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PREFACE

This Special Issue of BIORHEOLOGY is dedicated to Professor Syoten Oka to celebrate his eightieth birthday on December 3, 1987. In the Spring of 1987, Prof. Copley wrote a letter to Eiichi Fukada, asking him to invite contributions, edit and compile them for a Special Issue in honor of Syoten Oka. Eiichi Fukada accepted the proposal with great pleasure and asked Takehiko Azuma to act as Co-Editor of the Special Issue. Dr. Makoto Kaibara kindly offered to help us in the clerical work.

We sent out an invitation to solicit original contributions to a number of scientists in different countries who are acquainted with Prof. Oka and are working on biorheology. Soon afterwards we had warm responses. Nearly all of them accepted our invitation with congratulations to the eightieth birthday of Syoten Oka. Forty contributions are compiled in this issue. Some of them were accepted after editorial review.

We have been delighted to do this editorial work, because we always felt unanimous in our warm wishes and admiration for Prof. Oka and share them with the contributors. Since Prof. Oka has been serving as an Editor of BIORHEOLOGY for the past twenty-five years, this Special Issue represents the most appropriate dedication to him.

Syoten Oka is a theoretical physicist, who worked in polymer physics, rheology and biorheology. He is a modest, kind and gentle man, an excellent scientist and a great leader in science, particularly in Biorheology. Besides numerous original publications, he has published three books on Biorheology. The first, entitled "Rheology-Biorheology" appeared in 1974 in Japanese. The second, entitled "Cardiovascular Hemorheology", was published in 1981 in English. The third, entitled "Biorheology", appeared in 1984 in Japanese and was translated into Chinese.

Nearing the age of eighty, Prof. Oka has been working on the

flow of blood in near zero gravity space. He always finds a new frontier in research and his age is no limitation for him.

We believe that all who are acquainted with Prof. Oka will join us in celebrating his eightieth birthday and wish him a long life of happiness, good health and continued success in his work.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Makoto Kaibara for his helpful assistance in the editorial work.

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