

**Organizers: Tatsuya Takagi (Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University)
Kozo Takayama (Department of Pharmaceutics, Hoshi University)**

We are now living in the information age. Both fast computers and the Internet are readily accessible to most of the public. Vast amounts of information in any field can be obtained over the Internet. Nevertheless, software for information communication tools remains insufficient. It is certain that the "post-info age" will soon arrive. "Information" as a subject of research will have to change the focus from "speed and quantity" and "hardware and networks" to "how and what" and "software and application".

We believe that the situation does not differ in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. People in this field already have sufficient hardware for analyzing medical and pharmaceutical data as well as for de novo drug design. From now, researchers in the field of pharmainformatics must develop software for pharmaceutical sciences as well as its application to pharmaceutical data to assimilate the greatest quantity of hardware. Otherwise, pharmaceutical scientists will not be able to enjoy fully the benefits of information technology.

This symposium will discuss the study of computer-aided optimization of pharmaceutical formulations, pharmacokinetics using mathematical science, drug information, and pharmacoepidemiology, which will certainly be the basis of pharmaceutical information sciences in this century.