

FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL

In the latter half of the 20th century, remarkable progress in biomedical research has come at the expense of a large number of experimental animals. For such situations, a new research front for alternatives to animal testing has been developed in Europe and the United States during the past two decades. In Japan, a small group of scientists interested in this field was organized for the first time in 1984. Growing rapidly, this group has published a newsletter since 1985 and provided research grants supported by private donations since 1985 totaling ¥ 18,450,000 in 5 years. The Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments was organized in November 1989. The aims of the research are symbolized by the 3 R's of Russell and Burch, 1959 as in other countries, i. e., Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal experiments.

The Japanese Society is still small and a newcomer among developed countries. But recognizing the international importance of the research field in biomedical research, the Society decided to published its official journal on an

international basis with international editorial board. The organization for editorial work and management of the Journal is still under development but the Society has decided to publish the first issue of the Journal with the cooperation of our colleagues abroad as editorial staffs, contributors and subscribers. In the next issue I would like to announce the name and address of three or four of the editors who are responsible for selecting papers after their peer review systems.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Health Research Foundation, Kyoto and others to the Society by which the publication of the present issue was made feasible. Further donations by any organizations to support the continued publication of the Journal would be very much appreciated. The names of the organization supporting the Society is shown as acknowledgments in the last page in this journal.

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to Animal Experiments