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Preface

The Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo (IMSUT) celebrates 109th Anniversary this year. Recently, IMSUT has introduced significant changes in its research operation after intensive discussion of the faculty members. These changes are formally approved by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of the Japanese government. Now, IMSUT consists of three components, i.e., three Centers {Human Genome Center (HGC), Center for Experimental Medicine (CEM) and Advanced Clinical Research Center (ACRC)}, three Large Departments {Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Cancer Biology, Department of Basic Medical Sciences} and Research Hospital. In addition, IMSUT has the Donation Departments supported by industry. IMSUT conducts investigator-initiated research and goal oriented research developed primarily in Large Departments and Centers, respectively. The goal-oriented research for genomic medicine such as genome diagnosis, proteome analysis, cell therapy and gene therapy added new features to the IMSUT research style. Such goal-oriented research needs to be complemented by the research initiated by individual investigators. IMSUT has also introduced independent research unit directed by associate professor whose term is 7 years in addition to the traditional research unit consists of professor, associate professor and research associate (Joshu). To encourage young scientists in an open and international atmosphere is an important agenda at IMSUT. I sincerely hope that this Annual Report which is the last issue of the 20th century helps to prepare ourselves to better achievements in the 21st century.

March, 2001

Ken-ichi Arai
Dean of the Institute

