

## **Current topics in clinical and basic research for gastroenterology**

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Recently, the importance of diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease, or functional gastrointestinal disorders become increasing in the clinical practice of gastroenterologists in Japan. Although many drugs are becoming available in these fields, satisfactory result has not necessarily been achieved. Recent progresses in molecular technology and genome medicine are quite promising for the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic drugs. However, new drug development by such strategies takes a long time, and costs a lot. Our laboratory has focused on the development of innovative and differentiated therapeutic drug products for gastrointestinal disorders. Our approach is based on identifying existing therapeutic drugs which typically have been marketed for a number of years, have established safety profiles and can be developed for new clinical indications or with improved profiles in their existing clinical indications. In this way, we can reduce the risk, time and cost of new product development as compared to the development of new chemical drugs or biologic agents. In this symposium, we will focus on the efficacy of the Chinese medicine Rikkunshito on the chemotherapy-induced anorexia, and the new therapeutic potential of teprenone, one of the widely prescribed anti-ulcer agents, in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.