Introduction

We are delighted to present this supplement to *Nephron*, which covers the proceedings of the 22nd and 23rd Japanese Clinicopathological Conference on Renal Allograft Pathology held on 21 July, 2018 and 20 July, 2019, respectively, in Nagoya, Japan. This conference was founded in 1997 by Dr. Yutaka Yamaguchi and Dr. Kunio Morozumi with their great enthusiasm for kidney transplantation in Japan and has been held annually ever since. Every year, the conference has successfully attracted many participants comprising nephrologists, transplant surgeons, urologists, pediatricians and renal pathologists from Japan. Over the last few years, some pathologists and nephrologists from Korea have joined us, strengthening our close friendship.

Each year, we set several topics on transplant pathology for detailed discussion. In 2018, the 22nd conference consisted of two educational lectures entitled “Molecular mechanisms of endothelial injury of antibody mediated rejection: complement-dependent and -independent” presented by Dr. Kenta Iwasaki and “Complement-related factors and their clinical examinations” presented by Dr. Katsuki Ohtani; several seminars on recent hot topics in diagnosis and treatment of kidney rejection; and 15 oral presentations and eight poster presentations focusing on severe intractable rejection, recurrent kidney disease and infection, and novel diagnostic procedures for renal transplant pathology.

In 2019, the 23rd conference comprised two educational seminars entitled “Post-transplant thrombotic microangiopathy: pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment” presented by Dr. Kazunari Tanabe, and “Supporting system of renal pathological diagnosis using artificial intelligence technology” presented by Dr. Yoshimasa Kawazoe; one lecture entitled “Update on recurrent focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in kidney transplantation” presented by Dr. Akira Shimizu; and several other seminars about recent topics in the diagnosis and treatment of renal allograft rejection. There was also a total of 14 oral presentations focusing on antibody-mediated rejection,

chronic active T cell-mediated rejection, post-transplant glomerular diseases, infectious diseases, and allograft pathology over the long term after renal transplantation.

The contents of the educational lectures and interesting presentations delivered during these conferences are provided in this issue as reviews, original articles and brief communications. We believe that the reports in this supplement address recent important issues in the field of renal transplantation and will further our understanding of the profound and mysterious kidney and its transplant pathology.

The guest editors would like to thank all authors and conference participants for their valuable contributions. Also, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Morozumi and Dr. Yamaguchi for their dedication to these conferences.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic that started in December 2019 has been exerting overwhelming influence over the health and wealth of all human beings worldwide. Many medical and scientific activities, including the 2020 annual meeting of this conference, have been cancelled as a result. By assembling our best minds and knowledge, in the near future, we hope to overcome this crisis and resume our scientific communication with a novel style and innovation.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.