Preface

The 8th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Gastroenterological Association (JGA) was organized by Prof. Hongo and held in Sendai from 9th to 11th February, 2012. The Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 caused tremendous and severe damage on the Pacific Coast in the area of Sendai, which was close to the epicenter. The meeting was held successfully in spite of being immediately after the great earthquake because of the efforts of the organizing committee members. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Hongo and the other members of the organizing committee.

At the 8th Annual Meeting of the JGA new topics from various fields, including functional gastrointestinal disorders, endoscopic diagnosis and treatment, gastrointestinal carcinogenesis, and molecular diagnosis and chemotherapy of gastrointestinal cancers, were presented. As a response to the great earthquake, Prof. Hongo added special sessions focusing on disaster medicine and there was special focus placed on gastrointestinal diseases after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The articles presented in the upcoming JGA Special Issue in 2013 represent the best presentations from the

8th Annual Meeting of the JGA. The two reviews and eight original articles accepted for final publication were chosen from a pool of papers recommended by session chairpersons; subsequently, the editorial committee of the JGA selected distinguished papers from those recommendations and invited those authors to submit their papers for this issue. All manuscripts were independently reviewed by two members of the JGA editorial committee.

The articles in this issue cover a variety of topics in gastroenterology, including a special topic by Kanno et al. on hemorrhagic ulcers following the Great East Japan Earthquake. We believe this issue will provide useful information and promote further advances in basic and clinical gastroenterology.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all the authors and chairpersons for their contributions to this special issue.

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Associated Journal Committee of the JGA