

Preface

It is our great pleasure and honor to present the proceedings of the international symposium held at the 86th annual congress of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology. The contents of this symposium were discussed and chosen by the committee members of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology, consisting of Professor Masaki Kitajima (responsible for the international section of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology), Professor Akira Terano (responsible for the project section), and Professor Hitoshi Asakura as President of the 86th annual congress of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology.

This volume contains the presentations addressed at four sections of the international symposium: *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer; recent progress associated with type C hepatitis; liver transplantation performed for fulminant hepatic failure; and virtual re-

ality in gastroenterology. The lecturers of these symposia came from Asia, Western Europe, North America, Russia, and South America. We thank the lecturers for coming to Niigata from abroad and giving excellent lectures. Nowadays, *Helicobacter*-related gastric cancer and hepatitis C-related hepatocellular carcinoma are important diseases for clinical medicine from the viewpoints of diagnosis, treatment, and pathophysiology in Japan as well as other countries. We hope that these proceedings will contribute to twenty-first century clinical research in digestive diseases in commemoration of Millenium 2000.

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