

The 65th NIBB Conference

“Renaissance of *Marchantia polymorpha* – the genome and beyond”

Organizers: John L. Bowman (Monash University, Australia), Takayuki Kohchi (Kyoto University, Japan), Takashi Ueda (National Institute for Basic Biology, Japan)

December 16 (Sat) – 18 (Mon), 2017

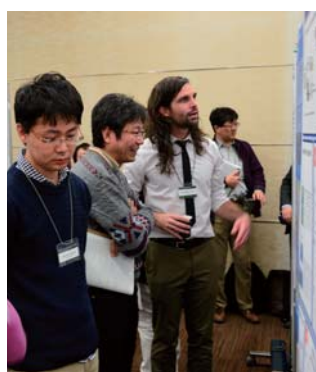
The 65th NIBB Conference “Renaissance of *Marchantia polymorpha* ~ the genome and beyond” was held at the Okazaki Conference Center from 16th December to 18th December 2017. Professor Takayuki Kohchi (Kyoto University, Japan), Professor John L. Bowman (Monash University, Australia) and I organized the conference. The liverwort “Zenigoke” (*Marchantia polymorpha*) was already described in the literature of pharmaceutical sciences in ancient Greece, and in the past 200 years *Marchantia* has been used as a model plant in modern biology. In the latter half of the 20th century its position as a major model plant was temporarily taken over by other plant species such as *Arabidopsis thaliana*, but in recent years *Marchantia* has been reevaluated because of its merits in the life cycle and body plan as well as its manageability as a research material. Combined with the establishment of various tools and techniques for molecular genetic studies, this plant is now getting hot attention from plant scientists. Furthermore, the paper on the draft genome of *M. polymorpha* was published in the October 5th issue of *Cell*, 2017. Under these circumstances, the NIBB Conference was planned to discuss deeply fundamental biological functions and physiologies of plants as well as to promote future collaborative research.

The conference was held with 30 invited speakers from 10 countries and 115 general participants from 9 countries. Three plenary lectures, 27 invited talks, 16 short talks selected from posters, 6 topics in a technology workshop,

and 58 posters were presented. Throughout the entire conference program, including scientific sessions and the banquet on the last day, all participants enjoyed deep discussions from various perspectives, ranging from individual biological phenomena, to the future roles to be played by *Marchantia*, and the future of plant science. After the meeting, we received a lot of messages from both foreign and domestic participants, many of which said “the conference was very meaningful and stimulating for future research”. It is a great pleasure for the organizers to have such a fruitful international conference as the NIBB conference.

The organizers appreciate all the participants for their exciting talks and lively discussion. We are also thankful to the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (MEXT) “Multidimensional Exploration of Logics of Plant Development”, the Interuniversity Bio-Backup Project for Basic Biology (IBBP), the Support Program for Interaction-based Initiative Team Studies (SPIRITS) by Kyoto University, and the Daiko Foundation for financial support. We are also most grateful to the Office of International Cooperation, NIBB for the intensive support. I would like to conclude this message with words from John Bowman, “after the Renaissance at NIBB/OCC... the Enlightenment!”.

Takashi Ueda (On behalf of the Organizers)



Speakers

Arteaga-Vazquez, Mario A. (Universidad Veracruzana), Berger, Frederic (Gregor Mendel Institute), Bowman, John L. (Monash Univ.), Chen, Feng (Univ. Tennessee), Dolan, Liam (Univ. Oxford), Grossniklaus, Ueli (Univ. Zurich), Harrison, Jill (Univ. Bristol), Lin, Shih-Shun (National Taiwan Univ.), Nakagami, Hirofumi (MPIPZ), Solano, Roberto (CNB-CSIC), Weijers, Dolf (Wageningen Univ. Research), Aki, Shiori S. (NAIST), Araki, Takashi (Kyoto Univ.), Demura, Taku (NAIST), Hasebe, Mitsuyasu (NIBB), Ishizaki, Kimitsune (Kobe Univ.), Kodama, Yutaka (Utsunomiya Univ.), Kohchi, Takayuki (Kyoto Univ.), Kuchitsu, Kazuyuki (Tokyo Univ. Science), Nakamura, Yasukazu (NIG), Naramoto, Satoshi (Tohoku Univ.), Nishihama, Ryuichi (Kyoto Univ.), Nishitani, Kazuhiko (Tohoku Univ.), Ohta, Hiroyuki (Tokyo Tech.), Sakayama, Hidetoshi (Kobe Univ.), Sakakibara, Keiko (Rikkyo Univ.), Sekimoto, Hiroyuki (Japan Women's Univ.), Shimamura, Masaki (Hiroshima Univ.), Ueda, Takashi (NIBB), Yamato, Katsuyuki T. (Kindai Univ.)