Preface

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It has been shown that eosinophils play a vital part in the pathophysiology of allergic and atopic diseases as the eosinophil-Th2-cell-mast-cell axis, so that its modulation is of great significance in the treatment of atopic diseases. Along with these findings, biological activity mechanisms of eosinophils including their proliferation, chemotaxis, activation and tissue toxicity have been widely elucidated in recent years. The topics of research on eosinophils include eosinophil growth factors, eosinophil chemotactic factors, adhesion molecules, interactions between eosinophils and constitutive cells of the target organs, intracellular signal transduction, surface materials and biological active substance from eosinophils. The genetic control of these molecules is of great interest.

Atopic diseases have increased sharply in Japan in recent years. Many researchers have focused their attention on eosinophils in order to investigate pathophysiology and therapy of these diseases. Because of this background, in 1988 we founded the Eosinophil in Allergy Research Workshop, which once each year makes public the studies on eosinophils and allergy for the purpose of elucidating the pathophysiology of allergic diseases and applying the findings to therapy.

The study meeting of last year, the eighth of its kind, took place in Tokyo on May 27 and 28, 1994. The present proceedings are based on papers announced at this meeting. These proceedings will show the present status of the research on eosinophils and we believe this would contribute to the development of research in this field.

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