Opening Address

We are delighted to publish the proceedings of the 16th CIBA Vision Symposium, held in Osaka and Tokyo from November 6 to November 8, 2003. This publication is the fifth appearing as special issue of *Ophthalmologica*. We invited three lecturers who are international ophthalmologists or researchers in ophthalmology.

They were selected by the executive committee of the CIBA Vision Symposium. As for the selection of topics, we always choose inspiring and timely themes which attract a large audience. This time we invited Prof. Paulus T.V.M. de Jong, an authority on ophthalmic epidemiology from the Netherlands, Prof. Hidetoshi Yamashita, a specialist in diabetic retinopathy, from Yamagata University, Japan, and Dr. René G. Mély, specialist in contact lenses, from Germany. Prof. de Jong explained recent findings on risk factors and the profile for ageing macular disease (age-related macular degeneration). Prof. Yamashita lectured about new therapeutic modalities of diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Mély talked about new contact lenses made of silicone hydrogel. These three topics are so up-to-date that we hope all readers will be interested in them.

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