Preface

Once again, it is time for us to release to the world our reports on eosinophils, some other cells and factors involved in allergies. Here published are the proceedings of the 19th Workshop on Eosinophils in Allergy and Related Diseases held in Tokyo on June 24th, 2006. Mast cells, basophils, T cells, airway epithelial cells and airway smooth muscle cells, in addition to eosinophils, were included in our research targets to reveal the pathogenesis of allergic inflammation, particularly of asthma, and to find a new strategy to treat allergies in a better way. The expansion of the research repertoire of the papers presented at the workshop may be a reflection of the fact that the clinical study with the humanized anti-IL-5 monoclonal antibody did not show beneficial effects on asthma. This is also a sign of a widening of our view of the roles of eosinophils and the pathogenesis of allergic diseases such as asthma. This trend will hopefully lead us to reach some conclusions on how eosinophils are involved in asthma or allergic diseases together with other pro-inflammatory cells and factors.

At the workshop in 2006, 7 sessions and 25 papers were presented. Moreover, an invited lecture was given by Dr. Simon Hogan, whose paper is included as a plenary review in this supplement issue of *International Archives of Allergy and Immunology*. The papers are presented in various ways in this supplement issue, i.e. as peer-reviewed papers, peer-reviewed original papers, abstracts, and titles only. Those appearing as abstracts or titles only are of projects on the way to completion or projects to be published in a different journal as full papers.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Novartis Pharma K.K. (Tokyo) for supporting this workshop, and to the staff of International Medical Publishers Ltd. (Tokyo) for their excellent editing work.

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