

〈シンポジウム〉

(香粧品の有用性を支える皮膚科学研究の今後と方向性)

## メラノジェネシスからみた香粧品の有用性

片桐 崇行\*

### Evaluation of the Usefulness of Skin Lightening Agents Based on the Inhibitory Mechanisms of Melanogenesis

Takayuki KATAGIRI\*

#### Abstract

Recently, many melanocyte-specific genes have been cloned and analyzed, and their expression and regulation mechanisms have been studied. Furthermore, it has been reported that several melanogens such as  $\alpha$ MSH, ET-1, NO, histamine, and PGE<sub>2</sub> are responsible for UVB-induced hyperpigmentation. Therefore, to evaluate the usefulness of skin lightening agents, it should be required to follow the recent studies of melanogenesis and the evaluation methods which are used in generally. In this article, I would like to review and discuss current situation and future prospects in the usefulness of skin lightening agents.

**Key words:** lightening, hyperpigmentation, melanogenesis, usefulness.