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Updates in Cochlear Implantation

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Preface

Cochlear implantation has become a firmly established procedure for rehabilitating deaf individuals. Furthermore, developments in this field have been remarkable in respect of basic sciences, surgery, rehabilitation and related fields. Along with these advances, there has been a steady increase in the number of cochlear implant users throughout the Asia-Pacific region and there has been a growth in the need for promoting in-depth understanding and practice of cochlear implantation in these regions. In pursuit of these objectives, the first congress was held in Kyoto, Japan during April 3–6, 1996 and the second one in Seoul, Korea during April 2–4, 1999. Both congresses have provided participants with a stimulating learning experience and have served to strengthen friendships.

In organizing the Second Congress on Cochlear Implant and Related Sciences, the committee received over 200 abstracts presenting valuable data. In addition to these, the program contained four special lectures highlighting important research advances, five instruction courses guiding professionals in diverse disciplines, and four special workshops offering informative insights. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who contributed to special lectures, instruction courses, scientific presentations and workshops.

The purpose of these proceedings is to publish recent developments and critical issues in the field of cochlear implantation discussed at the second congress. We divided the subjects into the eight categories: basic sciences, imaging studies, surgical issues, patient selection and other issues, pediatric cochlear implant, brainstem implant, rehabilitation, and speech processing and different languages. We hope that these proceedings will give readers access to the latest research results and will allow them to share valuable insights.
While preparing for this congress, we received various offers of support from many colleagues and institutes throughout the world. We all take great pride in the fact that this second congress, like the first one, will promote a greater understanding and practice of cochlear implantation in the Asia-Pacific region. We would also like to express our gratitude to all individuals and organizations that have made the publication of these proceedings possible. We hope that this tradition will continue and would like to thank once again those who participated for their great contributions to the congress.

Chong Sun Kim, MD