Preface

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It is my honor to contribute to this special issue of “*Brain Tumor Pathology*”, volume 29, no. 3. One review article and three papers from symposia held during the 29th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Brain Tumor Pathology were invited. The meeting was held at Tower Hall Funabori, Tokyo, on May 20 and 21, 2011. There were many difficulties in holding a meeting just 2 months after the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake. The transportation system and the power supply were still insufficient. However as many as 183 papers were submitted and 318 members attended the meeting.

We had four symposia. The title of Symposium 1 was “Genetic analyses of gliomas”, which was chaired by Professors Hideo Takeshima and Jun-ichi Kuratsu. Six of the 7 papers discussed *IDH1* mutation in gliomas. Symposium 2 was held in the afternoon of the first day, chaired by Professors Takashi Komori and Keisuke Ueki. “Genetic alterations and pathological diagnosis of oligodendrogliomas” were discussed. The theme of Symposium 3 was “Pathological diagnosis for evaluation of treatment effect”, chaired by Doctors Nobuaki Funata and Soichiro Shibui, and that of Symposium 4 was “Diagnosis of astrocytoma grade II/III”, chaired by Professors Yoichi Nakazato and Jun Yoshida. The last two symposia were held on the second day of the meeting. The themes of these symposia are indicative of the

difficulty and importance of pathological diagnosis in the era of genetic analysis. Many papers in the oral and poster sessions and the symposia mentioned results from genetic analysis.

The special lecture by Professor Zhong-ping Chen, Sun Yat-sen University, was unfortunately cancelled, for personal reasons, and Professor Keiji Kawamoto kindly took his place and gave us a lecture entitled, “Shapes of the skulls”. Doctor Nobutaka Arai, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, talked about “Surgery for the temporal lobe epilepsy” in the educational lecture. A clinicopathological conference is a distinctive feature of this meeting. Twelve cases for which pathological diagnosis was difficult were presented and discussed. Many young pathologists and neurosurgeons attended the discussion eagerly until late in the evening.

Each chairperson selected excellent presentations in their session, and the authors were invited to submit their articles to this issue of “*Brain Tumor Pathology*”. This is the official journal of the Japan Society of Brain Tumor Pathology. In 1988 the first issue was published as proceedings of the annual meeting and since 2011 four issues have been published every year. Many papers are submitted from all over the world and it is approved as an international journal issued from Japan. The impact factor goes up to 1.22 this year.

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I express special thanks to the Japan Society of *Brain Tumor Pathology* for publishing these excellent papers presented during the 29th Annual Meeting. I also deeply appreciate the cooperation of authors who took time for submission.

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President, The 29th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Brain Tumor Pathology