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## Toward the next century of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science: message from the Editor-in-chief

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It is my great pleasure and honor as the Editor-in-chief to congratulate the centennial anniversary of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science in 2023 with all the editorial board members and the technical staffs as well as the authors and the readers. One hundred years are quite a long period, and the persistent publication from a medical school of national university in Japan has not been so easy. Especially, the publication was suspended from 1940 to 1950 due to the World War II.

The title of the first paper of this journal (formerly, Aichi Journal of Experimental Medicine) in 1923 is “On the agglutinin of *Spirochaeta ikterohaemorrhagiae*, in particular, a detection method for it and the agglutinin analysis in experimental Weil’s disease of the rabbit” by Shiro Oba.<sup>1</sup> In those days, various infectious diseases were a major cause of human death and we can find a lot of titles on these topics. It is intriguing to note that many of the papers till 1939 were written in German, reflecting a strong influence of the German scientific cultures on the Japanese medicine. In 2016, Helmut Sies, a present member of international advisory board of our journal, described on the German-Japanese relationships in biochemistry.<sup>2</sup> All the covers of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science (NJMS) are listed in Fig. 1.

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**Fig. 1** All the covers of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science

This journal was called as Aichi Journal of Experimental Medicine from 1923 to 1924.

Table 1 shows the successive editor(s)-in-chief of NJMS after the World War II. NJMS has been for a long time a print-only journal, distributed mainly to the affiliated hospitals of the Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, which exceeded 50 in the Tokai area of Japan. When I succeeded the position of Editor-in-chief from Prof. Nobuyuki Hamajima,<sup>3</sup> we decided to make a dramatic change to make this journal open access.<sup>4</sup> On April 23, 2010, we launched a web site for this journal ([https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medlib/nagoya\\_j\\_med\\_sci/index.html](https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medlib/nagoya_j_med_sci/index.html)) in collaboration with the medical library of Nagoya University, which enabled immediate and free-of-charge access to the audience worldwide. Furthermore, NJMS has been selected for inclusion in Thomson Reuters Web of Science and MEDLINE, and NJMS started to receive Impact Factor since 2013. Currently, everybody can access to all the papers of NJMS from its foundation in 1923 on the web.

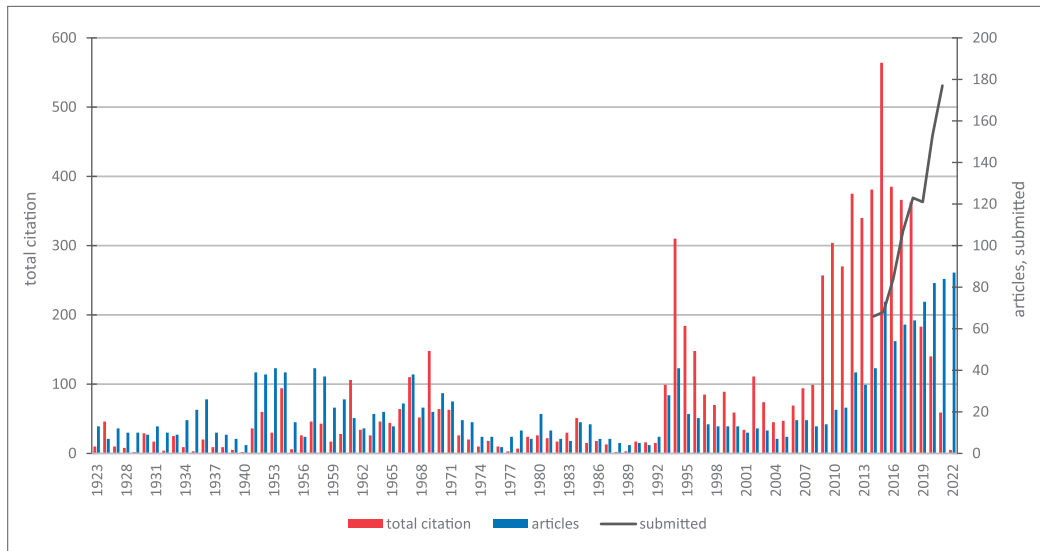
**Table 1** Post World War II Editor(s)-in-chief of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science

Year	Vol (Number)	Editor(s)-in-chief	Speciality
1951	14(1)	K. Hotta K. Nobechi T. Muramatsu	Biochemistry Public Health Psychiatry
1951–53	14(2)–16(4)	K. Hotta K. Nobechi S. Hibino T. Muramatsu	Biochemistry Public Health Internal Medicine Psychiatry
1954–56	17(1)–18(5/6)	K. Hotta C. Togari	Biochemistry Anatomy

		K. Nobechi	Public Health
		S. Hibino	Internal Medicine
		T. Muramatsu	Psychiatry
1957	19(1)–19(4)	K. Hotta	Biochemistry
		S. Sugiyama	Anatomy
		S. Hibino	Internal Medicine
		T. Muramatsu	Psychiatry
1957–62	20(1)–24(4)	Yoshio Hashimoto	Surgery
		Susumu Hibino	Internal Medicine
		Zengo Kanda	Pharmacology
		Shooichi Sugiyama	Anatomy
1962–64	25(1)–26(3)	Yoshio Hashimoto	Surgery
		Susumu Hibino	Internal Medicine
		Ryo Ito	Physiology
		Shooichi Sugiyama	Anatomy
1964	26(4)	Susumu Hibino	Internal Medicine
		Ryo Ito	Physiology
		Kazuo Ogasawara	Bacteriology
		Shooichi Sugiyama	Anatomy
1964–66	27(1)–28(2)	Ryo Ito	Physiology
1966–69	28(3/4)–32(1)	Masasumi Miyakawa	Pathology
1970–72	32(2)–34(4)	Shooichi Sugiyama	Anatomy
1972–75	35(1)–37(3/4)	Hiroshi Okada	Preventive Medicine
1975–79	38(1/2)–41(1–4)	Nobuo Kumada	Physiology
1979–83	42(1/2)–45(3/4)	Kunio Aoki	Preventive Medicine
1984–91	46(1–4)–53(1–4)	Kiyohide Kojima	Cancer Biology
1992–97	54(1–4)–60(1/2)	Izumi Nakashima	Immunology
1997–2001	60(3/4)–64(3/4)	Yukihiro Nishiyama	Virology
2002–06	65(1/2)–68(1/2)	Seiji Kojima	Pediatrics
2006–10	68(3/4)–72(1/2)	Nobuyuki Hamajima	Preventive Medicine
2010–	72(3/4)–	Shinya Toyokuni	Pathology

Modified from N Hamajima.<sup>3</sup>

After these efforts, we started to receive more submitted papers and thus the publication of NJMS has become quarterly since 2016 (Fig. 2). The contents are quite various but of intense worldwide medical interest currently. The titles of top 3 highly cited articles are “Mechanisms of asbestos-induced carcinogenesis”,<sup>5</sup> “Uremic toxicity of indoxyl sulfate”<sup>6</sup> and “Neuroinflammation in motor neuron disease.”<sup>7</sup> At this occasion of centennial anniversary, we decided to ask the authors of highly cited articles to write their comments or consequences of their articles, which are included in this issue.



**Fig. 2** The number of submissions, published articles and total citation of Nagoya Journal of Medical Science in recent years

Nagoya University School of Medicine has just celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation in 2021. As a celebration event, Nagoya University Medical Museum was established inside the medical library. NJMS publishes original and review papers in the areas of medical science and its related fields from all over the world. However, we are keen on the important medical topics in this local area and the associated medical doctors/scientists, such as the issues on COVID-19 in the Tokai region.<sup>8,9</sup>

Lastly, I would like to thank all the reviewers for their efforts to increase the quality of NJMS. I really hope that NJMS would continue to provide a high-quality forum for medical science in the next century.

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