Introduction

TOSHIRO KONISHI

Kanto Medical Center NTT East

In the past, anticancer drugs were not very effective against gastric cancer. However, with the introduction of multidrug combination therapies applying biochemical modulation such as with methotrexate, 5FU, and leucovorin therapy, and CDDP plus 5FU therapy, cases of high therapeutic efficacy have appeared in the treatment of advanced gastric cancer. A recent trend in the treatment of advanced cancer is the use of oral anticancer drugs for outpatients. Such treatment does not reduce the QOL of patients and is preferable to treatment with powerful intravenous injections that requires hospitalization. In the treatment of gastric cancer, development of effective oral anticancer drugs for patients who can ingest them has been promoted. UFT is an oral biochemical modulation agent prepared by addition of uracil to tegafur, the prodrug of 5FU, to enhance the efficacy of 5FU, and has been widely used in Japan as an oral pyrimidine fluoride anticancer drug. S-1 discussed in this special issue is the novel oral DPD inhibitory fluoropyrimidine (DIF) prepared by adding two modulators, gimestat (CHDP) and otastat potassium (Oxo), to tegafur with the objective of enhancing the efficacy of 5FU and suppressing adverse effects on the digestive system. This treatment was developed to achieve higher efficacy than that of UFT in the treatment of gastric cancer. In studies to date, a high efficacy rate of more

than 40% has been obtained for gastric cancer. The use of S-1 as a first-line drug in the treatment of gastric cancer is rapidly expanding, and it is a promising drug in Japan.

Gastric Cancer decided to publish a special issue on S-1 on the occasion of the panel discussion on S-1 at the 74th Japanese Gastric Cancer Congress in 2002. In this issue, many experts working at the front line of S-1-based chemotherapy for gastric cancer in Japan introduce a wide range of knowledge from basic research to clinical applications, providing the most up-to-date available information on S-1. We hope that this issue will contribute to an understanding of the usefulness of S-1 for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer among health professionals worldwide.

As editor of this issue, I am grateful to Dr. Oichiro Kobori, Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Takeshi Sano, Secretary General of *Gastric Cancer*, for their advice in preparation of the issue. Thanks are extended to Mr. Naotaka Nishiyama, Mr. Masanori Shima, and the staff of Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., for their assistance; to Ms. Ayami Sano of Kyowa Kikaku Co., Ltd. for her support in completing the issue in a very short time before the 5th Meeting of International Gastric Cancer Association in Rome; and also to the staff of Springer-Verlag Tokyo.