

Preface

Time flies! It is time again for me to write the preface of the new volume of Aino Journal. It seems that only a few months has passed since I wrote the preface of the last volume Vol. 3 last year, which is to be commemorated as the founding volume of this journal for the Aino University.

During the past one year Aino university has steadily grown. Now we have about 500 university students, double the number last year. The clinical practice of university students was started in Aino hospital which is located near our University. A new playground opened, long-awaited by young students to vent what extra energy they have. Aino Journal has also grown in the meantime. Each paper in this volume is very appealing and exciting. Ten are from the university and four invited from outside.

One of the characteristic features of our university lies in its diversity. It consists of three divisions ; nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Our teaching staffs come from various special fields, such as basic science, medical science, clinical science, sociologist, psychologist, etc. This diversity promises extensive development of research and educational activities and the potentiality it offers can already be witnessed in this journal.

As both our university and this journal develop, we encounter numerous problems that need to be resolved. To produce skilled medical specialists, various efforts are required ; We need to make sure that as many students as possible pass the national board examination, and we also need to start preparations to launch our postgraduate course two years later.

I sincerely look forward to increased research and educational activities at our university, and to enhanced quality of the journal. I also look forward to writing this preface again next year.

March 2006

Kiyohisa TAKAHASHI, MD, PhD, *Editor in chief*
President, Aino University