Preface

Since Paul Ehrlich discovered eosinophils in 1879, they have attracted significant interest since eosinophilia has been associated with allergy. Recent experimental and clinical advances in eosinophil-deficient mice and anti-interleukin-5 antibodies have improved our understanding of the role of eosinophils in the pathogenesis of allergic diseases such as asthma. Despite the growing body of information gained through research in cellular and molecular biology, we still do not know the precise roles of eosinophils in physiological conditions and/or in the cascade of events associated with eosinophilic disorders.

The 21st Annual Workshop on Eosinophils in Allergy and Related Diseases was held in Tokyo on June 20, 2009, with 21 cutting-edge research presentations. This workshop provided a forum for interested basic scientists and clinicians to exchange and discuss new insights regarding the role of eosinophils and other cells and factors involved in the pathogenesis of allergic diseases. I would like to thank all the participants who gave us the strength and energy to continue our research. I definitely believe that the talent of our membership will continue to promote excellence in future allergology research via mutual networking. It is our great pleasure to release the present proceedings, including peer-reviewed original papers and reviews. Several abstracts and titles which will be published in full elsewhere are also included.

The 6th Biennial International Symposium of the International Eosinophil Society was also held last year, in Bruges, Belgium. It was a great opportunity for scientists and clinicians/investigators from all over the world to meet, exchange information and spark collaborations to advance research in the fields of eosinophil-associated allergy and other diseases.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Novartis Pharma K.K. (Tokyo) for supporting this workshop, and to the staff of the International Medical Publishers Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan) for their excellent editing work.

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