I am delighted for the opportunity to present the congratulatory message on the 20th anniversary of Magnetic Resonance in Medical Sciences (MRMS) as the first editorial board director. The board of directors of the Japanese Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine discussed publishing an official English journal in 2000. Professor Kazuo Miyasaka, who was the president of the society, initiated to start the official English journal as soon as possible. I was nominated as the editorial board director, and Dr. Tsuneya Watabe, who was an associate professor of the Radiology Saitama Medical College and editor of the Japanese Journal of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, was appointed as the first editor-in-chief of the English journal. The journal name represents the quality and purpose; thus, we had a lot of discussions with the board of directors. MRMS was decided, based on the concept of not covering the international journals related to MRI at the time, such as Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (JMRI) and Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (MRM), and not including regional names such as Japanese.

Dr. Watabe started the Journal in a short period by providing the skeleton of the magazine almost by himself. We wrote original papers ourselves and collected papers from the editorial board and society members. Dr. Watabe worked hard and energetically, such as reviewing himself, to launch the book as soon as possible, and was able to publish the first volume in 2002. The original paper submitted by our group was published in the first volume, and I am enthusiastic about rereading it. We thought of a strategy to raise the Impact Factor to increase value as an international journal and collect excellent papers from all over the world. Currently, it is at 2.5, which is a major cause of high impact factor in diagnostic imaging magazines. I hope that MRMS will continue to develop as one of Japan’s leading MRI journals, making it a prestigious journal in the world.