
PREFACE

The parent organization of the Kodokan Judo Scientific Research Group was the Judo Medical Research Society, founded in July 1932 by Kano Jigoro Shihan subsequent to the remarkable spread of judo. According to documents from that period, Kano Shihan also enthusiastically participated in the research society meetings. In collaboration with invited authorities in the field of medicine, the society not only collated findings on medical matters related to judo, but also undertook specialized projects such as investigating safety matters in judo, and its effectiveness in developing physical strength and well-being. This period signifies the beginning of scientific studies into judo.

After Kano Jigoro passed away, the name of the Judo Medical Research Society was changed to the Kodokan Judo Scientific Research Group in 1948. Initially set up as a society focus on medical research, its range expanded to include the fields of philosophy, history, education, psychology, physiology, kinesiology, as well as fundamental and specialized scientific research. Key members behind the instigation of new research activities included academics such as Ikai Michio (Emeritus Professor of Tokyo University), Matsumoto Yoshizo (Emeritus Professor of Tokyo University of Education), Kawamura Teizo (Emeritus Professor of the University of Tsukuba), Tezuka Masataka (Emeritus Professor of Meiji University), Ogata Takashi (Emeritus Professor of Ibaraki University), and Murata Naoki (Curator of the Kodokan Judo Museum and Library). They were supported by many other researchers, and we continue their work to this day.

Recently, the Steering Committee has organized activities such as workshops and publication of a research bulletin to public their findings. The research areas are now categorized to philosophy and history, match analysis and biomechanics, psychology, the science of physical fitness, and teaching methodology. The society's research is mainly carried out by university teachers affiliated to the Kodokan.

I am truly pleased that the Bulletin of the Association for the Scientific Studies on Judo (hereinafter, the Bulletin), Kodokan Report XIX, has been published. We believe that the research papers published here will contribute to the correct dissemination and development of judo, and that their dissemination both domestically and internationally will be significant in stimulating academic research in judo. All of this bulletin is available on the Kodokan website and can be viewed by anyone.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to them for their efforts, and encourage them to continue in this important task of researching judo. It is also my hope that people continue to support the research group and their activities.

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