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The objectives of this symposium are to encourage pharmaceutical company researchers who are interested in drug discovery to participate in this annual meeting, and also to create an important international platform for all those interested in the medicinal sciences. Since this symposium covers the entire drug discovery field, we welcome participants from disciplines including pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and regulatory sciences. The forth ISMS has two invited speakers, Prof. Erick M. Carreira from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and Prof. Vincent M. Rotello from University of Massachusetts. Both distinguished scientists will provide lectures about innovative sciences of great interest for future drug development. One of the features of this symposium is a wide array of invited poster presentations. Since the program will include high-caliber presentations from the Japanese and foreign pharmaceutical industries, venture companies, and academia, young Japanese researchers who are interested in drug discovery will have valuable opportunities for discussion with first-class drug discovery researchers from around the world.