

Laboratory Medicine International is inaugurated with great expectations that many will enjoy the new international journal of Laboratory Medicine.

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On behalf of the Editors, Editorial Board members, and journal staff, I wish to warmly welcome you to the inaugural edition of Laboratory Medicine International (LMI). LMI is a peer-reviewed international journal published quarterly by the Japanese Society of Laboratory

Medicine. The aim of this editorial is to welcome readers and provide a short overview of the concept and content of this peer-reviewed publication.

The primary scope of LMI covers clinical chemistry, immunology, microbiology, hematology, science of thrombosis and hemostasis, transfusion medicine, molecular diagnostics, cytology, histology, therapeutic drug monitoring and toxicology, laboratory management and informatics, and laboratory administration and management. In principle, original research papers, reviews, case reports, and editorials are considered for publication. LMI also considers publications for clinically relevant laboratory topics on laboratory methods, evidence-based laboratory medicine, health economics, best practices, test utilization, critical care based on the scientific scope of laboratory medicine, and thoughtful commentary on the practice of laboratory medicine. Case Reports will be a regular LMI feature; for many cases, there will be findings of interest to members of the laboratory community, possibly leading to further developments of laboratory medicine. Paper submission to LMI is conducted using the ScholarOne Manuscripts system.

The information in LMI will consist of findings and applications available in clinical practice and laboratory medicine both at present and in the future. Publications of contributions submitted to LMI will be timely and efficiently handled and accessible to the scientific community expeditiously. Contributions will be available online only after they have been approved by both the LMI editorial staff and authors.

Again, we are excited and delighted to introduce LMI, a new high-quality, peer-reviewed, international open-access journal. Papers, including original research, new methods and critical evaluations, case reports, and short reports in the fields of laboratory medicine, published in LMI are presented by J-STAGE, a platform for scholarly publications, operated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). We also welcome papers which describe critical evaluations of biomarkers and their role in the diagnosis and treatment of clinically significant disease, validation of commercial and in-house methods of in vitro diagnostics, method comparison studies, interference reports, the development of new reagents and reference materials, reference range studies, and regulatory compliance reports. Manuscripts describing the development of new methods applicable to laboratory medicine, including point-of-care testing, are also encouraged, even if the submitted paper is a report from preliminary or small-scale studies. Many laboratory-developed tests were created in response to unmet needs, e.g., for rare diseases where limited laboratory medicine resources are available. Notwithstanding, a critical point is proper validation that these assays are safe and effective for clinical use.

We hope that LMI will meet the needs of the laboratory medicine community by providing timely, practical infor-

mation on the challenges which face all of us daily in delivering optimal patient care through laboratory testing. The forward-looking path for laboratory medicine will involve strategies for collaborating, communicating, and integrating with all healthcare stakeholders. There are

many ongoing efforts and activities worldwide. All those involved with LMI are looking forward to engaging users and contributors to this LMI resource and playing an active role in the evolution of laboratory medicine.