

The 64th NIBB Conference “Evolution of Seasonal Timers”

Organizers: Andrew Loudon (Univ. Manchester, UK), David Burt (Roslin Inst., UK), David Hazlerigg (UiT –Arctic Univ. Norway, Norway), Takashi Yoshimura (NIBB, Japan)

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Until now how animals recognize and adapt to seasonal changes in the environment has remained a mystery that has long fascinated human beings. In addition, the impact of sudden climate change caused by global warming etc. on the ecosystem is also a concern, and societal interest in this mystery is great.

With recent research understanding of the mechanisms by which plants and animals perceive seasons has progressed, and both the universality and diversity of the seasonal sensing mechanisms of living organisms has come to light. With this background, the 64th NIBB Conference entitled “Evolution of seasonal timers” was held with the aim of promoting in-depth understanding of the design principles and evolution of the seasonal sensing mechanisms of living things.

Although the keyword of the conference was “season”, topics ranged from “mathematical analysis of the flowering of wild plants in the field”, “mechanisms of migratory behavior and spawning activity of eels”, “hibernation of squirrels”, and “chromatin remodeling and chemical genetics”. Leading researchers in their respective fields came together from across the world. The approximately 100 participants made for an ideal size for the meeting, and facilitated deep discussions in face-to-face settings for every participant throughout the three day period. Members who would normally never have a chance to meet face to face at a usual academy gathered together for an opportunity to deeply consider seasonal sensation from an interdisciplinary point of

view, and we were able to obtain a lot of inspiration toward future research. We received kind acknowledgements such as “the most stimulating symposium I ever had” and “an unforgettable symposium”

I’d like to express my gratitude to the members of the Office of International Cooperation and the Division of Seasonal Biology for the efforts they made to the conference, and I very much appreciate the support from the National Institute for Basic Biology, the Daiko foundation, and the Human Frontier Science Program.

Takashi Yoshimura (On behalf of the organizers)



Speakers

Barnes, Brian (UAF), Burt, David (The Roslin Institute/Univ. of Edinburgh), Foulkes, Nicholas (KIT), Hazlerigg, David (UiT The Arctic Univ. of Norway), Loudon, Andrew (The Univ. of Mancheste), McClung, C. Robertson (Dartmouth College), Menaker, Michael (Univ. of Virginia), Simonneaux, Valerie (INCI), Tessmar-Raible, Kristin (Univ. of Vienna)
Izawa, Takeshi (The Univ. of Tokyo), Kitano, Jun (NIG), Kudoh, Hiroshi (Kyoto Univ.), Myung, Jihwan (RIKEN), Nakamichi, Norihito (Nagoya Univ.), Niwa, Ryusuke (Univ. of Tsukuba), Numata, Hideharu (Kyoto Univ.), Satake, Akiko (Kyushu Univ.), Takumi, Toru (RIKEN), Tsukamoto, Katsumi (Nihon Univ.), Yoshimura, Takashi (NIBB)