The National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB) was founded in 1977 on a hill overlooking the old town of Okazaki in Aichi prefecture as one of the Inter-University Research Institutes designated to promote and stimulate the study of biology both in Japan and internationally. NIBB conducts first-rate research on site as well as in cooperation with national, public and private universities and research organizations. NIBB attempts to elucidate the general and fundamental mechanisms underlying various biological phenomena throughout a wide variety of biological fields, such as cell, developmental, evolutionary, environmental and theoretical biology as well as neurobiology.

NIBB and four other national institutes, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAO), the National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS), the National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), and the Institute for Molecular Science (IMS), constitute the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), which is one of the four Inter-University Research Institute Corporations. NIBB’s activities are supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan.

Policy, Decision Making, and Administration

The Director General oversees the operation of NIBB, assisted by the Advisory Committee for Programming and Management. The Advisory Committee, comprised of eleven professors within NIBB and ten leading biologists from outside of it, advises the Director General on important matters such as planning joint research programs as well as on the scientific activities of NIBB. The Advisory Committee makes recommendations on the appointments of new Directors General, faculty appointments, NIBB’s annual budget and future prospects.

The Research Enhancement Strategy Office, aimed at supporting researchers in order to improve NIBB’s abilities as a collaborative research institution, was founded in 2013. The Office is made up of six groups (p. 97) and its activities are mainly carried out by URAs (University Research Administrators) in close collaboration with the NINS’s Research Enhancement Promotion Headquarters.

Administration of NIBB is undertaken by the Okazaki Administration Office under the direct auspices of the Administration Office of NINS.

Research and Research Support

NIBB’s research programs are conducted in research units and research support units. Each research unit is called either a division, led by a professor, or a laboratory, led by an associate professor or an assistant professor. Each research unit forms an independent project team. The NIBB Core

Buildings in the Myodaiji area (left) and Yamate area (right).
National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB)

As of January 31, 2019

Research Units
- Cell Biology
- Developmental Biology
- Neurobiology
- Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity
- Environmental Biology
- Theoretical Biology
- Imaging Science
- Concurrent Faculty

Research Support Facilities
- NIBB Core Research Facilities
- NIBB BioResource Center
- NIBB Center for the Interuniversity Bio-Backup Project (IBBP Center)
- Center for the Development of New Model Organisms
- Technical Division
- Section of Health and Safety Management
- Okazaki Administration Office

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAO)
National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS)
National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB)
National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)

Imaging Science
Concurrent Faculty
- Laboratory for Spatiotemporal Regulations*
- Laboratory of Nuclear Dynamics
- Laboratory of Plant Development and Physiology
- NINS Astrobiology Center

Evaluation and Information Group
Public Relations Group
International Cooperation Group
Collaborative Research Group
Young Researcher Support Group
Gender Equality Promotion Group

Three Institutes in Okazaki

President
KOMORI, Akio

Director General
YAMAMOTO, Masayuki

Vice-Director General
UENO, Naoto

Research Enhancement Strategy Office
- Evaluation and Information Group
- Public Relations Group
- International Cooperation Group
- Collaborative Research Group
- Young Researcher Support Group
- Gender Equality Promotion Group

Research units of NIBB with an asterisk on the right panel also function as research groups of ExCELLS.
Research Facilities and NIBB BioResource Center were launched in 2010 to support research in NIBB and also to act as an intellectual hub to promote collaboration among the researchers of NIBB and other institutions. The NIBB Center of the Inter-University Bio-Backup Project (IBBP Center) was founded in 2012 to prevent the loss of invaluable biological resources. Projects for the development of bioresource preservation technology are solicited by the IBBP center. The Center for the Development of New Model Organisms was founded in 2013 to promote development of new model organisms and research using them. The Technical Division manages the activities of the technical staff and helps to promote the activities of each research unit and to maintain the common resources of both the research support units of NIBB and the research facilities of the Okazaki campus. The Center for Radioisotope Facilities is one of the latter and run by the technical staff of NIBB.

The Exploratory Research Center on Life and Living Systems (ExCELLS) was founded in 2018 to develop novel approaches for observing biological entities, deciphering hidden information, and creating living systems to improve our understanding of their nature. Moreover, ExCELLS promotes collaborative, interdisciplinary research involving investigators exploring organisms living in extreme environments.

### Members of the Advisory Committee for Programming and Management (as of January, 2019)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-NIBB members</th>
<th>NIBB members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGATA, Kiyokazu</td>
<td>FUJIMORI, Toshihiko</td>
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<td>HIRAOKA, Yasushi</td>
<td>HASEBE, Mitsuyasu #</td>
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<td>KOHCHI, Takayuki</td>
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<td>KOHSHIMA, Shiro</td>
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<td>KUME, Shoen</td>
<td>MINAGAWA, Jun</td>
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<td>NOSE, Akinao</td>
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<td>SASAKI, Hiroyuki</td>
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<td>SUGIMOTO, Asako</td>
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<td>YUNO, Naoto</td>
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<td>YOSHDIA, Shosei</td>
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| Professor, Gakushuin University | Professor, Osaka University |
| Professor, Kyoto University | Professor, Kyoto University |
| Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology | Professor, Tohoku University |
| Professor, The University of Tokyo | Professor, Tohoku University |
| Professor/ Senior Vice President, Kyushu University | Professor, Hiroshima University |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Integrative Bioscience | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |
| Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology | Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology |

# Chairperson
## Vice-Chair