

MESSAGE FOR THE 50TH VOLUME

Reflection on the 50th volume of the Keio Journal of Medicine

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This marks the 50th year of publication of the Keio Journal of Medicine, and I would like to express my sincere congratulations on this occasion. The School of Medicine, Keio University has long published two medical periodicals, the Keio Medical Journal (Keio Igaku) in Japanese and the Keio Journal of Medicine in the English language. It is distinctly unusual to encounter a medical school that has long maintained publication of a set of two academic journals, each in a different language. I am most grateful to the long and enduring dedication by many individuals involved in this undertaking and I am sure our readers are as well.

The Keio Journal of Medicine was first launched half a century ago by the late Professor Yoshio Kusama with a strong commitment to introduce the achievement of our medical school to the medical communities outside Japan. Dr. Kusama spent many years studying in the United States, and I am certain that this background worked as a strong impetus for his initiating this long lasting project. Many competent Editors in Chief, Professor Toshio Toyama, Professor Yonosuke Watanabe, Professor Toyomi Fujino and Professor Naoki Aikawa, the current Editor in Chief, have succeeded Dr. Kusama, each adding valuable novel contributions.

Until around 1980, numerous original papers of superb quality continued to be submitted to the Keio Journal of Medicine, and the journal kept up with the original purpose Dr. Kusama had set forth. However, what Dr. Kusama probably did not foresee was the

subsequent emergence of multiple journals dedicated to many specialized fields of medicine attracting submission of original works. Although this trend has resulted in a decline in the number of original papers submitted to the Keio Journal of Medicine, I am still convinced that the journal will continue to hold its place as the most important window through which the academic achievements of our medical school is shown to the world.

The undertaking of the publication has also made a change. The editorial office, which was originally placed within the Department of Public Health, was shifted to the Keio Medical Association because of financial and technical reasons. The Keio Medical Association currently publishes two medical journals. The Keio Medical Journal publishes many theses for doctorates in the Japanese language, while the Keio Journal of Medicine publishes original works on basic and clinical medicine, records of CPC's and commemorative lectures of the winners of the Keio Medical Prize, all in the English language. Proceedings of the Keio International Medical Symposium funded by the Sakaguchi Memorial Fund are being published biannually in the supplement issues of the Keio Journal of Medicine.

The Keio Journal of Medicine is our valuable inheritance, and the best way we can cherish it is to keep on submitting high quality papers.

Last but not least, I would like to express my high appreciation of the wonderful contributions being made by the Editor in Chief, Professor Naoki Aikawa, members of the editorial board, and the office clerks.