

The Japan Society for Oral Functional Water was founded on March 6, 1999, in the last year of 1900's. It is my unexpected pleasure to see that we have come to publish the first issue of Journal of the Japan Society for Oral Functional Water at the same time as the meetings of the first Academic Conference of the Society in the first year of the new millennium as part of our efforts to support the Society's activities based on its by-laws.

Functional water in its original sense indicates a type of water that has gained effective functions by physically and chemically treating water in a particular way, or by artificial treatment of adding or removing specific substances to be able to perform those functions. To produce this type of water, a method of charging it with slight energy is used. This energy includes that of electrolysis, ultra-electric wave, electromagnetic wave, mineral treatment, ceramic treatment, ultra-violet rays, membrane treatment etc. Adding some form of energy to water through the process of these treatments will deform the structure of water molecules to produce various types of treated water, each with excellent efficacy.

However, we can rarely find functional water that scientifically demonstrates its mechanisms and functions as to how the molecular structure changes, what the newly formed structure is, and what kind of physiological and physical actions are triggered by different structures to result in the best efficacy and so forth. In fact, most of them are not brought into light yet.

Among those types of water, super acidic electrolyzed water and super alkaline electrolyzed water produced by electrolysis have been fairly examined to reveal mechanisms and functions of their generation. In order for us to see further development and expansion of the entire field of functional water, it is essential to scrutinize mechanisms of each type of functional water. This will require interdisciplinary joint studies involving many experts in a wide-range of fields including medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, natural science, engineering and agriculture. All researchers who are deeply involved in the field of functional water have to pursue their studies in cooperation with each other.

In retrospect, the Study Group for Dental Application of Super Acidic Water was founded on March 17, 1994, and its first meeting was held on June 16 of the same year. As more meetings are held in the following years, the number of members increased, and the meetings have been steadily improved both qualitatively and quantitatively. In the 8th general assembly and board of directors meeting of the Study Group for Dental Application of Super Acidic Water, it was passed by a unanimous vote that the Study Group be transformed and developed into the Japan Society for Oral Functional Water. That is the origin of the Society.

This journal is issued for the purpose of serving as media for all members to publish their study efforts and as a forum of information exchange. We are hoping that scientific examination of the mechanism of functional water and studies of its effective uses will contribute to the advancement of not only medical and dental sciences, but also medical practices in the world, and further to the maintenance and improvement of human health as well as achievement of our society that is sensitive to the natural environment.

I sincerely wish that this journal will be the great academic and spiritual support for all the members.

March, 2000. Akihiko Shiba, Chairman, The Japan Society for Oral Functional Water