

MINIREVIEW SERIES FOR THE 50TH VOLUME

Preface to minireviews in this issue

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Editor

It is a great pleasure to introduce you to one of our trials of the new millennium in our journal. The Keio Journal of Medicine offers minireview series as a commemorative 50th volume throughout the year. In each issue of the Journal, the topics of minireview have been chosen by editors from many works in our alumni on the basis of their contribution to the science. In addition, the selected minireviews have been expanded to the academic achievements in our medical school. This issue's topic is "Organ Function and Its Metabolism" described by three outstanding authors in the Keio University School of Medicine who have been active as an opinion leader in their own fields. We provide three articles in this issue regarding the fundamental and clinical approach to the liver diseases and cerebral stroke. Professors Makoto Suematsu and Sadakazu Aiso, Department of Biochemistry and Anatomy in our medical school, describe on the late Professor Toshio Ito and his world-wide academic achievement of the liver-specific pericytes designated as Ito cells. As you know, Professor Ito is one of the true founders of the field of liver cell biology. Authors introduce Professor Ito's pioneering approaches for morphological and functional characterization of the liver-specific cells and their important roles in the liver homeostasis. Furthermore, this article describes recent molecular advances of pericyte biology and its future perspectives. Professor Isao Okazaki and his colleagues, Department of

Community Health, Tokai University School of Medicine, introduce their lifework regarding the mechanisms and pathogenesis of liver fibrosis. They first reported that the activity of collagenases in the liver has important implications of liver fibrosis. They have then investigated the molecular mechanisms of the pathogenesis of liver cirrhosis and have the suggestions on the novel genetic approaches for the treatment of liver fibrosis based on their own works. Finally, Dr. Takahiro Amano, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Neurology in our medical school, summarizes on the regulation of cerebral blood flow and its application to the therapy for stroke. Professor Emeritus Fumio Gotoh established the basis of neuroscience in our medical school and developed the research on cerebral blood flow and stroke. He introduces many investigations in his research group which has a long history in our medical school. This work is proud of our medical school as a mixture of the traditional medical investigations and modern molecular approaches to the clinical settings. There is no better way to welcome our new trials of the 50th volume of the Journal and the new millennium than to read and review in our discipline. The work described in the minireviews will equip us better to know the medical topics now and in the future. We sincerely hope that the minireviews will enhance readers' enjoyment and advance their understanding of what is the our academic tradition of the Keio Igaku.