

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you all the 2016 Annual Report of the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), which outlines the 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 and forward-looking atmosphere for research and discussion that NIBB has kept for many years, which I believe is a basis for these remarkable activities.

2016 was a marvelous year for us all, as Dr. Yoshinori Ohsumi, a Professor Emeritus of NIBB, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his outstanding research on autophagy. He ran his laboratory as a Professor in NIBB from 1996 to 2009, and he recalls this period as the golden age of autophagy study. We congratulate his great achievements, and are proud of the efficacy of NIBB that fostered his science.

The Japanese government continues to ask universities and inter-university research institute corporations, the latter of which includes NIBB, to strengthen performance and gain 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 2016. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2016, including four professors, one specially appointed professor, one associate professor, five assistant professors, one specially appointed assistant professor, and one NIBB research fellow, while nine colleagues transferred to other institutes.

Besides Prof. Ohsumi, I would like to congratulate Professor Mitsuyasu Hasebe for winning the Japan's Eminent Evolutionalist Award, and Dr. Yoshiaki Nakamura for winning an Outstanding Presentation Award from an academic society, 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
November 28, 2017



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