Special Issue

Hiroki Murakami Memorial Issue, preface by the Editors

The unexpected death of Dr. Hiroki Murakami at the age of 52 stunned his many friends in the USA, Europe and Asia. Hiroki was born on Inoshima, a small island in the Japanese inland sea. The island boasts a long history as a refuge for noblemen who were politically out of favor, and also as an ancient haven for pirates demanding payment from sailing ships for safe passage through the area. Hiroki enjoyed referring to himself as the descendant of both royalty and of pirates. He received his Ph. D. from Kyushu University and joined the faculty there in Food Chemistry in 1969. In 1978–1980, Hiroki was a visiting Professor in Dr. Gordon Sato's laboratory at the University of California in San Diego. He became Professor of Cellular Regulation Technology in the Graduate School of Genetic Resources Technology at Kyushu University in 1989. During his career, he published more than 300 scientific papers and 20 books and was invited to many international meetings. Hiroki's scientific interests were wide, and included: effects of food components on cell physiology and genetic damage; serum-free media for hematopoietic, hybridomas, hepatoblastoma and colon carcinoma cells; production and high-density culture of human-human hybridomas; human monoclonals to lung, stomach and breast carcinoma in diagnostics and therapeutics; extracellular factors and genomic manipulation to increase monoclonal antibody production and serum-free cell growth; monoclonal antibodies against viruses; chemical modification of monoclonal antibodies to alter activity; establishment of fish cell lines and cloning of fish cytokines.

In 1984, Hiroki organized a meeting on animal cell culture and biotechnology in Fukuoka. From this meeting evolved the Japanese Association for Animal Cell Technology (JAACT). Hiroki served as the first president of JAACT, and under his leadership the society became a major international voice in biotechnology. JAACT is only one example of Hiroki's commitment to improve contact among people from all countries and cultures. His adventurous spirit and ability to find

humor in virtually any situation was enlightening to everyone with whom he interacted. He was also a model in his clear scientific vision. In the late 1970's, when everyone thought that bacteria or yeast genetic manipulation and culture would solve the problems of biotechnology, Hiroki had the insight that animal cell culture would ultimately be required for expression of most recombinant products. He displayed a remarkable and creative ability to blend interests of academics and industry to the benefit of both, and served as editor on the editorial boards of *Cytotechnology*, *In vitro Cellular and Developmental Cell Biology*, *Biotherapy*, *Human Hybridomas and Antibodies* and the *Journal of the Japanese Society for Agricultural Chemistry*. Shortly before his death, he organized a society for the study of Life, Humanity and Law, and coordinated a unique program of educational exchange between the faculties of Agriculture and Law at Kyushu University.

Hiroki's contributions to science are widely recognized internationally. However, perhaps more importantly, Hiroki touched many people throughout the world at a personal level through humor and a commitment to communicate. All of us valued Hiroki's unique personality and now feel a great loss, but we also will continue to benefit from his legacy of high quality science and international communication. We dedicate this issue of *Cytotechnology* to Professor Hiroki Murakami, the Pirate of Inoshima.

David Barnes, Ph. D., Professor,
Dept. of Biochemistry and Biophysics,
Environmental Health Sciences Center,
Oregon State University,
Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

Sanetaka Shirahata, Ph. D., Professor,
Institute of Cellular Regulation Technology,
Graduate School of Genetic Resources Technology,
Kyushu University,
Fukuoka, JAPAN

(西日本新聞1993年12月13日)

農 学 博 士

故 村 上 浩 紀 先 生

御出生 昭和17年2月26日

御逝去 平成 7年2月23日

御法名 浄心庵浩博深妙居士

Figure 1.