

Our institute, the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), has developed as a center of excellence in research, education, and inter-university collaboration in the various fields of basic biology since its foundation in 1977. In 2004, NIBB and four national research institutes established a new organization, the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), one of the four Inter-University Research Institute Corporations. In 2008, we gladly had two professors joining our institute, and are now covering a wide variety of fields including cell biology, developmental biology, neurobiology, evolutionary biology and biodiversity, environmental biology, theoretical biology and imaging science, and are studying the basic action of genes and cells common to all living organisms, as well as the mechanisms involved in producing the diversified structures and activities of life adapting to an ever-changing environment. Research in these basic biological fields is maintained at a high level while we continue to search for new and challenging fields of study. We are also involved in ongoing collaboration with a number of researchers from Japanese and foreign universities and institutes. In addition to research, the education of the next generation of researchers is another important aim. As a member of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), we are involved in training graduate students. We will have three new doctors in March of 2009.

NIBB's activities during 2008, as well as our goals for the future, are summarized in this booklet. We are always open to questions, comments and suggestions.



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