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# JSPS DC Report

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(2010 July to September Issue)

## Attending JSPS-NIH Overseas Special Researcher Screening Panel (July 12)

A screening panel was held at the National Institute of Health (NIH) on July 12 to evaluate the applications for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Japanese Biomedical and Behavioral Researchers at NIH (JSPS-NIH Kaitoku Fellowship). This is the program to support the researchers working under a joint program agreement between the JSPS and its U.S. counterpart NIH. Representatives from the Washington Office attended this panel and made an opening speech and gave presentations during the panel discussion, explaining the recruitment details under its overseas special researcher project and NIH's overseas special researcher project, project status, and so on.

The NIH panelists commented that Japanese post-doctoral students were not only talented but also very industrious and that they sincerely wanted this project to gain momentum so that young Japanese researchers would play active roles at the NIH.

The screening results by the NIH will be reported to the JSPS Headquarters, after which some adjustments will take place at the Headquarters and final outcomes will be adopted in fall.

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## Executive Committee Meeting for U.S. JSPS Alumni Association (July 24)

The Executive Committee of the U.S. JSPS Aluminum Association, comprised of U.S. researchers who have visited Japan under a JSPS invitation project, held a meeting at the Washington Office on July 24 (Sat). The Executive Committee consists of five members who represent the five fields of Biology and Medical Science, Social Science and Humanity, Chemistry, Physics and Engineering.



This is the first meeting of the Executive Committee where the new members elected this spring met. The new Executive Committee members are as follows:

- [Chair] Dr. Blanca Chattin-Kacouris
  - [Biology and Medical Science] Dr. Dawn Doutrich (Washington State University)
  - [Social Science and Humanity] Dr. Dajin Peng (University of South Florida)
  - [Chemistry] Dr. Ying Hu (Mankind Corporation)
  - [Physics] Dr. Shamim Mirza (University of California, Irvine)
  - [Engineering] Dr. Ranil Wickramasinghe (Colorado State University)
- Dr. Dawn Doutrich in charge of Biology and Medical Science attended the meeting via phone.

### <Election of Alumni Association Chairman and Vice Chairman>

First, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Alumni Association were elected according to the U.S. Alumni Association Rules. Based on the votes, Dr. Chattin-Kacouris in charge of Administration and Dr. Shamim Mirza in charge of Physics were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Alumni Association, respectively.

<By-Law of Alumni Association >

Alumni Association Rules were discussed. After comparing the provisions of the Association Rules against those of other alumni associations, an agreement was reached to improve the current rules by incorporating contents from reference rules. Since the JSPS U.S. Alumni Association does not collect membership fees, symposiums and other events organized by the Association must be funded by registration fees collected on site or otherwise depended largely on support from the JSPS. There were comments that the Association should study how other alumni associations were collecting and managing membership fees and examine collecting membership fees in the U.S.

<Symposium/Annual Conference>

The next symposium will be held in February or early March together with the annual conference. The venue and organizer will be decided by October after reviewing the applications. The symposium/annual conference will not have a single theme, but will be held as an interdisciplinary event encompassing multiple research fields. An agreement was made to also send an invitation to the next-next symposium as soon as possible.

<Selection of Bridge Program Candidates>

Bridge Program candidates were selected. The following researchers were officially adopted through the specified procedures of the JSPS Headquarters:

Dexue Fu, Faculty Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicines

Douglas B. Weibel, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Genhua Niu, Assistant Professor, Texas A & M University

George Stanley, Professor, University of Montana

Anowaral Islam, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming



Through this meeting the staff of the Washington Office and members of the Alumni Association Executive Committee could gain a shared understanding of the status of and problems relating to the steering of the Alumni Association. It was also a great opportunity for the Washington Office to learn the expectation and great enthusiasm of the Exco members in the steering of the Alumni Association. The Washington Office will extend its maximum support to the Alumni association.

JSPS Alumni Association website:

[http://www.jspusa.org/Alumni\\_association/alumni.htm](http://www.jspusa.org/Alumni_association/alumni.htm)

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### **Preliminary Meeting on JSPS/NIH Overseas Special Researchers (August 9)**

A preliminary meeting was held between the staff of NIH Fogarty International and NIH researchers, at the NIH, regarding the future course of the NIH overseas special researcher project implemented by the JSPS in cooperation with the NIH.

As the number of applicants for the NIH overseas special researcher project has been falling in recent years, discussions were held as to how we could attract more applicants, and how to improve the treatment of NIH overseas special researchers that currently varies from researcher to researcher depending on the instructor in the host research organization. All institutes operating under the NIH are given a high level of autonomy, and the office rules and standards vary from institute to institute. The NIH will explore several possibilities with the aim of maintaining the current structure, while ensuring an equitable treatment for the overseas special researchers recruited under the project.

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## Seminar on Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences iCeMS (September 13)

Mr. Daisuke Yamada from the Administration Office of Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences iCeMS visited the Office and explained to the JSPS and JST staff about iCeMS, which is one of the research centers operating under the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI), a MEXT project of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology where the JSPS is in charge of screening and evaluation.



Led by Professor Norio Nakatsuji, iCeMS aims to drive "Creation and development of an interdisciplinary field integrating material science and cell science," while becoming an "International hub for career development of scientists." Mr.



From left, Ms. Ito, Ms. Omura, Thet, Mr. Yamada, Mr. Tanigaki and Ms. Kaneko

Yamada explained in great detail, using PPT, the structure and main research projects of iCeMS, which is comprised of top-level researchers including Professor Shinya Yamanaka, an expert of iPS cell research, and Professor Susumu Kitagawa, a premier authority of porous coordination polymer (PCP) research whose

research papers are among the top one percent in terms of the number of quotations. The next time we receive staff from iCeMS to DC, we would like to promote iCeMS widely to members of the academia and general public in Japan and the U.S.

Website of Kyoto University's iCeMS:

[http://www.jpsusa.org/Alumni\\_association/alumni.htm](http://www.jpsusa.org/Alumni_association/alumni.htm)

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## Exhibiting at NIH International Opportunities EXPO (September 17)

NIH International Opportunities Expo, a NIH-organized event that assists international career development of researchers, was held at the Natcher Conference Center located on the NIH premises. The JSPS Washington Office exhibited a booth and promoted the JSPS foreign researcher fellowship and various JSPS international exchange programs, while Deputy Director Fumiyo Kaneko took part in the program introduction session by organizations around the world and made a presentation about the JSPS organization, international exchange programs the JSPS was running in various countries including the U.S., and its fellowship program.

The PR group at the booth received requests from foreign researchers interested in the fellowship program, asking information about how to find host Japanese researchers.

Not only the JSPS, but also the JST, DFG, CNRS, Chinese Embassy and various other organizations from around the world set up booths at the EXPO and introduced their international programs. During the post-EXPO party, we had an opportunity for friendly exchange with other participants at booths/presenters from various countries.



Website of NIH International Opportunities EXPO:

<http://felcom.od.nih.gov/subCommittee/vfc/careerFair.aspx>

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## Roundtable Meeting with the JSPS-NIH Kaitoku Fellowship Researchers (September 29)

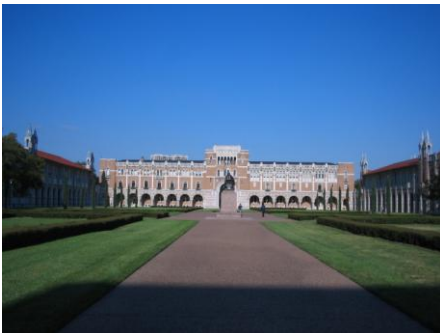
Following the preliminary meeting on August 9 with the staff from NIH Fogarty International Center, etc., the JSPS staff visited the NIH and had a meeting with the researchers conducting research at NIH under JSPS Research Fellowship for Japanese Biomedical and Behavioral Researchers at NIH (JSPS-NIH Kaitoku fellowship) researchers, asking them about the current state of research at the NIH, how they were treated, and if they had any questions or requests regarding this program. We also sought their comments as to how we could attract more applicants for the program.

We also asked the participants about the decreasing number of Japanese researchers having overseas experience—why this is happening and what the potential solutions would be. In response, we received the following feedbacks:

- In Japan today, researchers have difficulty finding a research post in Japan after spending time abroad. What about the JSPS providing a grant to help these researchers find a position back in Japan.
- One reason may be the rising standards of research facilities and researchers in Japan, because researchers can now conduct advanced research in their home country, without going abroad. However, gaining overseas experience is important for any researcher in his or her career development, and we must break the current downward spiral.

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## Visit to Texas (Visit to Rice University, Texas Medical Science Center) (September 30 through October 3)



Director Sugawara, Deputy Director Kaneko and International Program Associate Tanigaki visited Rice University and Texas Medical Center Library in Houston, Texas on September 30 through October 3.

### 1. Visiting Dr. Chris Bronk at Rice University

“Cyber security” is one field drawing a keen attention in recent years. As all core infrastructures become network-controlled to make our life more convenient, these networked infrastructures also present vulnerability to security attacks by “cyber terrorism.” In this field, Rice University is taking an initiative role

in the U.S., along with Carnegie Mellon University and Perdue University.

We asked Dr. Bronk, an expert in this field, about what the U.S. Department of State was doing to counter cyber terrorism. Cyber security is an interdisciplinary field where, according to Dr. Bronk, there are many computer science experts but not many of them are familiar with policymaking and other areas of humane studies. During the visit, the JSPS introduced cyber security researchers playing active roles in Japan in hopes of becoming a bridge connecting Japan and the U.S. in the field of cyber security.

### 2. Visiting Dr. Junichiro Kono at Rice University

In addition to pursuing his own research (nano-technology), Dr. Kono is also an avid promoter of educational exchange between Japan and the U.S., steering the “Nano Japan Program” with support from the NSF’s PIRE program, etc. Under the Nano Japan Program, freshmen and



sophomores at U.S. universities are sent to research groups studying nano technology at Japanese university, during the summer break, to experience the frontline of research and develop interest in cross-cultural exchange and research. Dr. Kono asked the JSPS to play a more active role in the provision of educational programs connecting university research groups and students. We will gather information about the outreach activity under the Nano Japan Program, and grants aimed at connecting researchers and educators in the U.S., and forward the information to the JSPS Headquarters.

### 3. Visiting Mr. Philip Montgomery at Texas Medical Center Library

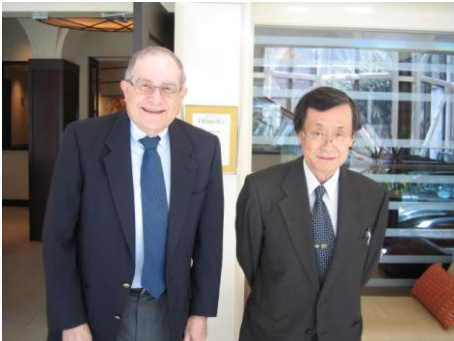


We accompanied Dr. Tomoko Y. Steen of the U.S. Library of Congress and Dr. Kaori Maekawa of the Dutch National Archive to visit Mr. Philip Montgomery of the Texas Medical Center Library to study the preservation condition of documents belonging to the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) organized by the U.S. government after the war. This library has a collection of around 300 ABCC-related documents,

while the ABCC also has its documents kept at the UCSL Library, University of Wisconsin Library and U.S. Library of Congress. We also interviewed Dr. William J. Schull, who had conducted genetic research in Nagasaki from 1951 to 1960 under commission from the ABCC, and asked him about his experience in Japan by reviewing documents.



### 4. Meeting with Dr. Neal Lane



We met with Dr. Neal Lane, Former NSF Director and Former Science Advisor to U.S. President, at a hotel in Houston. We thanked him for speaking at the “Science in Japan Forum,” a JSPS-organized event held in Washington D.C. in June this year. During the meeting, we exchanged opinions in a friendly manner about various topics including the current state of science administration in Japan and the U.S., science and technology budgets of the two countries, issues relating to the human resource system and budgets at the NSF and JSPS that are both funding agencies, distribution of research expenses, difficulty facing researchers in finding an academic post, and state of university students in Japan and the U.S.

### 5. Joining Home Interview of Dr. William J. Schull

We accompanied Dr. Tomoko Y. Steen of the U.S. Library of Congress and Dr. Kaori Maekawa of the Dutch National Archive to visit Dr. William J. Schull at his home. The purpose that day was for them to interview Dr. Schull as part of their ongoing research relating to the ABCC, recording his account of the past and present as an oral history. The room was full of video and recording equipment, and we could experience a part of the making of history by archivists.

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## **- Topics on Science and Technology in the U.S. -**

### ● Objection by Researchers/University Faculty Members to NIH's Proposed Revision of Conflict of Interest Rules (August)

The National Institute of Health (NIH), which provides assistance for biomedical research and development projects at universities, announced in May that it would revise its Conflict of Interest Rules. University faculty members and researchers sent many comments on the proposed revision of the Rules before the public comment period expired on August 19.

The proposed revision compiled by the NIH specifies various measures to prevent conflict of interest, including the following:

- Among the university researchers receiving a research grant from the NIH, those receiving a total of 5,000 dollars in financial support from a corporate sponsor must report to their university all monetary gains arising from the research. (The current rule requires reporting by university researchers who received more than 10,000 dollars from a corporate sponsor.)
- If deemed appropriate, each university shall disclose the conflict of interest details of its researchers on the university website.
- University researchers must disclose certain information, including payments received from the private sector, grants received from nonprofit organizations (other than universities), royalties, reimbursements of travel expenses and other expenses incurred in connection grant peer reviews, etc., patents, and unit trust holdings.

However, a series of comments were received from university faculty members and researchers saying that the proposed revision was too harsh. For example, four associations including the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Association of American Universities (AACU), American Council on Education (ACE) and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) jointly submitted an 11-page written opinion to the NIH, arguing that the proposed revision would only add to administrative burdens without producing any notable results. Among others, they recommend limiting the reporting information to items relating to the research, by excluding royalties, reimbursed travel expenses and other monies not relating to the research as well as research aids received from foundations, hospitals and other nonprofit organizations.

As for the database used to disclose conflict of interest information, the aforementioned four associations maintain that it takes a lot of money for each university to build and operate an online database and that the federal government should build a unified database. To be specific, the associations propose that this database be integrated with the federal database for disclosing payments made by pharmaceutical companies to medical researchers, which is scheduled to start up and running in September 2013.

Other concerns raised include how to handle researchers who violated the Conflict of Interest Rules, after they have moved to a different organization. The current practice is that the organization to which the violator belongs has the duty to punish the violator, meaning that once the violator moves to a different research organization upon discovery of his or her violation, the violator can escape punishment. The aforementioned four associations comment on this loophole and argue and the organization hiring the violator should not be required to punish the violator. On the other hand, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) argues that the organization hiring the violator should have the duty to enforce disciplinary measures on the violator.

The NIH is currently reviewing the contents of public comments received, and when the final revision of the Conflict of Interest Rules will be announced depends on the outcome of this review.

<Source of Information>

- Colleges Cite Burden of U.S. Conflict of Interest Rules  
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/08/18/qt#235789>
- Chasing Conflicts of Interest

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/05/21/nih>

• Universities, Scientists Urge NIH to Narrow Conflicts Rule

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/08/universities-scientists-urge-nih.html>

• AAMC/AAU/ACE/APLU Joint Letter

<http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/research/corres/2010/081710.pdf>

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● Announcement of Annual University Ranking by U.S. News & The World (August 17)

U.S. News & The World announced its annual ranking of U.S. universities on August 17. According to the latest ranking, Harvard University won the first place uncontestedly, after sharing the coveted position with Princeton University last year. The second place went to Princeton University. They were followed by Yale University in the third position, Columbia University in the fourth position, and Stanford University and University of Pennsylvania sharing the fifth position.

This ranking is an established source of information many high school students and their parents use to choose a university. At the same time, there are some criticisms about the arbitrary evaluation standards and the fact that universities are focusing more on getting a higher score on this ranking, rather than improving education.

This year's ranking was compiled from 1,400 accredited universities based on 16 evaluation elements. In addition to such existing elements as SAT scores, admission ratio, graduation ratio, donations by graduates and peer review, opinions of high school counselors are also included as a new evaluation element. Also, the weight of the graduation ratio to the total score was raised from 5% to 7.5%, which resulted in some reshuffling at the top positions. For example, Columbia University rose from the eighth position last year to the fourth position this year, while California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which shared the fourth position last year, ended up sharing the seventh position this year.

Among the liberal arts universities, the ranking put Williams College on the first position two years in the row. A small private university in Massachusetts, William College was also hailed as the number-one university, above Harvard and other big-name universities, in the university ranking compiled independently by the economic magazine Forbes. In ranking the universities, Forbes uses 11 evaluation elements in the following five categories: [1] Success of graduates (income, etc.), [2] Degree of student satisfaction with university life (evaluation of classes by students, etc.), [3] Debts of university students (amount of student loans, etc.), [4] Graduation ratio, and [5] Number of students per faculty member.

<Source of Information>

• Harvard regains top spot on 'U.S. News' university rankings

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-08-17-college-rankings\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-08-17-college-rankings_N.htm)

• Best Colleges 2011

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>

• Forbes' Top College Isn't Princeton or Stanford

<http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=11380138>

• America's Best Colleges

[http://www.forbes.com/lists/2010/94/best-colleges-10\\_Americas-Best-Colleges\\_Rank.html](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2010/94/best-colleges-10_Americas-Best-Colleges_Rank.html)

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● University Spending on Science Research and Development Reaches 55 Billion Dollars, Up 5.8% from Previous Year (September)

According to a report published by the National Science Foundation (NSF), two-year colleges and universities in the U.S. spent approx. 55 billion dollars on science research and development, 5.8% more than they did in 2008. Among the various fields of science, the largest increase was seen in life science,

where the spending increased 5.1% to 32.8 billion dollars. On the other hand, mathematics saw the smallest increase, where 553 million dollars, 10.9% less from the previous year, was spent on science research and development.

The top five universities in science research and development spending remain unchanged since 2004. Again in 2009, the first to fifth positions went to Johns Hopkins University (Maryland), University of Michigan (Michigan), University of Wisconsin, Madison (Wisconsin), University of California, San Francisco (California) and University of California, Los Angeles (California), respectively. The table below shows the ranking and science research and development spending of each of these five universities in 2009.

	University	Spending (in million dollars)
1	Johns Hopkins University	1,856
2	University of Michigan (total of all campuses)	1,007
3	University of Wisconsin, Madison	952
4	University of California, San Francisco	948
5	University of California, Los Angeles	890

<Related Information>

- Science R&D Spending Reached \$55B in Higher Ed in 2009

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/09/28/qt#239272>

- Universities Report \$55 Billion in Science and Engineering R&D Spending for FY 2009; Redesigned Survey to Launch in 2010

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf10329/>

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## **- Appointments at JSPS Counterpart-US Funding Organizations –**

[Appointment at NIH]

- Dr. Harold Varmus was appointed Director, NIH NCI (July 12)

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[Appointment at NSF]

- Dr. Anne L. Emig (NSF Program Manager East Asia & Pacific Program) was appointed Director, NSF Tokyo Office (August 10).

- Dr. R. Clive Woods (Department Chairman Electric and Computer Engineering Department, Louisiana State University) was appointed NSF Program Manager, East Asia & Pacific Program (August 30)

- Machi F., Dilworth (Director, NSF Tokyo Office) was appointed Directorate for Biological Sciences (August 30).

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(Editor-at-Large: Fumiyo Kaneko)