

Mansfield-PhRMA Research Scholars Program 2016

Participant Biographies



Koji Fujita is an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Science, Department of Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgery, Tokyo Medical and Dental University. His area of expertise is in osteoporosis and he conducts basic research for developing new drugs and clinical research for fall prevention as well as surgery of the upper extremity. Dr. Fujita holds an MD and PhD in Orthopedics from Tokyo Medical and Dental University. In addition to his previous working experiences, Dr. Fujita was a Research Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for two and a half years and worked on research in bone biology and osteoporosis.



Atushi Hashizume is a Clinical Fellow at the Department of Neurology at the Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya University. Dr. Hashizume's expertise is in neurology and he conducted investigatory clinical trials on anti-androgen therapy for spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA). Dr. Hashizume also serves as an Expert Advisor for the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) and evaluates the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs in the area of cerebral infarction, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders. Dr. Hashizume holds an MD and PhD from Nagoya University School of Medicine, and a bachelor's degree in health science from the University of Tokyo.



Ryuji Kato is an Associate Professor at the Department of Basic Medical Science, Laboratory of Cell and Molecular Bioengineering, Nagoya University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Kato's expertise include cell culture engineering, bioinformatics, and protein engineering. His current research focuses on the medical engineering for regenerative medicine and drug development. As a principal lead researcher, his responsibilities include developing novel technologies in the field of cell therapy and regenerative medicine as well as teaching students in the field of regenerative medicine.

Dr. Kato also serves as a committee member of an ISO technical committee (TC276: Biotechnology) in Japan. Dr. Kato holds a PhD in Engineering from Nagoya University, a Master of Bioscience from Nara Institute of Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in chemistry and biology from Tohoku University.



Sumimasa Nagai is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Division of Genetic Therapeutics, Advanced Clinical Research Center, the Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo (IMSUT) and at the Department of Hematology/Oncology and Center for Translational Research, IMSUT Hospital. At IMSUT, Dr. Nagai prepares registration trials for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy and is responsible for outpatient care as well as supporting translational research, clinical studies and investigator-initiated registration trials. In addition to his responsibilities at IMSUT, Dr. Nagai serves as a clinical advisor at the Office of New Drug V (Oncology) and the Companion Diagnostics Working Group, PMDA, where he assists in regulating oncologic drugs and companion diagnostics. Dr. Nagai holds an MD and

PhD from the University of Tokyo.



Haruka Nakada is a Project Research Fellow at the Department of Public Policy, Human Genome Center, Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo. Dr. Nakada's expertise is in the interdisciplinary area of healthcare and law, where her research interest is to explore ways to solve the potential social issues associated with innovation in medical technologies. Dr. Nakada conducts studies on ethical, legal, and social issues related to medical research. Her research topic discuss ethical issues related with research and development of implanted medical devices and the ethical issues related to clinical trials from the patients' perspectives. Dr. Nakada holds a PhD in Integrated Science from the Graduate School of Frontier Science, University of Tokyo, a JD from Waseda University Law School, and a

Bachelor of Science in Health Science and Nursing from the University of Tokyo.



Takeshi Ohama is an Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Pharmacology, Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Yamaguchi University. Dr. Ohama conducts research on the development of a novel anti-cancer strategy targeting protein phosphates and teaches veterinary pharmacology for the undergraduate level. Dr. Ohama worked as a Research Associate at the Center for Cell Signaling at the University of Virginia, where he conducted experiments to clarify the role of protein phosphates in cell signaling. Dr. Ohama holds a PhD in Veterinary Medicine and DVM from the University of Tokyo.



Wataru Shibata is an Associate Professor at the Advanced Medical Research Center, Yokohama City University. Dr. Shibata specializes in gastroenterology and his responsibilities include managing the biobank, coordinating translational research, conducting clinical work and interviewing with clinicians to find out if there are any unmet scientific needs to be resolved at bedside. In addition, Dr. Shibata conducts his own research for gastrointestinal cancer by using mice cancer models and clinical samples to develop cures for those diseases. Dr. Shibata worked at Columbia University Medical Center as a postdoctoral research scientist. He holds a PhD in Gastroenterology from the University of Tokyo and an MD from Yamagata University.



Yutaka Shimazu is a Project Researcher at the Department of Immunology, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, Kyoto University. Dr. Shimazu's expertise is in the field of cancer immunology and iPS technology. Dr. Shimazu conducts basic research on cancer immunology to apply new technology in clinical practice and to regenerate cancer antigen specific cytotoxic T cells (CTLs) by utilizing iPS technology. In collaboration with the Department of Hematology and Oncology of Kyoto University, Dr. Shimazu's research team applied their methods to clinical practice. Previously, Dr. Shimazu worked at various institutions including the Department of Hematology at Kurashiki Central Hospital,

Department of Hematology/Oncology at Kyoto University, and the Immunology Frontier Research Center at Osaka University. Dr. Shimazu holds an MD from Kyoto University.