Preface

Eosinophils are believed to play an important role in the pathophysiology of allergic diseases through the release of a variety of inflammatory mediators. For example, accumulating evidence has established the significant contribution of eosinophils to the development of airway remodeling that is observed in asthma. Recent evidence indicates that, in severe asthmatics with persistent sputum eosinophilia, treatment with anti-IL-5 mAb reduces asthma exacerbations and the requirement for systemic corticosteroids and improves asthma-related quality of life measures. Furthermore, antagonizing IL-5 could be an effective strategy for controlling hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES). These facts underscore the ongoing importance of research to sufficiently establish the mechanisms of eosinophil differentiation, infiltration, and activation.

The 22nd Annual Workshop on Eosinophils in Allergy and Related Diseases was held in Tokyo on June 19, 2010, with a special lecture and 31 original research presentations related to eosinophil biology and its clinical correlates. These proceedings include 17 original papers, 1 case report, and 4 review papers. Three abstracts, some of which have been published elsewhere, are also included. The titles of the remaining 6 workshop presentations are listed at the end of this issue. We do hope that these studies contribute to a better understanding of the pathophysiology and treatment of allergy and eosinophil-associated diseases.

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