Introduction to clinical practice of immune checkpoint inhibitors has dramatically changed the treatment scenery and improved survival for patients with lung cancer, although lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related death globally.

The development of specific antibodies against PD-1 receptor, PD-L1, and CTLA-4 receptor have led to unparalleled prolonged survival. Although clinical development of immune checkpoint inhibitors with anti–PD-1 and PD-L1 therapies began as monotherapy in the secondary treatment and beyond, recent progress has shifted toward combination approaches in first-line settings for inoperable patients with non–small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), as well as the integration of immunotherapy into the clinical paradigm in earlier stages. Actually, consolidative immunotherapy after concurrent chemoradiation became the new standard of care for locally advanced NSCLC. Furthermore, promising results of adjuvant or neoadjuvant therapy using immune checkpoint inhibitors have been reported in patients with resectable NSCLC. The application of these therapies has a potential to improve cure rates and long-term survival. Today, with the exclusion of NSCLC harboring targetable oncogenes, many patients with NSCLC receive PD-1 or PD-L1 therapy. In extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer, the addition of PD-L1 antibody to platinum-based chemotherapy has demonstrated overall survival benefit and represents the current standard of care in the first-line setting.

Although immunotherapy can provide important improvements in outcomes for patients with lung cancer, the benefit from immunotherapy currently remains limited to a minority of patients supporting the need for research and development of improved approaches for facilitating immune recognition. Because of the variability in clinical benefit and the lack of a clear biological mechanism of resistance, it should be extensively studied for further therapeutic development. Multiple approaches are being explored to attempt to optimize immune recognition and disease control.

A new book, *Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer*, provides up-to-date information, which would benefit all the professionals and students involved in this field. We hope this book regarding immunotherapy in the lung cancer will enable the readership to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Toyoaki Hida, MD, PhD
Lung Cancer Center,
Central Japan International Medical Center,
Minokamo, Gifu, Japan