Preface

The Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA) organizes the core symposia at the annual scientific meetings, and the official journal of JGA originally published the papers or reviews presented at the core symposia of the meetings. As the emerging issues on basic and clinical research in gastroenterology are rapidly evolving, other topics on current developments in this field should be focused on and covered in our official journal.

The JGA Supplement in *Digestion* was changed to *Digestion JGA Special Issue*; however, *Digestion* is off course the official journal of JGA and all the articles in this issue were officially reviewed by guest editors of *Digestion*. The present *Digestion JGA Special Issue 2011* has included five reviews and seven original articles presented at the 6th Annual Meeting of JGA held in Fukuoka, February 2010, and organized by Prof. Mitsuo Iida of Kyushu University. The new topics of the core symposia that were selected include: (1) diagnostic and therapeutic strategies on gastrointestinal cancer based on molecular mechanisms (basic research), (2) functional disorders in gastrointestinal tracts, and (3) the progress of diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases by magnifying NBI endoscopy. Three papers were selected from these core symposia. In addition, the editorial board of JGA decided to select nine distinguished papers presented at the annual scientific meeting, including: (4) gastrointestinal disorders due to NSAID use, (5) metabolic syndrome associated with gastrointestinal disorders, (6) NBI magnifying colonoscopy for colorectal cancer, (7) clinical outcome after laparoscopic surgery for advanced gastric cancer, (8) REG-1 and p53 expressions in pre-neoplastic lesions in

ulcerative colitis, (9) the function of fibroblast growth factor 15 in colonic epithelial cells (basic research), (10) clinical features of gastrointestinal follicular lymphomas, (11) a new antibiotic combination treatment for steroid-dependent ulcerative colitis, and (12) colonoscopic findings and pathologic characteristics of stronglyloid colitis.

In the last part of *Digestion JGA Special Issue 2011*, the 32 abstracts of the 4th International Gastrointestinal Consensus Symposium (IGICS) have been published because the JGA Special Issues were annually published from the previous year and the publication process was accelerated due to the great efforts of the board members and could be published before the next 7th Annual Scientific Meeting held in Kyoto.

All of the articles will without doubt inform on the emerging issues in basic and clinical gastroenterology to all members of the JGA as well as gastroenterologists abroad, and will provide 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.

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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 for *Digestion*, the official journal of the JGA.