

It is my great pleasure to present to you all the 2018 Annual Report of the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), which outlines the Institute's research activities and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan over the last year. Given these important institutional missions, I have tried to maintain the liberal and forward-looking atmosphere for research and discussion that NIBB has sustained for many years, which I believe is an essential basis for these remarkable activities.

As I will finish my term at the end of March 2019, this will be the last Annual Report issued under my directorship. I cordially thank you all for the warm support and encouragement that you have given me during the last six years. I sincerely hope that NIBB will continue to open up and foster new research fields in biology and that every person in NIBB will do his/her best in producing good research, as well as upholding high ethical and compliance standards. Good science, even in a basic research field, will eventually benefit human beings. The history of science tells us this is immutably true. I hope that NIBB will continue to work hard to be truly acknowledged as a remarkable institution.

Please find in this booklet a summary of NIBB's research, collaborative, educational, and international activities in 2018. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2018, including one professor, one specially appointed associate professor, three assistant professors, two specially appointed assistant professors, and four NIBB research fellows, while three colleagues transferred to other institutes.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Masaharu Noda, Dr. Takashi Matsuda, and Dr. Haruka Kawaguchi for winning awards, 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

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Director General of NIBB
March 29, 2019