Preface

The 2nd joint meeting of the Japanese Association for Animal Cell Technology (JAACT) and the European Society for Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) was held in Kyoto, Japan, July 26–30, 1998. JAACT was founded in 1991 through the enormous effort of the late Dr. Hiroki Murakami and the joint meeting with the prestigious ESACT was one of his dreams for further development of JAACT. Thanks to ESACT, the first joint meeting was successfully held at Veldhoven, The Netherlands, in 1994 (Animal Cell Technology: Eds. E.C. Beuvery, J.B. Griffiths and W.P. Zijlmecker (1995), Kluwer Academic Publishers).

The Kyoto meeting focused on important and exciting recent developments in the field of animal cell technology from basic and applied aspects. A number of papers are presented in the following sessions:

- I. Asian biotechnology in future
- II. Cell culture and engineering
- III. Production of biologicals
- IV. Functional cell lines
- V. Glycoengineering
- VI. Immunologicals, monoclonal antibodies, and vaccines
- VII. Transplantation and artificial organs
- VIII. Gene therapy
- IX. Transgenic animals
- X. Safety and regulations
- XI. Cell regulatory factors and signal transduction
- XII. Functional substances in food and natural sources
- XIII. Animal cells for *in vitro* assay

The meeting was quite successful and a good opportunity for the exchange of the recent findings in the field of animal cell technology. Seventy-six papers were published in the Proceedings of the meeting (Animal Cell Technology: Challenges for the 21st Century: Eds. K. Ikura, M. Nagao, S. Masuda, and R. Sasaki (1999) Kluwer Academic Publishers).

JAACT determined to publish the JAACT issues of Cytotechnology every year as one of scientific activities of JAACT. This JAACT issue of Cytotechnology memorializing the 2nd joint meeting of JAACT and ESACT contains 31 papers not only presented in the meeting but also newly submitted by JAACT members after peer review by the international reviewers. Animal cell technology will play more important roles in the improvement of the quality of human life in the 21st century and therefore this JAACT issue should contribute to find the important, urgent, and rewarding targets to be challenged.

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