

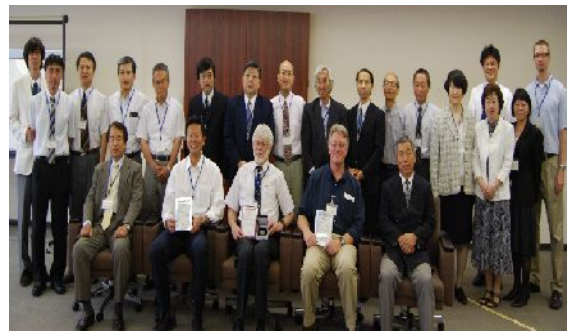
University of Shizuoka GCOE – University of California Berkeley  
Joint Conference

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From June 13th to 14th 2008, the first joint conference with the University of California, Berkeley was held at the University of Shizuoka. The conference was attended by three professors from UC Berkeley: Dr. Robert S. Zucker of the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute and the Division of Neurobiology, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology; Dr. Qiang Zhou of the Division of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology; and Dr. Gian Garriga of the Division of Genetics, Genomics and Development, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. This conference was realized after four members of the University of Shizuoka Global COE program had visited the University of California, The Ohio State University, and the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey in September 2007, to promote collaborative alliances with their graduate schools. The aims of the conference were 1) to inspire University of Shizuoka graduate students in their research fields, and 2) to provide an opportunity for the graduate students to improve their English communication skills by meeting world-renowned scientists.



In Session 1, on June 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Garriga gave a lecture entitled “Wnt Signaling in C.elegans Neuronal Development”, Dr. Zhou presented on “7SK: A Small Nuclear RNA Regulator of Transcription, Cell Growth and Transformation”, and Dr. Zucker lectured on “Biophysical Analysis of Synaptic Transmission: Short-term Plasticity, Neuromodulation, SNARE Interactions”. In Session 2, four University of Shizuoka graduate students presented their research. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to have a question-and-answer session with these leading researchers. After the first day of the conference, the guest professors, graduate students, and other University of Shizuoka young researchers had a mixer at the Miho-en Hotel. This is the first time that such an event was held by the university, offering young scientists a chance to talk informally with such well-known scientists.



On June 14<sup>th</sup>, University of Shizuoka professors presented their work to the UC Berkeley visitors. Dr. Hiroshi Noguchi of the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy, Dr. Hirokazu Kobayashi of the Laboratory of Plant Molecular Improvement, and Dr. Takashi Suzuki of the Laboratory of Biochemistry lectured on “Generating an Array of Novel Compounds by the Engineered Type III Polyketide Synthase”, “The Chloroplast: Its Evolution and Adaptation”, and “Sulfatide Is Required for Efficient Replication of

Influenza A Virus” respectively. The presentation of each topic was followed by an active discussion among the presenters and guest researchers. After the seminar, the guest researchers visited laboratories in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Graduate School of Nutritional and Environmental Sciences for discussion with researchers and students.



The joint conference produced an active and fruitful interaction between the senior and junior researchers of the University of Shizuoka Global COE and the guest professors from University of California Berkeley. The organizers of the conference would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Robert S. Zucker, Dr. Qiang Zhou, and Dr. Gian Garriga for coming to the University of Shizuoka.

(Written by Tetsuji Yamakawa, Satoko Nakai, and Philip Hawke)