Editorial Overview

Sensing the Soul of Science via Sendai: The Prologue to the Tenth Decade of *TJEM*

Shigeki Shibahara

Editor-in-Chief, The Tohoku Journal of Experimental Medicine, Sendai, Japan

In 2010, the Tohoku Journal of Experimental Medicine (TJEM) marks its 90th anniversary of the founding. TJEM was founded in 1920 as an international journal, with passion of the three founding Editors, late Professors Toshihiko Fujita, Toyoziro Kato, and Yasutaro Satake, Tohoku Imperial University, Faculty of Medicine, Sendai, Japan. With this issue (Volume 220, Issue #1), TJEM has published 9,406 papers (from Volume 1, 1920). All the articles of TJEM (from 1920 to present) are freely available to everyone through the TJEM website (<http://www.journal.med.tohoku.ac.jp/>). In addition, all articles published in TJEM (from 1981 to present) are available through PubMed, without any barrier to access.

TJEM is a peer-reviewed journal publishing original research papers that make novel and important contributions to the understanding of medical sciences in all areas. In the first volume of TJEM, Kumagai and Osato (1920) suggested the presence of a glucoregulatory factor in the pancreas, which is now known as insulin. It is noteworthy that Frederick Grant Banting discovered insulin in 1921 and won the Nobel Prize in 1923. In the connection to insulin, Goto and colleagues established the rat model for diabetes mellitus, known as Goto-Kakizaki rats (Goto et al. 1976). Another seminal paper published in TJEM was by Ototaka Higashi, who observed the enlarged peroxidase granules in blood leukocytes derived from a patient with pigmentary abnormality and recurrent infections (Higashi 1954). His observation contributed to establish the new disease concept, Chediak-Higashi syndrome. As evident from the above referenced reports, TJEM has given great impacts to medical sciences.

From 1920 to 1955, articles of TJEM were written in one of three languages, German, English, and French. In 1956, English was determined as the official language in TJEM (from Volume 64). During the past 9 decades, TJEM has been published continuously, except for the year of 1946 just after the World War II. For the detailed information, readers are asked to consult the recent Editorial

(Shibahara 2009).

Since 1981, the Tohoku University Medical Press, a non-profit publisher in Sendai, is responsible for publication of TJEM, with a generous support by the Grant-in-Aid for Publication of Scientific Research Results from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. In 2004, the Tohoku University Medical Press launched TJEM as a free online journal with the support from the “Japan Science and Technology Information Aggregator, Electronic” (J-STAGE). With this achievement, TJEM has greatly enhanced its worldwide distribution. For example, a total of 150,000 TJEM papers were downloaded every year.

TJEM is your journal! TJEM is not associated with any scientific society, and thereby publishes seminal papers in all areas of medical sciences. TJEM entirely depends on volunteer work of excellent referees; currently, the review process averages 15 days. Every year, TJEM received about 450 manuscripts from authors around the world, and one-third of the submitted manuscripts were rejected after Editorial judgment, without detailed review. Accordingly, more than 600 referees worldwide participated in the peer review of the selected manuscripts that appear to meet the primary publication criteria. The overall acceptance rate is hovering at about 30% during the past five years. The relevant information is available through the TJEM website (<http://www.journal.med.tohoku.ac.jp/>).

As a part of the celebrations for the 90th anniversary, TJEM has organized the anniversary review series for expressing many thanks to readers. This issue contains a comprehensive review article with Toshiya Hirayama and colleagues that discusses on the pleiotropic actions of VacA, a vacuolating cytotoxin of *Helicobacter pylori* (page 3 of this issue).

Entering the tenth decade, TJEM will continue to play an important role in providing the forum for researchers and clinicians from any area of medical sciences. Readers are welcome to contribute to the evolution of TJEM in the tenth decade.

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Correspondence: Shigeki Shibahara, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Molecular Biology and Applied Physiology, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8575, Japan.

e-mail: shibahar@mail.tains.tohoku.ac.jp

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