Letter from the editor

We deliver *Synthesiology* Volume 5, Issue 3. In this issue, in addition to the five research papers, there is a roundtable talk with Prof. Masatoshi Ishikawa of the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo and the editors of *Synthesiology*, including former Editor-in-Chief Akira Ono and Executive Editor Motoyuki Akamatsu. The topic of the roundtable talk is “Creation of values and synthesis.” As stated in the declaration of the International Council for Science (Budapest) in 1999, one of the key phrases that characterizes science and technology of the 21st century is “science in society, science for society.” The point of view of Prof. Ishikawa, who asserts the necessity of “creation of new social value,” becomes clear through the exchanges with the *Synthesiology* editors. The new concept “justifiable failure” was explained in the roundtable talk, and this is an attractive concept that encourages the researchers who must accept the social scrutiny of their research outcomes after intrepidly engaging in research at a higher level from the perspective of value creation. As a reader, I read the article with great enthusiasm, as the approach method, where the research is developed under a scenario in which the value creation is thoroughly contemplated and established, is highly compatible with the research papers of this journal that aims for scenario building from a synthetic standpoint.

I succeeded the position of Dr. Ono, the former Editor-in-Chief, from April, and became the second editor-in-chief of *Synthesiology*. I had no previous experience in editing *Synthesiology*, and this is a start from zero, but I am able to face the research papers of each issue with a fresh attitude. The five papers published herein can be categorized by the subjects of research. They include the information technology field pertaining to database search, the materials science and metrology fields that aim for the discovery and utilization of new functions, the service engineering field for open field research, and the life science field that investigates sugar chains. Diverse fields are covered. The greatest characteristic of *Synthesiology* is the review of the papers of such wide-ranging fields from the perspective of “merit review rather than peer review” (as described by former Editor-in-Chief Ono in the roundtable talk) and to publish them as papers that stand on a common ground. I would like to continue in this footstep, and accept submissions from wider ranging groups and transmit this information. I am grateful to the great efforts of Dr. Ono to *Synthesiology*.

Editor-in-Chief
Shingo Ichimura