

International Cooperation Group

Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (URA):
TATEMATSU, Kiyoshi
Technical Assistant:
TAKAHASHI, Ritsue
SANJO, Kazuko
Group Adviser:
UENO, Naoto

NIBB has a mission to continually explore the leading-edge of biology and form research communities that link Japan to the world. For this purpose, NIBB holds scientific meetings including “NIBB Conferences” and “Okazaki Biology Conferences (OBC)”, and educational programs such as “NIBB International Practical Courses”. Further, NIBB is tightly interacting with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL, European member states), the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIPZ, Germany), and the Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL, Singapore) on the basis of cooperative agreements, through exchanging people and techniques and jointly holding scientific meetings. NIBB is also conducting the “NIBB International Collaborative Research Initiative” to promote high-level international collaborations between faculty members of NIBB and researchers around the world.

This group supports and coordinates NIBB’s activities related to international research collaborations, through organizing the above-mentioned various types of international scientific meetings and technical courses, coordination of dispatching NIBB’s researchers to international conferences, and support of researchers visiting from the institutes mentioned above. This group also supports NIBB’s interns visiting from foreign countries, and the dispatching of graduate students of SOKENDAI (the Graduate University for Advanced Studies) to international conferences, which aim to nurture the next generation of researchers in biology.

The main activities of the group in 2014

1) Coordination of international conferences and the International Practical Course

This group coordinated the following international conference and the International Practical Course hosted by NIBB:

The 8th NIBB International Practical Course and the 3rd NIBB-TLL-DBS/NUS Joint International Practical Course “Experimental Techniques using Medaka and *Xenopus* – The Merits of using both –” Okazaki, Japan, September 22-October 1, 2014 (p. 93)

The 62nd NIBB Conference “Force in Development” Okazaki, Japan, November 17-19, 2014 (p. 91)

2) Support for dispatching researchers to international conferences

This group supported sending NIBB researchers to the following events (related to the international cooperative agreements):

The 5th NIBB-MPIPZ-TLL Joint Symposium “HORIZONS IN PLANT BIOLOGY” Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany, November 24-26, 2014 (p. 92)

EMBO Workshop “Wnt Signaling: Stem Cells, Development, Disease” Broome, Australia, October, 6-9,

2014

EMBO Conference “Stem Cells in Cancer and Regenerative Medicine” EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany, October, 9-12, 2014

NIBB Investigators’ lab visits to EMBL, Heidelberg

3) Support of education related programs

This group supported the following student-related activities of NIBB:

NIBB Internship Program 2014 (p. 96)

Collaborative Research Group

Specially Appointed Associate Professor (URA):
SHIGENOBU, Shuji
KAMEI, Yasuhiro
Technical Assistant:
ICHIKAWA, Mariko
ICHIKAWA, Chiaki
Group Adviser:
YOSHIDA, Shosei

Specially appointed associate professors of this group also belong to NIBB core research facilities and are responsible for managing collaborative research projects and practical courses using their academic background, knowledge, and specialties. Based on these experiences, this group explores further promotion of information exchange and collaboration among universities and institutes, both academic and industrial, and supports the development and dissemination of new experimental equipment and methods.

In 2014, this group hosted or managed a total of 89 collaboration projects. Through these collaboration projects, several research papers were published. A noteworthy achievement was the study of a neural mechanism related to social familiarity using medaka, published in *Science* by Dr. Takeuchi of the University of Tokyo. The NIBB Collaborative Research Group supported mutant screening, laser cell ablation, establishment of transgenic lines and discussions through the Priority Collaborative Research Project from 2010 to 2013.

- Okuyama, T., Yokoi, S., Abe, H., Isoe, Y., Suehiro, Y., Imada, H., Tanaka, M., Kawasaki, T., Yuba, S., Taniguchi, Y., Kamei, Y., Okubo, K., Shimada, A., Naruse, K., Takeda, H., Oka, Y., Kubo, T., and Takeuchi, H. (2014). A neural mechanism underlying mating preferences for familiar individuals in medaka fish. *Science* 343, 91-94.

Gender Equality Promotion Group

Group Adviser: TAKADA, Shinji

This group supports the improvement of the research environment for female researchers in both research and daily life. This includes our research support system for the period of childbirth and childcare, etc., aiming at promoting the employment of female researchers.

In 2014, this group contributed to the management of the research support system for the period of childbirth and childcare. This group organized an enlightenment lecture for gender equality promotion in collaboration with other institutes of NINS.