Preface

The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA) has continuously been organizing the core symposiums at the annual scientific meetings that were focusing on current developments and future progress on basic and clinical topics in gastroenterology. The 4 basic and clinical topics – (1) new research trends in gastrointestinal tracts: inflammation and cancer, (2) functional gastrointestinal disorders, (3) diagnostic and therapeutic strategies on gastrointestinal cancer based on molecular mechanisms and (4) the issues on colorectal cancer in the tangency between the clinical and the pathological aspects – have been continuously discussed during the 1st to the 4th annual meetings.

This supplement in *Digestion* covers the basic and clinical topics of the core symposiums presented at the 3rd (February 2007 in Tokyo, organized by Prof. Sugihara) and the 4th (February 2008 in Osaka, organized by Prof. Arakawa) annual scientific meetings under the title of ‘New Trends in Basic and Clinical Gastroenterology’. This issue contains 7 reviews, focusing on the topics (1) epigenetic alterations in cholangiocarcinoma, (2) new hypothesis on the development of colorectal epithelial neoplasia, (3) impaired inhibitory gastric emptying regulation in functional dyspepsia, (4) diagnostic proposal for patients with abdominal symptoms in clinical practice, (5) adiposity and gastrointestinal cancer, (6) p53 muta-

tions in gastrointestinal cancer and, finally, (7) pathological diagnosis and therapeutic strategy for early colorectal cancer, a high-quality review presented by Prof. Fujimori and Prof. Sugihara. These articles are presented by experts of the JGA members, who were selected by 2 chairpersons of the core symposiums. The last elegant overview by the chairpersons Prof. Fujimori and Prof. Sugihara summarizes 19 papers presented in the core symposiums. All articles will surely introduce a new trend in basic and clinical gastroenterology to all members of JGA as well as gastroenterologists abroad and will provide valuable benefits to patients with gastrointestinal disorders. Finally, we would like to express great thanks to each author who contributed to the publication of this supplement, as this would never have been achieved without their excellent contributions.

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Disclosure Statement

Toshiro Sugiyama 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.