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 in both industrialized as well as developing countries, and we are faced with many problems connected with this phenomenon. It is our responsibility to tackle this difficult but important issue. Gerontology is a discipline which brings together studies on aging from various fields including the biological, medical and social sciences and promotes research into the various problems related to aging.

In 1984, Sandoz, Basel, established the Sandoz Foundation for Gerontological Research. The foundation is international and aims to encourage scientists all over the world to undertake innovative research projects in the field of gerontology. It is composed of the board of trustees: Prof. H.B. Stähelin (president), Prof. P. Berchtold (vice-president), Prof. J. Angst, Prof. J.J. Dreifuss, Prof. U.A. Meyer, Prof. J.G. Nicholls, Prof. F. Waldvogel and Mr. C. Studer (secretary). The foundation supports gerontological research all over the world: in North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia, Oceania and Japan. Each region has its own committee for the selection of applicants applying for grants from the foundation.

The Japanese committee comprises H. Orimo (chairman), K. Hasegawa, S. Hirai, Y. Kumahara, F. Kuzuya and Y. Sa-kaki.

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. During the annual meeting of the Japan Gerontological Society held in Sapporo on September 24, 1993, the fifth symposium by the 9 winners of the grants from the Sandoz Foundation for Gerontological Research in 1991 was held. These are the proceedings of the symposium, demonstrating the foundation's activity in Japan.