

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you all the 2014 Annual Report of the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), which outlines the high level research activities of the Institute and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan over the last year. Given these important missions of the Institute, I recognize my strong responsibility to maintain the liberal atmosphere for research and discussion that NIBB has kept for many years, which I believe is a basis for these remarkable activities.

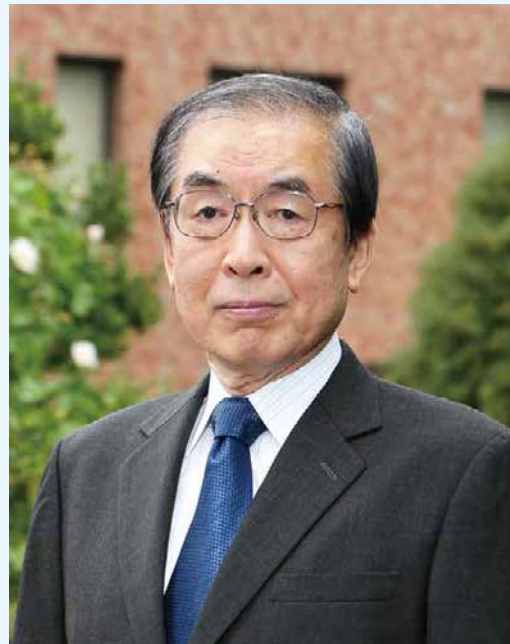
To improve the economic status of the country, the Japanese government continues to strengthen the demand that universities and inter-university research institute corporations, the latter of which includes NIBB, should reform themselves and draw actual profits from science. It is also a serious burden to the scientific community to achieve full compliance in research activities, excluding any misconduct, and recover the reliance of the society to science. These circumstances have set a strong headwind against basic sciences, through which NIBB must stride properly. We will maintain two directions steadily. One is that every person in NIBB should do his/her best in accomplishing good research in basic biology. Good science, even in a basic research field, will eventually benefit human beings. The history of science tells us this is true. The other is that NIBB must achieve high ethical standards for research that conform to the era of computer technology and data sharing through the internet. NIBB will work hard to be truly acknowledged as a remarkable institution in the society.

Please find in this booklet a summary of the research, collaborative, educational, and international activities of NIBB in 2014. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2014, including one specially appointed professor, one associate professor, two specially appointed associate professors, one assistant professor, one specially appointed assistant professor, and five NIBB research fellows, while four colleagues transferred to other institutes.

Finally I would like to congratulate Specially Appointed Associate Prof. Tsuyoshi Shimmura for winning the Encouragement Award from the Japanese Society of Animal Science. I would also like to congratulate young colleagues for winning awards from academic societies and SOKENDAI, as detailed on page 7.

To establish NIBB as an international leading institute in the field of basic biology, we always welcome your suggestions, comments and queries concerning our activities, in addition to your warm support.

Masayuki Yamamoto
Director General of NIBB
July 27, 2015



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Masayuki Yamamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the name.