



Preface

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Biomedical Mass Spectrometry (JSBMS) was held on September 12 through 14, 2002 at Kurume University School of Medicine, Kurume, Japan.

Unique and highly original papers were submitted for the free communication sessions, covering topics on pharmaceutical sciences, toxicology and forensic medicine and clinical medicine. The special lecture 'The triggering mechanism of the stress response' was offered by Dr. Masatoshi Tanaka, Professor of Pharmacology and Director of Research Institute for Biomedical Mass Spectrometry, Kurume University School of Medicine. In addition, two distinguished guests were invited for lectures. Dr. Hiroyuki Matsumoto, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Oklahoma University School of Medicine, USA, gave a talk titled 'Abductive inference in proteomic approach and its application to complex signaling systems'. Dr. Masayasu Kojima, Professor at the Molecular Life Sciences Institute, Kurume University, presented a history of discovery of a bioactive peptide 'Ghrelin', under the title 'Discovery of a novel hormone "Ghrelin"; its structure and physiological function'. The JSBMS junior award winner for 2002, Dr. Chunhua Zhang, read a paper 'six cases MSUD discovered by high risk baby's screening using GC/MS method'.

Two symposia were held. The first one was 'Search for bioactive molecules in the post-genome medical sciences and MS', chaired by Prof. Akira Shimizu and Prof. Yoshinao Wada. There were four speakers in this symposium. Dr. Wada gave a talk titled 'MS and related methods for proteomics'. The title of Dr. Toyofumi Nakanishi's talk was 'Expression proteomics of angiogenic modulated factors in human vitreous humors'.

The third speaker, Dr. Naoto Minamino, talked on a topic headed 'Construction and application of peptidome fact-database for endogenous peptides'. The

last speaker was Dr. Michiyo Tsuru, who gave a talk under the title of 'Proteome analysis of ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament (OPLL)'.

The second symposium was on application of mass spectrometry to clinical medicine, chaired by Prof. Tomiko Kuhara and Dr. Toyofumi Nakanishi. Six speakers took part in this symposium. The first speaker, Dr. Yushiro Yamashita gave a talk 'Decreased urine beta-phenylethylamine in children with ADHD and autistic disorder'. Dr. Tomiko Kuhara talked about 'Rapid and highly accurate chemical diagnosis for genetic disorders of purine and pyrimidine metabolism'. Dr. Masaru Tasaka presented a talk titled 'Semiquantification of sphingomyelin and glucosylceramide in liver and spleen from patients with Niemann-Pick type A, Niemann-Pick type C and Gaucher disease analyzed by DE-MALDI-TOFMS'. Dr. Ayako Miyazaki talked about 'Variant hemoglobin identified by new protocol with ion trap LC/MSⁿ and mass chromatogram'. The last speaker, Dr. Rina Kaneko, gave a talk titled 'Mass spectrometry of nitrosylated proteins and peptides'.

In the Workshop 'Application of mass spectrometry to the clinical research: update', a total of six delegates from the manufacturers of mass spectrometer and related instrumentations presented updated technical advances in this field.

We are grateful to all the members of the Society who participated in this Meeting, and those who contributed excellent papers to this special issues.

We also should like to thank Prof. Lawrence Sweetman and his colleagues for their inspiring invited review.

Makoto Yoshino

Chairperson of the 27th Annual Meeting of JSBMS

Toshimitsu Niwa

Editor-in-Chief of JSBMS

Tohru Kojima

President of JSBMS