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**To our readers,**

We are pleased to inform you readers and members of the Kitasato Medical Society, that this is the inaugural issue of the official English journal of the Kitasato Medical Society, entitled the Kitasato Medical Journal 34 (1). This journal derives from Kitasato Medicine which contains some papers written in Japanese and others in English. In its first year, the Kitasato Medical Journal (KMJ) will be a biannual publication with hopes of increasing publications to eventually become a well-read and respected monthly journal. The papers in the journal will also appear in an electronic journal. Kitasato Medicine will continue to publish papers written in Japanese only, while the Kitasato Medical Journal will publish papers written in English. We, here at the KMJ, are striving for a more international appeal. We welcome you to submit papers to either journal. And we thank you for your continued support.

The Editorial Committee of Kitasato Medicine and the Kitasato Medical Journal