A New Era for the *Journal*

Tsuguya Fukui*2
(Editor-in-Chief)

It is my utmost pleasure to present this issue of the newly revamped Japan Medical Association (JMA) Journal (the *Journal*) to all readers inside and outside of Japan. The *Journal* now has a totally different look and content from past issues published during its almost 47 years of history, including its predecessor, the Asian Medical Journal.

Past issues essentially carried English versions of articles already published in Japanese in the JMA’s official journal, the *Journal of the Japan Medical Association*. It has been my longtime desire to see the *Journal* develop into a high standard general medical journal carrying original and review articles closely related to clinical practice and news of medicine, medical care, and health policy in Japan, like the *JAMA* from the USA and the *BMJ* from the UK. My high hopes for such a journal coincided with the vision held by Dr. Nobuya Hashimoto, the Executive Board Member in charge of academic affairs in the JMA under the leadership of Dr. Haruo Uematsu, who took the helm in 2004.

Assuming editorship of the *Journal* in mid-2004, I immediately proceeded to the task of revitalizing the *Journal*. With the help of my associate editors, Drs. Mitsuyoshi Urashima and Hideki Hashimoto, and my colleagues at the editorial office, I feel we have succeeded in recreating the *Journal* as a general medical journal which will be representative of the medical community of Japan. The *Journal* is now a peer-reviewed scientific journal carrying original articles, review articles, short communications and case reports, and correspondence, among others.

I sincerely hope that many readers among practicing physicians and researchers in clinical medicine and health service, inside and outside of Japan, will submit pertinent articles, making the *Journal* the stage for discussions on medical issues of international relevance and that, in the years to come, we will see many scientific achievements in medicine become more widely known internationally through the *Journal*.

*2 St. Luke’s International Hospital, Tokyo, Japan
Correspondence to: Tsuguya Fukui MD, MPH, PhD, St. Luke’s International Hospital, 9-1 Akashi-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8560, Japan. Tel: 81-3-3541-5151, Fax: 81-3-5550-4114, E-mail: ftks@luka.or.jp