



The JSPS Presentation at University of Cambridge

Co-organised by the International Office and Churchill College

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Teaching Fellow (Synthetic)*



JSPS Research Fellow

1st Apr 2004 – 31st Oct 2005

(3 months pre-JSPS research)

Host

Prof. S. Kobayashi

Graduate School of Pharmacy, University of Tokyo



THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

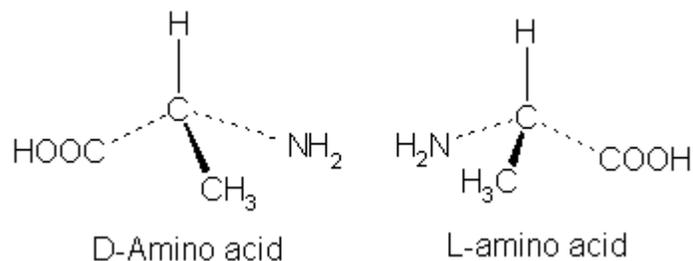
My Research in Japan

Chiral molecules, by asymmetric catalysis:

Two otherwise identical molecules have non-super imposable mirror images

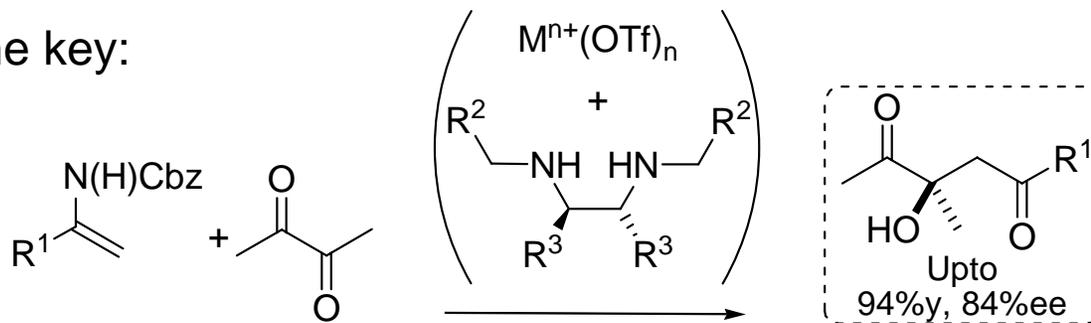
Chiral molecules in the body are *generally* one sense of chirality

Drugs need to match their chirality with the target



For efficiency we need to be able to make one or other enantiomer of a desired compound at will.

Asymmetric catalysis is the key:



Why do Research in Japan?

- In many areas of science and technology Japan is the world leader
- Funding
 - *Very well equipped laboratories*
 - *A plethora of state-of-the-art*
- Japan – strong EDUCATION ethos
 - *All forms of academia are held in high regard*
 - *Great learning opportunity working as an equal in internationally respected groups*
- JSPS has a very high standing in Japanese academia
 - *The group will be proud to have you!*
- Fantastic career boost
- Unforgettable cultural experience

Career Boost in UK

- Is it as tough as you have heard?
- Yes research in Japan at times can be tough, it is not an easy option
 - *If you like to face new challenges*
 - *If you have commitment and drive*
 - *If you love science*

You'll love Japan

- You will be rewarded not only scientifically but **financially** too.
 - *It is expensive to live in Japan the fellowship provides more than enough to support your stay (tax free)*
- Employers know how hard it is
 - *Employers will see an internationally minded, goal driven potential employee*
 - *YOU survived – you'll make an excellent employee*
- Look at me!
 - *Less than two years post-doc experience = academic position in UK*

Cultural Experiences

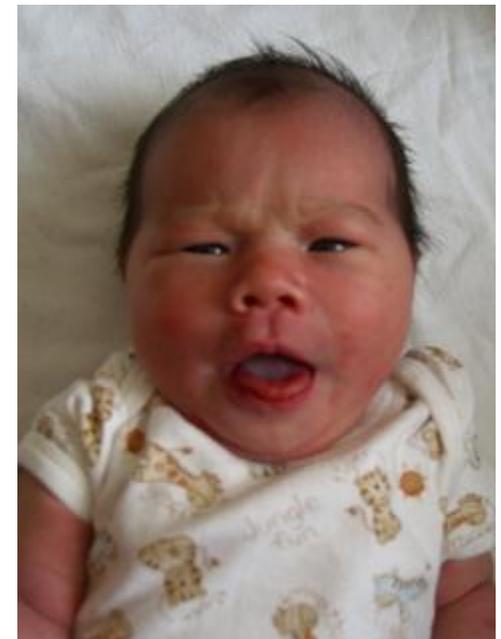
- Difficulties and overcoming them
 - *Essential that your group is behind you*
 - *Close contact before arrival via email will help tremendously*
 - *Housing – live as close to work as possible*
 - *Language Barrier:*
 - *Good to learn basics*
 - *Take any opportunity to exchange or improve*
 - *Try to make a “home visit” as early as possible*
- JSPS help
 - *Great infrastructure and support, just look at the website*
- Social life
 - *Most university have international student offices*
 - *JSPS can provide local contacts*
 - *Internet – local gaijin parties*
- Notable differences
 - *Discover for yourself, fascinating, inspiring,*

Conclusions

- I would do it again tomorrow!
- The one of the most intense and rewarding experience of my life
- Strong links with high level research in Japan benefit you and your future employers
- I am proud to be able to tell you about JSPS and of my own achievements
 - Ph.D. QMUL two years two JSPS application from my two closest colleagues:
 - *Xesco Roca (short term fellow)*
 - *Huy Nguyen (Application submitted – 2 year fellowship)*
- Japan has so much to offer hard working intellectual people
- Totally life changing experience every aspect was positive, 6 months sometimes feel “home sick” for Japan
- Final thank you to JSPS:
 - *Being here today*
 - *Excellent research program and accepting me in the first place*
 - *and for changing my life FOREVER*

The Other Rewarding Experiences in my Life

Thanks AGAIN JSPS



Karen Matsumoto Fossey – born April 22nd 2006