

I stayed in Human Brain Research Centre, Medical Faculty, Kyoto University, hosted by Dr. Tatsuya Mima. During the stay, our research aim was to develop a way of testing the effect of a relatively new method of brain stimulation, transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), on human semantic cognition. Brain stimulation is a therapeutic approach that has shown positive clinical results in the last decade. Dr Mima, Dr Ishibashi and I aimed to find the best and safest way of stimulating the brain in order to help brain damaged patients and the elderly who show signs of cognitive decline (e.g. difficulty in remembering words). In addition, if successful our studies will have implications for the design and effective targeting of speech therapy, which are currently largely overlooked. In addition to my research and presentation of my work in a research seminar at the HBRC, Kyoto, I had a fantastic opportunity to visit two labs and present my research. Firstly, we visited the Department of Psychiatry and Neuropathobiology at the Faculty of Life Sciences at Kumamoto University in Kumamoto. I am grateful for the kind invitation of Professor Ikeda to present my work. Professor Ikeda is a world-leading expert for the early onset of dementia, as well as the intervention projects for depression in late life and suicide prevention, and construction of a prefecture-wide network system of medical care for dementia by the Medical Centers for Dementia. I also had a great pleasure of giving a research talk at the Graduate School of Education, Kyoto University. I was delighted to take part in a newly established program of studies at Kyoto University, initiated by my host institution, the HBRC. This is a training program of Leaders for Integrated Medical System (LIMS) for Fruitful Healthy-Longevity Society, dedicated to collaborative studies in medico-engineering. The focus of this program is to respond to the challenges of an aging society and to develop new technologies and concepts that support fruitful longevity for all of us. It is intended for non-medical graduate students who will gain medical knowledge for translational projects. This is a fantastic initiative and an amazing program. During my entire stay, I took part in English language lectures. In addition, I delivered a lecture on Neurostimulation. Please see the attached photo below.



I would like to thank the JSPS for providing me with this unique opportunity to visit a leading world centre for studying human cognition, the HBRC at Kyoto University. I am very impressed by the lab and the faculty. I was fortunate enough to have discussions with my hosts, Dr. Mima and Dr. Ishibashi on daily basis.



Everybody welcomed me into the life of the lab from the director Professor Fukuyama to all PhD students, for which I am immensely grateful. I would like to thank the JSPS for the support of my academic and research goals while in Japan.