



# 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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2004 – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2005**

*(3 months pre-JSPS research)*

**Host**

***Prof. S. Kobayashi***

*Graduate School of Pharmacy, University of Tokyo*



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO**

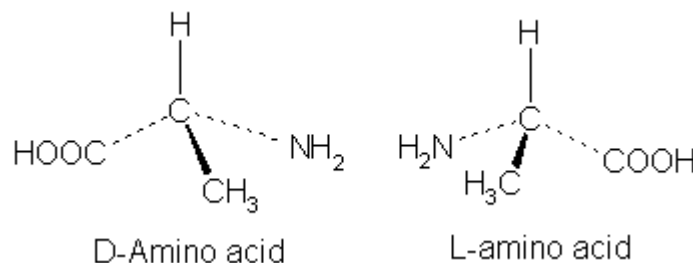
# My Research in Japan

## Chiral molecules, by asymmetric catalysis:

Two otherwise identical molecules have non-super imposable mirror images

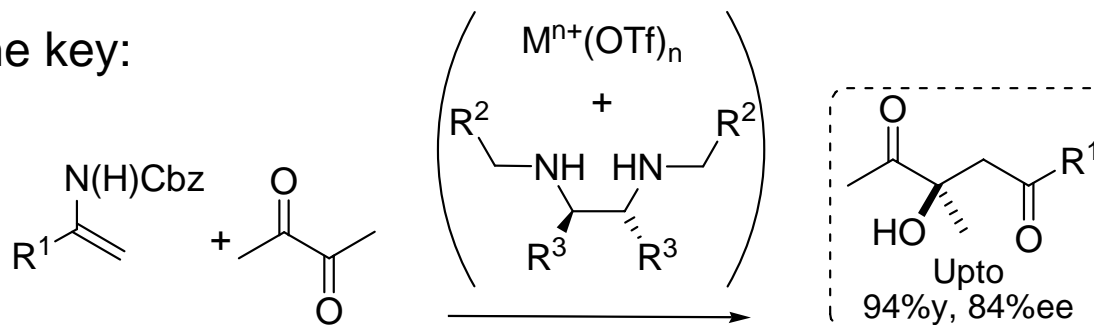
Chiral molecules in the body are *generally* one sense of chirality

## 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

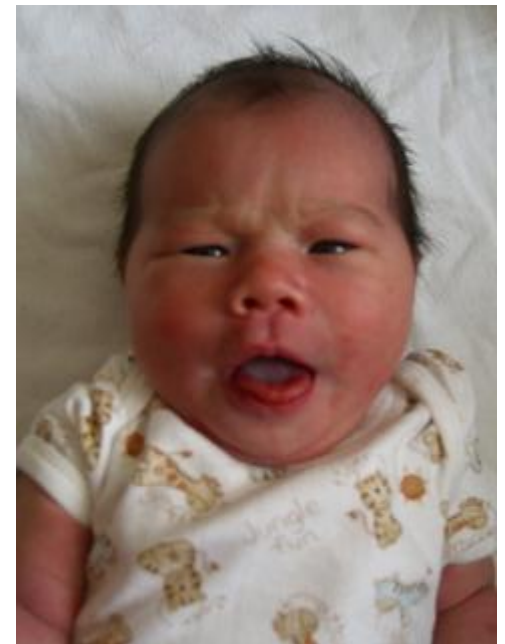
- Difficulties and overcoming them
  - Essential that your group is behind you*
    - Close contact before arrival via email will help tremendously*
    - Housing – live as close to work as possible*
  - Language Barrier:*
    - Good to learn basics*
    - Take any opportunity to exchange or improve*
    - 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006