

FOREWORD

Over ten years have passed since the establishment of this Institute in 1967 for "basic" and "applied" research on cancer. At the time of its inauguration, this Institute comprised seven basic research departments in medicine and biology, one department in clinical research, and an affiliated hospital. Later, the Department of Biophysics was added in 1969, and the Department of Surgery in 1977, now making a total of ten departments. These circumstances have extensively improved its organization, staffs, facilities and equipment, and the research activities are now reaching almost full operation.

It is our objective, and our hope, that the comprehensive program in research activities will strengthen the function of this Institute to maintain its traditional excellence and its fearless attitude of mind in exploring new fields in cancer research. The activities of this Institute during the past year have focussed on the problems of cancer in human beings and scientific explorations into the nature, causes, prevention and treatment of cancer.

At the same time, it is fully realized that a great deal of attention must be paid to the investigation of fundamental subjects in biology and medicine in order best to serve the ultimate purposes of the Institute. The elucidation of fundamental problems must be allowed to make persistently every effort in order to break through difficulties which may arise in cancerous problems.

One of the unique activities in this Institute is that there are large-scale co-operative projects involving the staffs of all departments, while the various phases of research are conducted more or less independently in different departments. These subjects are concerned with problems on 1) mechanism(s) for acquiring immunity against cancer and 2) carcinogenic and carcinostatic mechanisms based on the analysis of cell growth control factor(s). Although this promising research project has just begun since 1977, it has turned out fairly well with some notable results. I believe that such co-operative studies propelled by specialists from different fields might inevitably result in a coordinated wide scope which is mutually helpful and stimulating.

These general principles of the conduct of research are materializing in the actual fruitful out-put of the Institute, as this and other volumes to follow will show.

The gist of these activities has also been listed in the "International Directory of Specialized Cancer Research and Treatment Establishments" of UICC, and scientific information generated by the research activities of this Institute is supplied to the International Cancer Research Data Bank (ICRDB) for international exchange of research information. I sincerely feel that in order to accomplish our aimed goal we need to have further exchanges of scientific knowledge and information between institutions

and individual research workers of our own as well as of foreign countries, wherever similar interests are the matter of investigation. I shall be delighted if this volume would also make a contribution to such need.

In addition to the research activities I should make mention briefly of clinical and educational activities. As for the clinical activities of this Institute, mass examination for gastric cancer is being extensively carried out, as a part of the efforts for early detection of cancer in the gastrointestinal tract, the incidence of which is especially high in this district. On the other hand there is also a program for social education on cancer extending to the inhabitants. In this respect, it can be said that the Institute now enjoys the role as a regional center for cancer research, its treatment, and educational movements against cancer. Illustrating some of these activities, the research conference and the extension lecture are cited at the end of this volume. We have provided a series of lecture on topics of life science, especially of cancer. The lecture course, open to adult citizens, was planned replying to a request from the Extension Institute of Kanazawa University. Various scientific meetings including seminars given by guests and the formal research conference were also held twice a year in this Institute.

For the future progress of this Institute, the basic plan at its inauguration should be added or extended to be profitable for the present status and future advances in cancer research and therapy. Planning for the future would be recognized as an act of development of new research fields and would be based on the hope that we will make a contribution to the welfare of mankind.

It is hoped that many young and qualified scientists will gather in this Institute for the great mission in the complete suppression of cancer, and to carry out creative research works on a world-wide scale. At the same time, we must not relax our effort – rather we must increase it, for being sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of the local community.

Finally, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for its understanding of our research organizations throughout the world, and to hundreds and millions of people in all walks of life for their co-operation and encouragement. May I also take this opportunity to announce that Prof. Ryo Ito, the former director of this Institute and head of the Department of Pharmacology, retired in April, 1978, and that I have assumed the directorship of this Institute.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Koshimura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Saburo Koshimura, PhD.
Director