Normal and Abnormal Epidermal Differentiation

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Preface
This third meeting in the series of Japan-U.S. joint seminars on biochemical aspects of epidermal differentiation held in Tokyo continued the energetic scholarly interchange begun in 1976. Some of the questions raised at that time in Sendai, Japan, and discussed further three years later at Boyne Falls, Michigan, in the United States, were clarified at this latest meeting. The published proceedings of these three conferences document the increasing technical sophistication with which this subject is being attacked on both sides of the Pacific. As an innovation, this latest conference included a delegate from Australia and one from the British Isles.

This volume is dedicated to the memory of Makoto Seiji who passed away before the book went to press. In his death, dermatology has lost a significant contributor. We, his colleagues, will miss his thoughtful comments and his valuable advice. His spirit will certainly influence the intellectual atmosphere of future conferences in this series.

All those involved with the publication of these proceedings hope that the contents will be useful to the field world-wide. Special thanks are due to Drs. K. Toda and H. Ogawa who, under trying circumstances, took care of the logistics of the meeting and the editing of the book. The editors are especially grateful to Etsuko Hamao of the University of Tokyo Press for shouldering the heavy burden of directing the actual publication of the book.

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