

It is my great pleasure to present all the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB)'s 2021 Annual Report which outlines NIBB's research, educational, and international activities and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan from April 2021 to March 2022.

The NIBB's research activities have largely resumed to normal in 2021, following the significant easing of restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visits of researchers from overseas and travel abroad by NIBB researchers are gradually returning to previous levels. Online exchange activities are also continuing. The 2nd and 3rd Meetings for NIBB-COS Heidelberg International Collaborations were held online.

In 2021, NIBB signed a new collaboration agreement with the Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, Gunma University. Joint research on intracellular membrane trafficking is being conducted between the two institutes. In addition, We also initiated the seminar series "AI and Biosystems" with the aim of active participation of AI in biological research in collaboration with Chubu University and the National Institute for Physiological Sciences.

The well-equipped core facilities that support research activities are one of the notable features of NIBB. It was truly pleased that Ms. Tomoko Mori, Ms. Yumiko Makino, Mr. Katsushi Yamaguchi, and Mr. Takahiro Bino, technical staff of the Functional Genomics Facility, were awarded the Outstanding Support for Research Award, The Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, for their contribution to research support. Furthermore, Professor emeritus Yoshitaka Nagahama was awarded The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Japanese government. We extend our sincere congratulations on this honorable award for his many years of outstanding achievements.

We are grateful for our status as a leading international research institute in the field of basic biology, we are constantly striving for improvement and welcome your valuable feedback. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support.

Kiyokazu Agata
Director General of NIBB
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