

## Introduction

Beginning with this issue, Vol. 30, Nos. 3 and 4, *Biorheology* will start the publication of papers and lectures presented at the 8th International Congress of Biorheology. Sponsored by the Japanese government through the Science Council of Japan, the International Society of Biorheology and the Japanese Society of Biorheology, 414 participants from 17 countries gathered in Yokohama City last August 3–8, 1992, to present advances in the field of biorheology. A Satellite Symposium was held in Beijing, China, from 11–13 August, 1992.

Yokohama, a 100-year-old cultural crossroads and port with a rich history of international trade, provided a remarkable setting where Japan's rapid progression into the 21st century melds with old Japanese tradition. The ICBR was held at the futuristic Yokohama Congress Hall, overlooking the old Yokohama Bay.

This Congress was dedicated to the memory of three of our most prominent colleagues who have recently passed on: Professor Alfred Lewin Copley; Professor Leopold Dintenfass, and Professor Syoten Oka, all of whom had been working to create and advance the field of biorheology. Dr. Copley founded this journal, as well as introducing the term "biorheology". He founded the International Society of Hemorheology in 1966, whose name was subsequently changed to the International Society of Biorheology in 1972. Not to recount Dr. Copley's contributions is not to be able to describe the field. We owe a great debt to his efforts. Dr. Dintenfass's pioneering work provided the foundation for clinical hemorheology. Dr. Oka, honorary chairman of this Congress, was the founder of the Japanese Society of Biorheology and a leader in theoretical hemorheology. All three of these great scientists are sorely missed.

Professor Harry Leonard Goldsmith from Montréal, Canada, received the Poiseuille Gold Medal Award, which Professor Richard Skalak presented to him. As its 10th recipient, Dr. Goldsmith won this award for his outstanding, fundamental work on the rheology of blood and other suspensions. In addition to his scientific, administrative and editorial services in the field, Professor Goldsmith's contributions to the understanding of the movement of blood cells in various flow systems are a landmark in the field of hemorheology.

We also focused on reconfirming the close relationship between biorheology and medical science, particularly clinical practice. In looking forward to the twenty-first century, we confirmed that biorheology can help advance clinical medicine greatly. Thus, we specified one of our major themes

as, "The contribution of biorheology to medical science and art, with special reference to clinical medicine for the future."

In addition to four papers that were in line for publication in this issue of *Biorheology*, presented here are the Poiseuille Award Lecture by Professor Harry Goldsmith, and the papers presented in Yokohama at the Symposium on the Rheology of Biopolymer Gels, which were edited by Professor Katsuyoshi Nishinari.

*Yukihide Isogai and Pedro Verdugo*