

## *Message*

The Okazaki Biology Conferences (OBC) are international conferences aiming to create new international networks of scientists as well as to facilitate the development of future areas of research in the biological sciences. The theme of the 8th OBC will be "Speciation and Adaptation II - Environment and Epigenetics -". "Speciation and adaptation" is a fundamental research area of evolutionary biology, continuously engaged in by researchers from various scientific disciplines. At the Conference, we will explore a new direction of evolutionary studies by integrating theoretical and experimental genetics, environmental, evolutionary, and ecological genomics, developmental biology, and epigenetics, using a variety of organisms.

We are looking forward to hearing exciting new research results from all over the world and having intriguing discussions with all participants to get an overview of the future direction of this research field.

Finally, we are thankful for the support of the National Institute for Basic Biology for this excellent opportunity.

### **Organizers:**

Aya Takahashi (National Institute of Genetics, Japan)

Fumitoshi Ishino (Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan)

Michael Purugganan (New York University, USA)

Mitsuyasu Hasebe (National Institute for Basic Biology, Japan)