



## Preface

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Biochemical Mass Spectrometry (JSBMS) was held in September 2004, at Izumo City, Shimane, Japan. Izumo, a peaceful, country town located 200 km north of Hiroshima, faces the Sea of Japan. It is famous in Japan because of the Izumo-Taisha Shrine which was believed to be a government office of the ancient independent country called the “Izumo Kingdom”. It is thought that the god of marriage now resides here, therefore many young couples and devotees visit this shrine every year.

In February 2004, Professor Isamu Matsumoto passed away. He was a great leader and pioneer in the field of medical mass spectrometry in Japan, and was also a founder of JSBMS. In this meeting, the Dr. Isamu Matsumoto memorial symposium was planned on the second day, and was titled “The Beginning to the Future of Biomedical Mass Spectrometry”. The symposium was opened with remarks by Professor A. Shimizu (The president of JSBMS). He was followed by: Dr. A. Hayashi (Professor Emeritus of Kinki University, “Memories of Dr. Isamu Matsumoto”), Dr. I. Yano (President of Japan BCG Central Laboratory, “Memory to Emeritus Professor Isamu Matsumoto and the Japanese Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Society”), T. Kojima (Professor Emeritus of Hiroshima University, the former president of JSBMS, “Certification of Methamphetamine Abuse”), Dr. T. Suzuki (President of Kinki Central Hospital, “A Reminiscence of the Japanese Society for Medical Mass Spectrometry”), Professor T. Kuhara (Kanazawa Medical University, Chief of the JSBMS Secretary Office, “From Metabolic Profiling to Metabolome Science”), and Professor S. Yamaguchi (Department of Pediatrics, Shimane University, the chairperson of this annual meeting, “Mass Spectrometry and Pediatrics”).

The keynote lecture was made by Professor R. Taguchi, of the Department of Metabolome, The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine. His topic was “A Prospect of Metabolomics—Focus on Lipidomics”. Two workshop sessions were scheduled: (1) “New Technologies of Biomedical Mass Spectrometry” (four speakers from mass spectrometry

companies), and (2) “Application of Tandem Mass Spectrometry in the clinical field” (four speakers from the fields of pharmacology, pediatrics and laboratory medicine). Currently, newborn mass screening for metabolic disorders using tandem mass spectrometry is becoming popular worldwide. Proteomics after the genomics era using mass spectrometric procedure such as MALDI-TOF/MS is becoming an important topic in every medical research field. It is notable that the Nobel Prize was given to two doctors for the development of the new technology of mass spectrometry in 2002. I believe that the importance of mass spectrometry in the medical research field will greatly increase in the near future.

We also benefited from educational lectures on legal medicine and proteome analysis as well as 28 free papers submitted on topics such as pharmacology, toxicology, legal medicine, environmental medicine, and clinical medicine. We are grateful to all participants who contributed to the success of this annual meeting of JSBMS at Izumo. We are also grateful to all participants and staff of department of Pediatrics Shimane University School of Medicine for excellent papers, vigorous discussion and cooperation.

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Available online 1 June 2005