Preface

The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA) organized the core symposia of the annual scientific meetings that focused on the current developments and future progress of basic and clinical topics in gastroenterology. At the 5th Annual Meeting of the JGA (held in Tokyo in February 2009 and organized by Professor Sakamoto), new topics for the core symposia were selected, namely: (1) research progress on inflammation, restitution and regeneration in gastrointestinal tracts, (2) functional dyspepsia beyond the Rome III criteria, (3) diagnostic and therapeutic strategies on gastrointestinal cancer based on molecular mechanisms, and (4) issues on colorectal cancer in the tangency between clinical and pathological aspects. As of this issue, the JGA Supplement in *Digestion* has been changed to *Digestion JGA Special Issue*, however *Digestion* is, of course, the official journal of the JGA and all manuscripts were reviewed under official review processes by guest editors of *Digestion*. In addition, the JGA has decided to select six distinguished papers presented at this annual scientific meeting, besides the four core symposia.

This *Digestion JGA Special Issue* has included two reviews and eight original articles under the title of 'New Trends in Basic and Clinical Gastroenterology'. These are the following: (1) Pathophysiological classification of functional dyspepsia using a novel drinking-ultrasonography test, (2) Molecular diagnosis and translymphatic chemotherapy targeting sentinel lymph nodes of patients with early gastrointestinal cancers, (3) Challenges in staging systems for colorectal cancer, from the core symposia, and (4) MicroRNAs and esophageal squamous cell carcinoma, (5) Intracellular transloca-

tion signaling of HB-EGF C-terminal fragment and mucosal defense through cell proliferation and migration in digestive tracts, (6) The role of transient receptor potential A1 in gastric nociception, (7) Characteristics of symptomatic reflux episodes in patients with non-erosive reflux disease, (8) Prevention of traditional NSAID-induced small intestinal injury: recent preliminary studies using capsule endoscopy, (9) Long-term outcome after double-balloon endoscopy in patients with obscure gastrointestinal bleeding, and (10) Increased expression of DNA methyltransferase-1 in non-neoplastic epithelium helps predict colorectal neoplasia risk in ulcerative colitis.

All articles are presented by experts and members of the JGA, who were selected by two chairpersons of the core symposia, symposia and workshops. They will surely inform of a new trend in basic and clinical gastroenterology which will provide highly valuable benefits to patients with gastrointestinal disorders. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all authors and chairpersons for contributing to this special issue, as it would not have been achieved without their excellent assistance.

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Chairperson of the Association Journal Committee of the JGA

Toshiro Sugiyama has acted as a guest editor for the publication of this special issue sponsored by The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the JGA and acts as the JGA Editorial Representative in *Digestion*, the Official Journal of the JGA.