

The 8th Bio-Imaging Forum “Directions of Future Bio-Imaging” and the “Meeting for the Future Plan of Bio-Imaging Network among Universities and Institutes in Japan”

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Bio-Imaging Forum: March 4 (Tue), 2014

The Meeting for the Future Plan: March 5 (Wed)-6 (Thu), 2014

The 8th Bio-Imaging Forum was held on the theme of “Directions of Future Bio-Imaging,” and was immediately followed, with the same participants, by the “Meeting for the Future Plan of Bio-Imaging Network among Universities and Institutes in Japan”, which was planned by the Department of Imaging Science, Center for Novel Science Initiative, NINS.

Both the forum and the meeting were managed by the Collaborative Research Group, Research Enhancement Strategy Office, NIBB. The forum and the meeting were seamlessly planned by the same organizers who undertook detailed discussions prior to the events. The aim of the forum was to promote the exchange of information on the newest technologies of obtaining and analyzing biological images, and that of the meeting was to grasp the present situation of various imaging facilities in Japan and to discuss the collaborations of these facilities and the future directions of bio-imaging, with the prospect of promoting collaborative use of the Spectroscopy and Bioimaging Facility, NIBB.

The Forum welcomed ninety participants and included nine lectures on a wide variety of bio-image acquisition methods, ranging from the newest techniques of electron and optical microscopy to macro bio-imaging methods such as PET and MRI, and also on the image analysis methods (Bio-Image Informatics) of acquired images. These lectures were a part of the imaging facilities’ introduction to the later meeting during which they served as materials of discussion. The meeting started with self-introductions by the twenty imaging facilities on their missions, present status, problems and prospects for collaboration. Dr. Kota Miura of the

Advanced Light Microscopy Facility, EMBL Heidelberg was invited to report the present status and the future directions of the network of bio-imaging facilities in Europe. Further discussions resulted in common understanding on the present status and problems of imaging facilities and as the first step of the collaboration we agreed to open a portal web site of bio-imaging facilities and to continue to hold similar meetings to promote formation of networks in the imaging science field through the collaboration of the Spectroscopy and Bioimaging Facility and the Department of Imaging Science.

The organizers appreciate the precious information brought by the participants, and the Spectroscopy and Bioimaging Facility benefitted much in enhancing collaborative programs and preparing for improvement of its equipment. The forum and the meeting served an important role in promoting NINS as a hub of the worldwide scientific community working in the field of imaging science.

(Yasuhiro Kamei)

