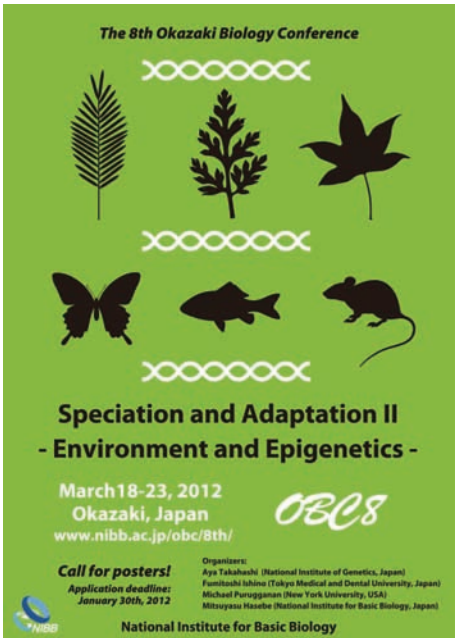
The Eighth Okazaki Biology Conference "Speciation and Adaptation II - Environment and Epigenetics"

Organizers: Aya Takahashi (National Inst. Genetics), Michael Purugganan (New York Univ.), Fumitoshi Ishino (Tokyo Medical and Dental Univ.), Mitsuyasu Hasebe (NIBB)

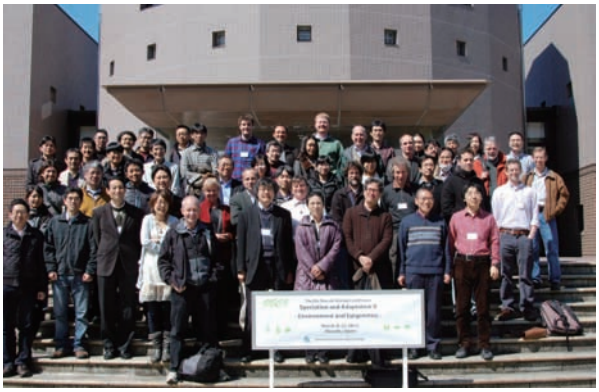
March 18 (Sun)-23 (Fri), 2012

Building on 2007's 5th OBC's topic of "Speciation and Adaptation - Ecological Genetics of Model Organisms and Beyond," the 8th OBC was held with the theme of "Speciation and Adaptation - Environment and Epigenetics." At OBC 8, the foundations were laid for frontier expanding, mold-breaking research investigating how environmental responses relate to evolution, and the relationship epigenetic factors may have on them. Though the event was originally planned for March, 2011, the unfortunate events of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and Tsunami forced its postponement until March of the following year. This dark cloud did have a small silver lining for the participating researchers however, as they were granted an additional year within which to gather and analyze data, resulting in more and finer results than may have been presented otherwise.



The topics of discussion included: "major and minor QTL's role in relation to adaptation and wild mutation," "the necessity of analyzing wild populations," "research using fruit flies on the genes controlling speciation and polymorphism in wild populations," "multi-generational polymorphism maintenance mechanisms and their adaptive significance," and "the connection between macro-evolution and epigenetic change," taking place through 7 sessions over 5 days. Through combining the fields of evolutionary, developmental, and ecological science in a single event, researchers joining OBC 8 were able to transcend the boundaries of their own research areas to gain a new understanding of unfamiliar fields, make new ties with colleagues, and create fertile ground for the planning and execution of new research ventures. We at NIBB could not be more pleased.

(Mitsuyasu Hasebe)



Speakers

Chong, Suyinn (Queenlsand Inst. of Medical Research), Colot, Vincent (IBENS), Comai, Luca (UC Davis), Feder, Martin (Univ. of Chicago), Gibson, Greg (Georgia Inst. of Tech.), Graves, Jennifer (La Trobe Inst. of Molecular Sciences), Gresham, David (New York Univ.), Guerrero-Bosagna, Carlos (WSU), Hanzawa, Yoshie (UIUC), Leakey, Andrew (UIUC), Muotri, Alysson (UCSD), Newfeld, Stuart (ASU), Olsen, Kenneth (WUSTL), Presgraves, Daven (Univ. of Rochester), Purugganan, Michael (New York Univ.), Renfree, Marilyn (The Univ. of Melbourne), Schott, Daniel (Harvard Univ.), Shimizu, Kentaro (Univ. of Zurich), Stephan, Wolfgang (LMU Munich), Zhang, Cuicui (HZAU)

Akashi, Hiroshi (NIG), Araki, Kiwako (Kyoto Univ.), Innan, Hideki (SOKENDAI), Ishii, Shunsuke (RIKEN Tsukuba Inst.), Ishino, Fumitoshi (Tokyo Medical and Dental Univ.), Ito, Hidetaka (Hokkaido Univ.), Kakutani, Tetsuji (NIG), Kanaoka, Masahiro (Nagoya Univ.), Kawamura, Shoji (The Univ. of Tokyo), Kinoshita, Tetsu (NAIST), Kitano, Jun (NIG), Kohda, Takashi (Tokyo Medical and Dental Univ.), Kudoh, Hiroshi (Kyoto Univ.), Kuwabara, Tomoko (AIST), Matsui, Takeshi (iCeMS, Kyoto Univ.), Okada, Norihiro (Tokyo Inst. Tech.), Osada, Naoki (NIG), Sawamura, Kyoichi (Univ. of Tsukuba), Takahashi, Aya (NIG), Takahashi, Kazuo (Okayama Univ.), Tamada, Yosuke (NIBB), Tanaka, Kenta (Univ. of Tsukuba)

The Ninth Okazaki Biology Conference "Marine Biology II"

Organizers: Noriyuki Satoh (Okinawa Inst. Sci. Tech.), Thomas C.G. Bosch (Univ. Kiel), Jun Minagawa (NIBB)

October 14 (Sun)-19 (Fri), 2012

The Okazaki Biology Conferences (OBC) are unique retreat style international conferences that focus on discovering new themes in the field of basic biology and forming new communities of researchers.

The 9th OBC, "Marine Biology II", was a continuation of OBC 6 (Marine Biology), focusing on cnidarians, especially corals, and their symbionts, with the first half of the conference taking part in Okazaki from October 14th to the 16th, and the second half in Okinawa from the 17th through the 19th. 44 researchers (24 from overseas) invited from the forefront of 7 fields showing remarkable advancement (Ecophysiology, Genomics, Circadian Rhythms, Photosynthesis, Symbiotics, Evo&Devo), came together to discuss, give presentations, and exchange information on the current challenges and future development of their fields. The conference was organized by Dr. Jun Minagawa of NIBB, Dr. Noriyuki Satoh of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, and Dr. Thomas C. G. Bosch of the University of Kiel. With few opportunities for cutting edge researchers working with cnidarians and their symbionts to gather and share their work, the 9th OBC was an ideal chance for the participants to rethink the striking new developments and new possibilities opening in their respective fields. With a conclusion that Eco-Devo should be advocated as an important direction in the post genomic era, this conference was a perfect example of the OBCs' goal of developing new fields of biology research.

(Jun Minagawa)

Speakers

Allemand, Denis (CSM), Ball, Eldon (ANU), Bosch, Thomas (CAU), Foret, Sylvain (ANU), Fraune, Sebastian (CAU), Gates, Ruth (Univ. of Hawaii, Manoa), Holstein, Thomas (Univ. of Heidelberg), Houliston, Evelyn (UPMC/CNRS), Khalturin, Konstantin (CAU), Lallier, François (UPMC), Larkum, Anthony (Univ. of Sydney), Levy, Oren (BIU), Manuel, François (UPMC), Miller, David (JCU), Pringle, John (Stanford Univ.), Ralph, Peter (UTS), Rosenberg, Eugene (TAU), Smith, Joel (MBL), Takahashi, Shunichi (ANU), Tarrant, Ann (WHOI), Technau, Ulrich (Univ. of Vienna), Vize, Peter (Univ. of Calgary), Weis, Virginia (OSU)
Fujisawa, Toshitaka (SOKENDAI), Hamada, Shun (FWU), Hatta, Masayuki (Ochanomizu Univ.), Hidaka, Michio (Univ. of the Ryukyus), Kawaguchi, Masayoshi (NIBB), Kondo, Takao (Nagoya Univ.), Kurihara, Haruko (Univ. of the Ryukyus), Maruyama, Tadashi (JAMSTEC), Minagawa, Jun (NIBB), Sakai, Kazuhiko (Univ. of the Ryukyus), Satoh, Nori (OIST), Shinzato, Chuya (OIST), Shoguchi, Eiichi (OIST)