EDITORIAL

Greetings from the chief editor

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It is my great honor to take over the position of chief editor of the *Journal of Natural Medicines* (JONM), starting from March 25, 2018, succeeding the former chief editor, Professor Hisashi Matsuda of Kyoto Pharmaceutical University. Now I am feeling quite accountable and intend to meet the challenge of this responsible mission. The editorial board of JONM currently consists of the chief editor, 5 associate editors, and 27 editors, of which 9 editors are included from outside of Japan. All members of the editorial board as well as staff members of the editorial office of the journal in the Center for Academic Publications Japan and in Springer Japan will do their best to improve the quality and impact of JONM.

JONM is the official journal of the *Japanese Society of Pharmacognosy* (JSP). JSP was founded in 1947 and currently has around 1400 members, including regular, student, supporting, and honorary membership categories. JSP has been devoted to promoting research in pharmacognosy and its related fields to provide members with opportunities for presentations, exchange of knowledge, and cooperation and

coordination among relevant societies. JSP launched its official journal *Shoyaku* in 1947, and the journal name has been changed three times, to *Yakuyoshokubutsu* to *Shoyaku* in 1949, to *Shoyakugaku Zasshi* in 1952, and to *Natural Medicines* in 1994. In 2006, the journal was divided into two journals: the *Journal of Natural Medicines* (JONM) and *Shoyakugaku Zasshi* in English and Japanese, respectively.

JONM has become a truly international journal publishing original research in naturally occurring medicines and their related foods and cosmetics, covering chemistry, biochemistry, and pharmacology of natural products and herbs, including Kampo formulas and traditional herbs in addition to botanical anatomy and cultivation of medicinal plants. JONM has been indexed in *Journal Citation Reports* (Thomson Reuters), and the released impact factor of this journal has increased from 1.027 in 2009 to 1.982 in 2016, almost doubling in 8 years. JONM has aggregated and disseminated the research achievements of natural medicines in various countries to date, and has contributed to the development of global research standards in this field as well as to academic exchanges. We would like to make further efforts in the acceleration of greater standardization of the journal as an information transmission medium in this area, and ensure its international position as the top journal in Asia in the natural medicines field, with the aim of establishing it as a major journal worldwide.

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