted manuscripts. Their efforts and expertise to identify the most worthwhile new developments and to suggest improvements in manuscripts have been indispensable. Finally, we are indebted to our colleagues who have helped us in various ways to make this publication possible. Among them, our special thanks should go to Dr. Wataru Sakamoto who had not only served as a member of the executive section of ICNCB but also played an essential role in support of our preparation of this volume.

Yutaka Tanaka
Yoshimichi Ochi

— 369 —