Preface

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I pray for the souls of the many people who perished in the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and send my condolences to all affected by this natural disaster. I hope for a speedy recovery of the devastated areas, and also that as well as rebuilding, these recovery efforts will create the foundations for a new and better Japan.

I am very happy and proud that we are able to publish a special issue of the journal including five articles based on lectures presented at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Brain Tumor Pathology, which took place in Osaka in May 2010. The theme of the 28th Annual Meeting was “Brain Tumor Diagnosis—From Molecule to Treatment,” and the meeting incorporated three special lectures and three symposiums. Of these, it is an honor to announce

that we have received special permission to publish the honorary lecture by Professor Hiroko Ohgaki entitled “Genetic profile of astrocytic and oligodendroglial gliomas.” In addition, we have selected four of the lectures from the Molecular Biology of Glioma Symposium for publication in this special issue. The topics of the lectures are all centered precisely on the main theme of the conference. Advances in brain tumor pathology in conjunction with progress in molecular biology have led to great clinical contributions. Based on many of these advances, we now know that lesions grouped in the same category based on conventional morphological and immunohistological diagnoses can have completely different clinical courses and reactions to treatment as a consequence of differences in genetic analysis and other molecular biological findings. Consequently, to determine the most appropriate treatment modality, we need a more specific diagnostic classification that incorporates molecular biological findings among others. In the future, the classification of brain tumors, especially glioma, will be changed as a consequence of the many new molecular biological discoveries. Ultimately, the most important issue is how to interpret the pathological findings so as to deliver the best management to the patient. I would like offer our deepest appreciation for Professor Hiroko Ohgaki for her efforts as a world leader in this area and for presentation of the astounding original research and review articles delivered at the symposium. I also wish to thank all the authors who took time from their busy schedules to submit these articles for publication.

The forerunner of *Brain Tumor Pathology*, which is the official journal of the association, was the proceedings of the annual meeting, publication of which started in 1984. From 1988 on, we published the official journal of the association in Japanese twice a year, and since 1991, we have published the journal in English. Thanks to the great

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leadership of the prior Editors in Chief Dr. Yoichi Ishida, Dr. Naoki Kageyama, and Dr. Kintomo Takakura, and thanks to the great efforts of Dr. Keiji Kawamoto, who served as the following Editor in Chief, we were able to acquire impact factor status as of 2008. Professor Yoichi Nakazato has become the new Editor in Chief in the current year, and we are planning to increase the number of publications to four issues a year. It is a great honor and privilege for all involved to be able to contribute to this journal at this momentous time, which in itself represents a

commemoration of our milestone achievements to date. I hope that this unique journal is read by a great many people, that many articles from it are cited, and that these efforts and the stepwise accumulation of new knowledge lead to better outcomes for patients throughout the world.

T. Kuroiwa

President, The 28th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Brain Tumor Pathology