Preface

We have changed the format of Chromosome Science greatly from its previous format. This is not merely a facelift of its cover design and articles, but includes changes to the systems of editing and publication. All of the articles in Chromosome Science will be accessible through J-STAGE, provided by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Using this system, articles in Chromosome Science will be found using search engines such as Google Scholar and will be indexed in databases including PubMed. In addition, access to Chromosome Science articles will be available online to everybody in the world, without the need to pay subscription fees to the publishers. As an open access journal, Chromosome Science provides everyone equal opportunity to obtain the latest information in the field of chromosome science.

The Society of Chromosome Research, which publishes Chromosome Science, was founded in 1947 by Professor Y. Shinoto of Tokyo University, as the ‘Chromosome Institute’ and changed its name to the present form in 1949. From the beginning, the society published the journal ‘Senshokutai’, which means chromosome in Japanese. Later, this journal was divided into ‘Senshokutai – La Kromosomo’ and the ‘Chromosome Information Service’ in 1960, and then reunited as ‘Chromosome Science’ in 1997.

We have known for more than half a century that information in genes is coded in DNA with the letters A, G, T, and C. The manner of heredity at the DNA level is very similar among all organisms and yet the number, size, and morphology of chromosomes vary greatly between species. It is difficult to address questions related to the systems of genetic inheritance without considering our knowledge of chromosome structure. In addition, recent functional studies of chromosomes, such as factors that regulate chromosomal behavior or gene expression, are revealing insights into the fundamental nature of organisms. Chromosome science is fast becoming one of the most advanced fields of scientific endeavor. On behalf of the editorial board members, we here declare to make Chromosome Science an international forum for all chromosome scientists to exchange their latest research and ideas about chromosomes.

Finally, we would like to end with a quote by Dr. H. Kihara, who was one of the founding committee members of the Society of Chromosome Research. This aphorism was presented for the first time at the first annual meeting of the Society of Chromosome Research held at Tokyo University in 1950, yet remains pertinent to this day.

“The history of the earth is recorded in the layers of its crust; the history of all organisms is inscribed in the chromosomes”

Hisashi Tsujimoto and Hideyuki Tanabe
Editors-in-Chief
Chromosome Science