From “Radiation Medicine” to “Japanese Journal of Radiology (JJR)” as the official journal of the Japan Radiological Society

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From this year, we, the executive committee and editorial committee members of the Japan Society of Radiology (JRS), have decided to change the name of the official journal of JRS from “Radiation Medicine (RM)” to the “Japanese Journal of Radiology (JJR)”. RM was started as the annals of the Department of Radiology of the University of Tokyo in 1983 by Professor Masahiro Iio. Since then, it has played an important role as the sole radiology-oriented English journal in Japan for delivering Japanese radiological expertise to the world. On the other hand, because of the rapid globalization in every field of the world, the value of medical articles written in local languages has been markedly diminished from the late 1990s. To adapt to this globalization, the necessity of an English official journal has been keenly felt by the members of JRS, and RM became the official journal of JRS under the permission of the University of Tokyo in 2003. Subsequently, JRS had two official journals, RM and *Nippon Acta Radiologica* written in Japanese. However, because of an acute decrease in the number of articles submitted in Japanese, JRS decided to terminate the publication of *Nippon Acta Radiologica* in 2005, making RM the only one official journal of JRS. Although RM had been greatly improved in many parts, some important problems remained. One of them was a relatively strong bias of the submitted articles to radiation oncology, radiation biology and physiology, and other basic topics concerning equipment for radiological examination and therapy. On the other hand, the articles dealing with imaging diagnosis and interventional radiology, to which many members of JRS had been intensely committed, were relatively few in number.

The editorial committee of JRS considered that the impression made by the title of “Radiation Medicine” might be one of the major causes of this bias. It would appear that “Radiation Medicine” suggested primarily the fields of radiation oncology, biology and physiology, radiation injury, and so on. The fact that articles limited to these fields were submitted from foreign countries supported this contention.

JRS decided to enhance its scientific contribution to world radiology through an official English language journal. For this purpose, we have to gather many excellent articles concerning all fields of radiology not only from Japan but also from abroad, and therefore, the executive and editorial committee of JRS determined to change the name of the official journal from RM to JJR from the current issue. Simultaneous with this decision, we received good news from Thomson Reuters company (previous ISI company) that RM would be registered in the data base of Science Citation Index Expanded from 2008. This means that the “impact factor” of the journal will be calculated by the frequency of citation of the articles, which will appear in the issues during 2010 to 2011. We hope that many good articles will be submitted from the full range of radiological science by the introduction of the new title of JJR and that JJR will become a world-renowned radiology journal. We hope to be able to count on your unstinting support for JJR, which will be needed to accomplish this purpose.

Editor-in-Chief, *JJR*
Chairman of directors of JSR

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