

# PREFACE

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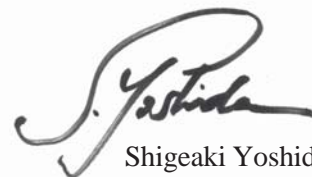
Twelve years have passed in this year of 2004, since the National Cancer Center Hospital East (NCCHE) was founded in the city of Kashiwa on July 1, 1992. During the past years, our clinical activities have remarkably been enriched. In April 1994, The National Cancer Center Research Institute East (NCCRIE) was opened at the same Campus. Many joint projects have been well done between the two in the fields of surgical pathology, molecular biology, developmental therapeutics, psycho-oncology, and clinical epidemiology. To promote the collaboration more efficiently, and to achieve the clinical translation of basic research works more successfully, it is decided that NCCRIE is going to be merged into NCCHE with its reorganization to be the "Center for Clinical Investigation" (= provisional name) in coming October 1st, 2005.

In April 1997, NCCHE became the second hospital in the world to have proton therapy equipment available for patients. After long investigation at inquiry commission, it was finally approved to be applicable for the treatment of solid tumors in the end of February 2000 and about 400 patients have well been treated since that time. Positron emission tomography (PET) which came to be in operation in January 2001, disclosed its diagnostic utilities for staging and screening of cancerous lesions, and more than a thousand of patients have being examined during a year. In 2005, we will equip two PET-CT scanners, which we newly developed with an industrial company. On the other hand, the full induction of hospital information system named MIRACLE (Medical Information system for Research, Administration and Clinical Expertise) into NCCHE in the beginning of 2002 enables to unify the medical information derived from NCCH and NCCHE, and to contribute to enforce the cooperation of the two hospitals.

The NCCHE has 425 beds and consists of 9 clinical divisions described on the following pages. As of January 1, 2005, the hospital staff included 73 physicians including 14 part-timers, 17 pharmacists including 7 part-timers, 45 technicians including 7 part-timers, 268 nurses including 9 part-timers and 49 residents. During 2004, we took care of 146,802 outpatients (9% increase of that in 2003) including 7,706 newcomers and 7,506 inpatients including 2,411 cases who underwent surgery under general anesthesia. The number of patients treated still increases year by year, and except PCU, around 460 to 520 patients are always in the waiting list for admission, despite few increases in the number of staff members and their great effort for shortening the hospital stay of inpatients. Nevertheless, all employees are trying their best to respond to the expanding demands of treating this increasing number of patients. Having overcome many difficulties and challenges since the initial opening of the hospital, we are now confident of an integrated cancer center hospital. Actually, quite a few papers listed on the following pages were published in various international journals in 2004, showing that our works here are of international importance.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support that we have received from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, other governmental organizations, private organizations, individuals and the Foundation for the Promotion of Cancer Research. In addition, I am grateful for the diligence of my colleagues in the hospital, especially, Dr. Nagahiro Saijo (Deputy Director) and Ms. Naoko Tamura, and Satomi Kajima who have devoted their efforts and talent to publishing this report.

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