

2020 Debrief Meeting of International Joint Usage/Research Center held

The 2020 Debrief Meeting of the International Joint Usage/Research Center, the Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo (IMSUT), was held from March 9th to 11th, 2021. Due to the spread of COVID-19, this year's program was held online over the course of 3 days, and part of the program was hosted jointly by the Medical Mycology Research Center, Chiba University. Also, a global joint meeting was organized for the first time, in which overseas collaborators also participated and presented international joint achievements. A total of 145 researchers from various specialized fields such as genomics, cancer, infectious diseases, and immunology participated in the Debrief Meeting and listened to the various research results of FY2020.

On the 9th, after opening remarks by Director Yuji Yamanashi of IMSUT, new achievements in the fields of advanced medical research and development, genomics, cancer, and disease systems biology were reported.

The efficacy and safety of the third-generation oncolytic HSV-1 for the treatment of cancer (Osaka University), the search for CAR/TCR target molecules for solid cancer and the creation of CAR/TCR-T cells (Kanazawa University) in endometrial cancer screening, and genetic analysis of liquefied cytological specimens (Sapporo Medical University) were reported, and participants actively discussed these new results.



Moderator: Professor Tatsuhiko Shibata, Laboratory of Molecular Medicine, the Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo.

The program on the 10th began with opening remarks by Professor Mitsutoshi Yoneyama of the Medical Mycology Research Center, Chiba University. Then, a special lecture "Control mechanism of immune response by RNA degradation" was given by Professor Osamu Takeuchi, Department of Medical Chemistry, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University.

The latest research on utilizing immune control by Regnase-1 regulation for various diseases such as multiple sclerosis was introduced. Also, the joint results with the Medical Mycology Research Center, Chiba University were announced, which were new reports such as a new biological defense mechanism in humans (the University of Tokyo) involving microRNAs in a defensive response to viral infection.

Infectious diseases and immunology findings of IMSUT were also reported. Research achievements such as functional analysis of small intestinal innate immune receptors (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology) and the establishment of a new polymerase activity measurement method that reflects influenza A virus infection dynamics (Kagoshima University) were introduced.



Moderator: Professor Kensuke Miyake, Division of Infectious Genetics, the Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo.

The 11th, the last day of the meeting coincided with the 10th memorial of The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The session began with a moment of silence for the more than 22,000 victims of the earthquake and tsunami.

The International Joint Usage/Research Center of IMSUT conducts research together with overseas researchers to promote the quality of studies globally. On this day, researcher collaborators from overseas joined the meeting for the first time. Dr. Monica L Acosta of the University of Auckland, New Zealand, Dr. Ro-Ting Lin of China Medical University, Taiwan, and other researchers of the world reported on the latest collaborative results with IMSUT, and participated in a lively exchange of frank opinions.



Dr. Monica L Acosta of the University of Auckland explained new research achievements and elaborated on the potential of microglia.