



**President Hiroshi Matsumoto**

Welcome to this special edition of *Kyoto University Research Activities*, commemorating the award of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, director of Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA).

The attainment of the award is a testament to the great efforts and passion of Dr. Yamanaka and the many researchers who have worked alongside him. As president of Kyoto University, I applaud their tremendous efforts and accomplishments, and extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of the research team.

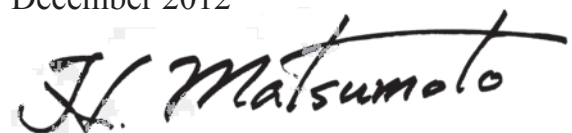
The research achievements for which the prize was awarded have toppled preconceived notions and opened new realms of possibility in biology and medicine. I have no doubt that they will pave the way for yet further remarkable advances, and that their influence will extend beyond the fields of biology and medicine to have a profound effect on science and technology as a whole, as well as on the humanities and social sciences.

Dr. Yamanaka is Kyoto University's eighth Nobel laureate, and in this issue we will also introduce his seven predecessors. The majority of those laureates did their most significant work at Kyoto University, and we are dedicated to maintaining that standard of achievement through continually enhancing our capability to foster world-class talent.

As the current harsh economic climate continues to exert adverse effects on the international research environment, it is my hope that achievements of Dr. Yamanaka and the other outstanding researchers featured will be a source of inspiration for students and researchers around the world.



December 2012



Hiroshi Matsumoto  
President, Kyoto University