Opening Remarks

T.

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Good morning, dear colleagues and friends On behalf of the organizers, advisory committee, planning committee and the secretarial office, I would like to welcome all of you to this 1-day symposium on autoimmune skin diseases.

As you are aware, this symposium is planned as one of the satellite symposia of the successfully ended 2nd Tricon-tinental Meeting of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology, the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research held on October 28-31, 1993, at Kyoto International Conference Hall, Kyoto, Japan. It is carefully organized mainly by the great effort of my colleague, Dr. Takashi Hashimoto.

The main purpose of the symposium is to address issues related to a variety of skin diseases in which autoimmune mechanisms are deeply involved, in particular various types of autoimmune blistering diseases and connective tissue diseases showing characteristic skin lesions. For example, all of the participants can easily diagnose the patient (fig. 1) as suffering from pemphigus. Many of you, especially Japanese colleagues, can note that the eruption presented here (fig. 2) is an annular erythema characteristic of Sjögren's syndrome.

Painstaking efforts have been made in each continent by many investigators since the introduction of immunofluo-

Patient presenting with crusty and erosive lesions.

Annular erythema
typical of Sjögren's
syndrome.

Fig Fig

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Fig. 3. Participants of pemphigus research projects.

rescence and the immune peroxidase method into dermatology followed by immunochemistry and most recently by molecular biological techniques.

The nicest thing about this symposium is that we could attract outstanding investigators from all over the world, i.e. Austria, Finland, France, the FRG, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the UK and the USA, though we miss pioneers in this field like Beutner, Burnham, Chorzelski, Jablonska, Jordon, An-halt and others.

We are particularly happy that we could offer an opportunity for European and American investigators to meet each other here in Japan.

For your information, allow me to present one old picture taken 16 years ago when we completed a 3 years' term of pemphigus research projects supported by the Ministry of Welfare of Japan (fig. 3). It was the dawn of our investigation in this field which has advanced considerably since then.

Thank you very much for your participation despite your busy schedule, and I hope that you will find this symposium enjoyable by extensive discussions, exchange of ideas, getting to know each other and a renewal of your old friendship.

Nishikawa

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