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The Genetics of Complex Thyroid Diseases

With 32 Figures, Including 1 in Color

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Preface

The rapid developments in molecular genetics have clarified many of the mutations in monogenic thyroid diseases over the last two decades; now the target of molecular thyroid genetics has become the oligogenic thyroid diseases. These include the autoimmune thyroid diseases and familial thyroid cancers, both of which are much commoner than the monogenic diseases. However, the methodological approach to the genetics of these more complex diseases is still far from being well established. Although the discovery of susceptibility genes has been partially accomplished in complex diseases such as asthma, Crohn's disease, and types I and II diabetes mellitus, the elucidation of susceptibility genes in complex diseases remains a major challenge.

This volume contains papers presented at the International Symposium on the Genetics of Complex Thyroid Diseases. This meeting was held in association with the International Thyroid Congress in Kyoto in October 2000 and supported in part by the Japan Intractable Diseases Research Foundation and Knoll Pharmaceuticals Inc. The symposium was the first international symposium concerning the genetics of complex thyroid diseases and was restricted to the study of the autoimmune thyroid diseases and familial thyroid cancer. Twenty distinguished researchers from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan were invited. Each presentation precipitated intense discussion and there was much consensus during the meeting. Nevertheless, this volume will leave the reader with a clear understanding of how little we still know.

On behalf of the organizing and executive committees, we wish to express our gratitude to those who participated in the conference and contributed to the preparation of these proceedings. Especially, we appreciated the assistance of Miss Maki Kouchi, who was very supportive in assembling the manuscripts. We believe this edited volume provides a comprehensive survey for those interested in the field of thyroid genetics.

The Editors

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SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shukue Azuma

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