

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you all the 2015 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 necessary for the scientific community to achieve full compliance and establish integrity in research activities, to recover society's reliance on science. Under these circumstances 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 by society.

Please find in this booklet a summary of the research, collaborative, educational, and international activities of NIBB in 2015. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2015, including one professor, one associate professor, one specially appointed associate professor, two assistant professors, and seven NIBB research fellows, while ten colleagues transferred to other institutes.

Finally I would like to congratulate Professor Emeritus Yoshinori Ohsumi for winning several outstanding international awards, and Adjunct Professor Takashi Yoshimura for winning the Van Meter Award in 2015 (Addendum: Prof. Ohsumi has been elected as a 2016 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine). I would also like to congratulate our young colleagues for winning awards from academic societies 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
October 17, 2016



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Masayuki Yamamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the portrait.