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## Preface

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The 25th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Biomedical Mass Spectrometry (JSBMS) was held at Kojin-kaikan, the Alumni Association Hall of Hiroshima University School of Medicine in Hiroshima, Japan, September 28–30, 2000. The meeting featured a symposium for members as well as a public symposium, a workshop and 34 oral presentations.

In the symposium “Development (Current Situation) of newborn screening by chemical diagnostic method using GC/MS in Asia”, the chairpersons were Prof. Dr. Akira Shimizu, and Dr. Chunhua Zhang. The speakers and their topics were Dr. Xu Keming: High risk screening for inborn error of metabolism using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS); Dr. Pornswan Wasant: Establishment of GC/MS analytical center by JICA’s support and IEM found in Thailand; Dr. Usha Dave: Chemical diagnosis of congenital metabolic disorders by gas chromatography / mass spectrometry (GC/MS) in India – Problems & prospects in screening; Dr. Lu Chuanzhu: The screening of 113 congenital metabolic diseases of neonates and mass screening of that of children in China by gas chromatography – mass spectrometry analyzing methods; and Dr. Ichiro Yoshida: How to select target diseases of IEM in Asian countries.

In the public symposium “Clinical application of mass spectrometry in pediatrics”, the chairpersons were Prof. Dr. Tomiko Kuhara and Prof. Dr. Makoto Yoshino. The speakers and their topics were Dr. Yosuke Shigematsu: Acylcarnitine analysis by tan-

dem mass spectrometry for diagnosis of metabolic disorders; Dr. Masahiko Kimura: Screening methods for fatty acid beta oxidation disorders using GC/MS-Stable isotope acylglycine analysis and free fatty acid analysis; Dr. Takehisa Fujiwaki: Application of DE MALDI-TOF/MS to diagnosis sphingolipidosis; Dr. Akihiko Kimura: Inborn errors of bile acid metabolism; Dr. Mizuho Une: Abnormality of bile acid biosynthesis in peroxisomal Disorders; Dr. Keiko Homma: Diagnosis of 21-hydroxylase deficiency in infancy by urinary steroid profile using GCMS-SIM; and Dr. Akira Shimizu: Diagnosis by the analysis of protein variants and adducts.

In the workshop “Information on new instruments: Frontiers of MS technology for the 21st century”, seven manufacturers presented their new mass spectrometers.

The topics of the oral presentations included topics such as mass spectrometric application to metabolic disorders, protein chemistry and forensic toxicology.

More than 100 scientists participated in the meeting, and all presentations produced enthusiastic and valuable discussion. Selected papers from the meeting are published in this special issue.

Tohru Kojima  
(Chairperson of 25th Annual Meeting of JSBMS)

Toshimitsu Niwa  
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