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## *Preface*

In 1999, the first transplant of an organ from a brain-dead donor was performed since the Organ Transplant Law was passed. This has brought science under scrutiny from the ethical side. As well as the leading edge such as information, life sciences, and earth sciences, science and technology for mankind and for a better society and quality of life probably become to active field of development.

The government's plan to turn national universities into "agencies" provides that they are allowed to continue to give priority to education and research. The move would add Japan's 99 national universities to a list of government-run institutions including national museums and research institutes, that are transformed into semiautonomous agencies. The plans are part of the government's bid to increase administrative efficiency by placing the institutions under the control of a separate management system. Rather than complying with the government's agency bill, which sets targets based on the rationalization plan, Monbusho is asking for a separate bill for universities to maintain the standard of research and education. According to the proposed bill, performance-related targets would be reviewed every five years, and the evaluation would be carried out by an independent assessment body that Monbusho plans to set up this April. Indeed, this plan is serious problem as for national universities.

The ICR Annual Report continues to strive to provide timely and important information on the scientific activities of the ICR. At the end of March, 1999, Professor A. Ohno of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Reaction Theory retired from the ICR and was appointed to a Professorship at Fukui Technology University. Professor M. Matsui of the Laboratory of Separation Chemistry, who has contributed a great deal to environmental protection of the ICR, also retired from the ICR. In addition, Professor M. Inoue of the Laboratory of Beams and Fundamental Reactions moved to the Research Reactor Institute as Director, and Professor S. Takahashi of the Laboratory of Biopolymer Structure moved to Kyoto Women's University. We have appointed Drs. S. Goto and K. Mibu as Associate Professors of the ICR. At the present stage, 23 full professors, 27 associate professors, and 39 instructors work in the ICR, and about 240 graduate students study at the ICR.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Professor K. Tamao for the Chemical Society of Japan Award, and also Associate Professor J. Hiratake for the Japan Bioscience, Biotechnology and Agrochemistry Society Award for the Encouragement of Young Scientists.

January, 2000



Yukio Sugiura  
DIRECTOR