

# Preface

National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) has endeavored to promote efficiency, transparency and competitive research atmosphere, which are the essential principle for the Independent Administrative Institution (IAI). Our eventual aim is, needless to say, to achieve outstanding outcomes through research activities.

The fiscal year 2002 (FY2002) was the 2nd year after NIRS was reborn as a IAI in 2001. NIRS has been implementing its activities basically according to mid-term (5 years) plan and annual plan.

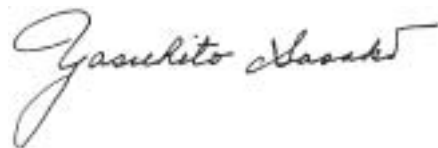
We submitted our business report (including the financial report) and the achievement report of FY 2001 to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in June 2002, which was evaluated by the Evaluation Committee of MEXT. This evaluation process was the first that we have experienced. We need to get accustomed to this annual important event in order not to consume too much energy in this process.

NIRS established a new Research Center for Radiation Emergency Medicine with enforcement of its dose assessment capability for improving the medical preparedness for nuclear emergency and radiation accidents. We also set a program for acquiring external competitive grants and started some leading research with such grants. We also increased the flexibility of research system. Furthermore, NIRS introduced a personnel management system for technologists in order to treat well-trained high grade technologists properly.

NIRS continued research activities according to the mid-term plan, including 5 project researches, 1 frontier type research, 20 basic researches, and brain function research. Almost all projects progressed as was planned. Additionally, I as president of NIRS took initiative in granting 28 new research proposals after in house competition in order to cultivate research seeds. In FY2002, we produced 244 original papers, which meant 1.4 papers per researcher. Heavy charged particle therapy continued to be successful. Based on the results of clinical trials, we applied to a health system for highly "advanced medical procedures ", which allows us to change patients.

NIRS also increased PR activities such as open lectures for public in Tokyo and Osaka, and two open lectures for researchers, which attracted many participants. NIRS cooperated to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We organized several international meetings such as the 3rd Committee for ICRP. NIRS promoted cooperative researches with universities, research institutes and companies, having received many external researchers and students, and organized symposiums. We also set an agreement on cooperation program with Graduate School of Toho University.

It is our great pleasure to publish this annual report for your information and your comments. In the rapidly changing society worldwide, we will continue our efforts as a center of excellence (COE) of radiation medicine applying advantages of IAI. We appreciate your cooperation and would like to ask for your continuous supports.



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