

EDITORIAL

It was 1954 when the Japan Society of Anesthesiology was founded as a scientific organization to address the problems of anesthesia and its related fields. Since that time, the increasing importance of the anesthesiologist in medical practice has been reflected in the steady growth of the Society, both in numbers and in strength. A great amount of knowledge and progressive interest in anesthesiology has developed and, during the past thirty-three years, our Society has made a great contribution to this new field of medicine. As a result of our pioneering efforts, anesthesiology in Japan is now rated highly worldwide, in terms of its scientific and technological achievements.

Up to the present, there have been many important scientific papers published in Japan. Yet, as all this valuable research appears only in our language, very few outside this country can fully understand the contents. We are a nation sealed off from the world and a medical journal in English devoted to imparting our scientific research would seem to be not only desirable but vital.

Thoughts of publishing a journal of our Society in English thus developed as an inevitable consequence and, after long and careful debate, we have determined to do so. The *Journal of Anesthesia* is an official publication of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology and is intended to provide a forum where new trends in Japanese practice and research are presented.

It is our wish that, by means of this new venture, Japanese techniques, clinical problems, and continuing research will now become available to anesthesiologists throughout the world, fostering a greater exchange of ideas and even of personnel. We believe that this journal will serve as a catalyst to inspire further development in our field and bring great benefit to every aspect of anesthesiology in Japan.

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Editor-in-Chief
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