

ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BASIC BIOLOGY

The National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB) is one of five independent institutes making up the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS). NIBB, the Institute for Molecular Science (IMS) and the National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS) are located on a hill overlooking the old town of Okazaki in Aichi Prefecture. NIBB was established in 1977 and its activities are supported by Monbukagaku-sho (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology: Mext) of Japan. The Center for Integrative Bioscience (CIB) – renamed the Okazaki Institute for Integrative Bioscience on April 1st, 2004 – was established as a common facility for the three Okazaki Institutes in 2000 and opened in 2001.

Research

The NIBB conducts its research programs through 30 research units, 4 research support facilities including the Technology Department, and the Research Center for Integrative and Computational Biology. Each research unit has its own research project and is staffed (in principle) by a professor, an associate professor and two research associates. Each research unit forms an independent project team. Three of the research units are adjunct and headed by professors who hold joint appointments with other universities. Adjunct divisions have a resident research associate. This arrangement facilitates exchange in research activities in Japan. The Technical Department manages the activities of research technicians and helps to promote the research activities of each research unit and facility and to maintain the common research resources of the NIBB. The Department also undertakes the technical education of the various

staffs.

Several members of the Okazaki Institute for Integrative Bioscience work jointly with the NIBB.

Research Support Facilities

The Research Support Facility of the NIBB consists of six sub facilities: the Large Spectrograph Laboratory, the Tissue and Cell Culture Laboratory, the Computer Laboratory, the Plant Culture Laboratory, the Plant Cell Laboratory and the Experimental Farm. The Research Center for Integrative and Computational Biology, the Center for Transgenic Animals and Plants and the Technical Division are also research support systems of the NIBB.

In addition, five facilities are operated jointly with NIPS: the Electron Microscope Center, the Center for Analytical Instruments, the Machine Shop, the Laboratory Glassware Facilities and the Low-Temperature Facilities. The Radioisotope Facilities, the Computer Center and the Animal Care Facilities are common facilities of the three Okazaki Institutes.

Campus

Together the three Okazaki Institutes cover an area of 164,783m² with four principal buildings. The NIBB's main research building has a floor space of 16,789m². Two-thirds of the space was completed in 1982 and the remaining third in June, 1983. The buildings that house the research support facilities were also completed in 1983. A building for the Laboratory of Gene Expression and Regulation (2,577m²) was built in 1996. A building for the Center for Transgenic Animals and Plants (2,500m²) was completed in November, 2003.

