Preface

H.	Hajime	Orimo
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Chairman, regional committee of the Sandoz Foundation for Gerontological Research

The number of elderly people is increasing both in the industrialized and in the developing countries, and we are faced with many problems linked with this phenomenon. It is our responsibility to tackle this difficult but important issue. Gerontology is a discipline which is concerned with the studies on aging from various fields, biological, medical and social sciences, and promotion of research in gerontology is indispensable for the resolution of various problems related to aging.

In 1986, Sandoz Ltd., Basel, created the Sandoz Foundation for Gerontological Research. This foundation is international and is intended to encourage scientists to undertake innovative research projects in the field of gerontology all over the world. It is composed of the board of trustees: Prof. H.B. Stähelin (chairman), Dr. H.P. Sigg (deputy chairman), Prof. P. Berchtold, Prof. F. Waldvogel, Prof. J. Angst, Prof. U.A. Meyer, Prof. J.J. Dreifuss and Dr. L. Abisch (secretary). The foundation supports gerontological research all over of the world, in North America, Europe, Latin America, the Asia Oceania region and Japan. Each region has its own committee for the selection of applicants for grants from the foundation.

As for the Japanese committee, it is composed of H. Orimo (chairman), S. Hiraï, Y. Kumahara, F. Kuzuya and K. Hasegawa.

The aim of the foundation is to promote disciplines which are concerned with the problems of aging, particularly biology, pharmacology, immunology, geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine. On November 5, 1991, during the annual meeting of the Japan Gerontological Society held in Yokohama, the third symposium by the 7 winners of the grants from the Sandoz Foundation for Gerontological Research in 1989 was held. These are the proceedings of the symposium, demonstrating the activity of the foundation in Japan.