

Welcome

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past decades we have seen a dramatic growth in two independent disciplines, i.e. medical imaging technology and molecular biology, both of which provide us with new insights in studying human beings. We believe that the time has come to make an effort to integrate these two important fields as “Biomedical Imaging”. As the first step to accomplish this aim, we organized the First International Workshop on Biomedical Imaging: MR and PET/SPECT in Fukui on August 28 – 30, 1996 (Fukui96).

It is surprising to see how rapidly the technology is advancing. Toward the 21st century, various new methods, such as gene therapy and cell transplantation, are being introduced in medical practice for treatment of the patients. These therapeutic procedures require new diagnostic methods for planning and monitoring the treatment. “Molecular Imaging” will play a key role in this field. In order to continue our effort, we decided to have the Second International Workshop on Biomedical Imaging with special emphasis on “Molecular Imaging”.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to extend our warm welcome to all of you to participate in this workshop, and we look forward to having fruitful discussion.

Yoshiharu Yonekura, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman, Organizing Committee