Editorial

Digestive Surgery welcomes the Japanese Society of Gastrointestinal Surgery (JSGS). We are proud that this famous Japanese Society, after careful evaluation of several international surgical journals, has decided to adopt *Digestive Surgery* as its official international journal.

After an almost 20-year period of being a mainly European-based journal managed by a renowned Swiss publisher *Digestive Surgery* now opens the doors to a broad Asian readership, and will thereby become a truly intercontinental journal.

European surgeons have learned a great deal from Japan over the last 30 years. This is true in particular for the treatment of gastrointestinal tumors. Japanese surgeons, as well as others in Asia, have worked out concepts of radical oncologic surgery primarily in the field of stomach cancer, and later also covering esophageal, liver and pancreatic malignancies. Not only have we been influenced by the fine logistics of sampling and staging tumor-involved tissues, but also by the modern and very meticulous 'bloodless' surgical techniques. In the meantime, many surgeons from overseas have visited oncologic surgery centers in Japan, and experiencing unmatched Japanese hospitality, have been impressed by these radical oncologic procedures although such surgery is not always applicable to European or American patients and the impressive results of long-term survival cannot immediately be reproduced in our countries. More recently, these meticulous operative techniques have led to the broad application of living donor liver transplantation in now more than 1,000 patients in Japan with excellent short- and medium-term results.

In this context, in the future *Digestive Surgery* will try to serve as a valuable means in bringing together the information of the most topical new issues in gastrointestinal surgery for our international readership, and we aim to combine clinical surgery and surgical science with viewpoints from the Far-East, East and West in our Journal.

On behalf of our societies, the International Society of Digestive Surgery (ISDS), the European Digestive Surgery (EDS), the Dutch Society of Gastrointestinal Surgery (NVGIC) and the whole board of *Digestive Surgery*, we extend a warm welcome to our Japanese colleagues and hope for a long-lasting surgical and scientific cooperation in our Journal.

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