

**The Second UCL-JSPS Symposium:
Mitochondria- from the Fundamental Aspects to Medical Importance**
25th-27th June 2012, University College London (UCL)
(25th and 26th: symposium, 26th and 27th: discussion and interaction)

Invited Speakers:

Japan: Professor Kiyoshi Kita (University of Tokyo), Professor Kazuto Nakada (University of Tsukuba), Dr Koji Okamoto (Osaka University), Dr Takumi Koshiba (Kyushu University), Dr Shin-ichi Arimura (University of Tokyo)

UK: Professor Sir. Salvador Moncada (UCL), Professor John Carroll (UCL), Professor Michael Duchon (UCL), Dr Jan-Willem Taanman (UCL), Dr Shamima Rahman (UCL), Dr Gyorgy Szabadkai (UCL), Dr Sean Davidson (UCL), Professor Joanna Poulton (Oxford Univ. Oxford), Dr Michael Murphy (MRC MBU, Cambridge), Dr Sarah Flatters (KCL, London)

Following the success of the first UCL-JSPS mitochondria symposium with the support of JSPS London, this PHASE 2 symposium was aimed at gathering again those who are interested in the very important component of our body, the mitochondria and sharing excellent presentations on this topic. It was also aimed at enhancing further the recognition of the excellence of Japanese research in this significant field and promoting communications and collaboration between Japan and the UK. On June 25th (whole day) and 26th (a.m only), the symposium was held at the main UCL campus and five Japanese speakers, seven UCL researchers and three speakers from other UK institutions gave their talks. The topics of their lectures covered a wide range of mitochondrial research themes.

On 26th (p.m), a free communication session with the Japanese speakers and any researchers and students who wished to join was held. On 26th (p.m) and 27th (whole day), the Japanese speakers had meetings with UCL scientists and visited their laboratories and had active discussions.

Over the course of the 1.5 days, 107 researchers attended the symposium. The audience ranged from students to professors, not only from UCL but also from other institutions in the UK.

All the talks were excellent and impressive. The audience asked many questions to the speakers after their talks and we heard stimulating discussions. Because the time for coffee breaks and lunch were generously allocated, I believe that the attendees actively interacted and had conversations. The symposium was properly organised with the excellent help of JSPS London staff.

The recognition of the excellence of the Japanese mitochondrial research was further enhanced and the network of mitochondrial research between Japan and the UK was further strengthened by this second UCL-JSPS symposium following the first one held last year. Also, I felt that the recognition of JSPS among the mitochondria researchers was enhanced. Talks from a JSPS alumnus and two Japanese speakers about Japan served as a good introduction to the UK audience about life and work in Japan.

Also given that the second symposium was longer in duration (3 days compared to 2) there was more opportunity for communication to take place between the Japanese and UK speakers this time.

I received positive feedback about this symposium from UCL colleagues as well as those from other institutions and already 3 pairs of UK and Japanese speakers have begun to collaborate as a direct result of this symposium. Discussions are also taking place about holding a similar meeting in Japan in the near future.

– Dr. Takehiro Yasukawa, The Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research, UCL.



Presentation from Professor Sir Salvador Moncada, UCL



Q+A session following presentation from Dr. Shin-ichi Arimura, University of Tokyo



Symposium organizer, Dr. Takehiro Yasukawa, UCL and Director of JSPS London, Professor Kozo Hiramatsu.