Preface

The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA) has organized the core symposiums during the annual scientific meeting that highlight current developments and future progress in pivotal topics of broad interest in gastroenterology. This time, we have decided to publish a supplement in *Digestion*, the official journal of the JGA, under the title of 'Reviews in Basic and Clinical Gastroenterology', providing a collection of mini-reviews based on the presentations at the core symposiums during the past 2 JGA meetings. This issue contains 7 reviews, dealing with the topics 'diagnosis for early detection of colorectal neoplasia', 'chemotherapy for colorectal cancer', 'endoscopic surgery of early gastric cancer', 'palliative radiation therapy for advanced gastrointestinal cancer', 'pharmacological therapy for ulcerative colitis', 'sonic hedgehog signaling of intestinal epithelial cell renewal' and 'assessment of gastroduodenal motility by ultrasonography', respectively. These articles have been developed by the experts of the JGA members with broad collective knowledge and experience to update and educate gastroenterologists, internists and primary-care physicians who provide basic and clinical advice and treat patients with various gastrointestinal diseases. We thank each author who contributed to this supplement, for clearly without the excellence of their contributions this publication would not have come true. Finally, we hope that this special issue, containing mini-review articles by Japanese gastroenterologists, will be read by many gastroenterologists abroad and will be useful to all those involved in treating patients with diseases in the gastrointestinal tract.

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Koji Takeuchi has acted as a guest editor for publication of this supplement sponsored by The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the JGA and acts as the JGA Editorial Representative in *Digestion*, the Official Journal of the JGA.