

Alumni Session

To commemorate 15 years of successful ISS conferences, we will have an alumni talk session to kickoff the 16th ISS. Six graduates from Kyoto University Graduate School of Biostudies, will come and talk about their career and recent endeavors. The main purpose of this event is to help current students and young researchers see what there is after graduation.

We asked all six graduates some general questions about their background.

Dr. Miki Ebisuya



2003 - 2005	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr Eisuke Nishida
2005 - 2008	PhD Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr Eisuke Nishida
2009 - 2013	Group Leader Career-Path Promotion Unit, Kyoto University
2013 - present	Unit Leader RIKEN

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

In my lab, we are trying to reconstitute or recreate developmental mechanisms in cell culture to better understand them.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

As a child, I thought that figuring out the secrets of this world was incredibly romantic. After joining Dr Eisuke Nishida's lab, I also started to like the process of research itself: making a hypothesis, carrying out an experiment, admitting failures, repeating trials, and, once in a long while, discovering something new!

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

I bought a running machine (treadmill) at home last year, which is rarely being used now...Anyone want it??

Dr. Akane Kubota



2008.4 - 2010.3	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Prof. Takayuki Kohchi
2010.4 - 2014.7	PhD Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Prof. Takayuki Kohchi
2014.7 - 2014.9	Research Fellow Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Prof. Takayuki Kohchi
2014.9 - present	Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Biology, University of Washington Supervisor: Prof. Takato Imaizumi

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

I am interested in how seasonal flowering is regulated in natural environments by using the model plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

My biggest motivation to start the PhD was mainly to publish a paper with my name somewhere in the author list. During my PhD, I really enjoyed my research, so I decided to continue my career as a researcher.

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

Outdoor activity, such as hiking, is one of the greatest things I really enjoy in west coast USA. During winter, I just grab a beer and enjoy watching movies with my family and friends.

Dr. Ayako Fukunaka



2002.4 – 2004.3	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Yuko Yamaguchi-Iwai
2004.4 – 2010.3	PhD Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Taiho Kambe
2010.4 – 2016.6	Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Metabolism & Endocrinology, Juntendo University Supervisor: Dr. Hirotaka Watada
2016.7 – present	Assistant Professor Institute for Molecular & Cellular Regulation, Gunma University

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

I am interested in the regulation of zinc signaling.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

When I was a high school student, I was interested in the evolution of life, so I wanted to become a researcher.

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

I like cooking and walking.

Dr. Itaru Imayoshi



2003.4 - 2005.3	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Prof. Ryoichiro Kageyama
2005.3 - 2008.4	PhD (Biostudies) Kyoto University, Japan Supervisor: Prof. Ryoichiro Kageyama
2008.4 - 2009.3	JSPS Fellow PD Department of Growth Regulation, Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University
2009.4 - 2009.9	Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Growth Regulation, Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University
2009.10 - 2012.3	JST PRESTO Scientist Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University
2011.4 - 2016.3	Associate Professor The Hakubi Center, Kyoto University
2014.10 - present	JST PRESTO Scientist Institute for Virus Research & Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University
2016.10 - present	Associate Professor Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

Understanding neural development and plasticity of the mammalian brain.

Especially, I am interested in the regulatory mechanism of neural stem cells and the functional significance of postnatal/adult neurogenesis. We are also trying to develop novel optical methods to manipulate neural stem cells and newly generated neurons.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

When I was in the fourth grade of college, I decided to enter the PhD course because I felt science was very interesting. At the fourth or fifth grade of the PhD course, I started to think of the possibility to become a professional researcher because the process of science (e.g. the trial-and-error process to prove a working hypothesis) was really attractive for me.

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

Fishing at Lake Biwa.

Dr. Ryota Ouda



2008.4 - 2010.3	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Takashi Fujita
2010.4 - 2013.3	PhD Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Takashi Fujita
2013.4 - 2014.3	Postdoctoral Researcher, JSPS (PD) Institute for Frontier Life and Medical Sciences, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Takashi Fujita
2014.4 - 2017.3	Postdoctoral Researcher, JSPS (NIH) National Institutes of Health (USA) Supervisor: Dr. Keiko Ozato
2017.4 - present	Mission Research Fellow Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University Supervisors: Dr. Takashi Watanabe & Dr. Takashi Fujita

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

- ① The establishment of an efficient hepatitis B virus infection system.
- ② The identification of antiviral compounds from plant biomass.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

When I was an undergraduate, I learned pharmaceutics and wanted to be a researcher to develop new medicines.

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

Playing chess, watching soccer.

Dr. Eiji Yoshihara



2006.4 - 2008.3	MSc Graduate School of Biostudies & Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Junji Yodoi
2008.4 - 2011.3	PhD Graduate School of Biostudies & Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Junji Yodoi
2011.4 - 2011.9	Postdoctoral Researcher Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
2011.10 - 2016.10	Research Associate Salk Institute, USA
2016.11 - Present	Staff Scientist Salk Institute, USA

1. What are your current research endeavors in brief?

I aim to understand the transcriptional and metabolic regulations that underlie organ development as well as whole body physiology, and to target these networks for therapeutic benefits.

2. When and why were you determined to go to the PhD course and be a researcher?

When I was an undergrad student, I had a chance to join conservation volunteers in Australia. From this experience, I truly realized the importance of research to try to solve an important problem for humanity by answering specific questions and collaborating with different kinds of people. The experience let me think about research as a fascinating career to take on a challenge and contribute to society...

3. What do you do outside your research life (hobbies, public affairs, etc.)?

I like to do sports and camping.