

In order to understand the survival strategies of a variety of organisms NIBB uses model organisms in collaboration with Japanese and international researchers to uncover both the basic mechanisms that are common to all living things, as well as the varied and unique systems organisms have evolved to allow them to adapt to their environments. It is necessary to continue to promote top-level research in this field, therefore it is important that we boldly pioneer new areas of study, and exert our energies to foster the young researchers who will lead us in the future.

In addition, as an inter-university research institute it is essential that the National Institute for Basic Biology spares no effort in promoting cooperative use and collaborative research. In answer to the desires of the research community, NIBB has been strengthening our cooperative use and collaborative research structure by setting up the DSLM (Digital Scanned Light-sheet Microscope) cooperative research program, the next Generation DNA sequencer cooperative research program, and we have established the “NIBB BioResource Center” and the “NIBB Core Research Facilities”. In addition, in order to protect biological resources that are indispensable to the advancement of the biological sciences we have begun operating as the core facility of the Interuniversity Bio-Backup Project (IBBP), together with implementing plans in this fiscal year to begin joint-use research aimed at the development of new cryopreservation technology of biological resources. With the current climate of emphasis being placed on the practical application of research NIBB is expected to play a central role in promotion of the importance of the study of basic biology. To this end I believe it is necessary for NIBB to come together and strive to propel research, as well as expanding cooperative use and collaborative research with universities and institutes throughout the world.

In 2012 we welcomed several new colleagues, including 4 assistant professors and 5 NIBB research fellows, while 2 colleagues transferred to other institutes.

Finally I would like to congratulate Prof. Yoshinori Ohsumi for winning the Kyoto Prize, which is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious international awards for lifetime achievement in the arts and sciences, and Assistant Prof. Shinichi Miyagawa for winning the NINS young Researcher Award. I would also like to congratulate Dr. Kazuya Kuboyama, Dr. Michitaro Shibata, and Dr. Kenji Fukushima for receiving recognition for their research achievements as detailed on page 7.

We always welcome any questions, comments and suggestions concerning research activities and administration of NIBB.



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