

## Mansfield-PhRMA Research Scholars Program 2019

### Participant Biographies



**Hiroki Akiba** is a Project Researcher in the Laboratory of Pharmacokinetic Optimization at the Center for Drug Design Research, National Institutes for Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition. Prior to his current role, he worked as a postdoc at The University of Tokyo in the field of protein engineering and biomolecular recognition. Currently, he conducts research on the optimization of antibody molecules. His research covers optimization strategy for the improvement of affinity or stability, developing novel bispecific antibody scaffolds and antibody fusions, and selecting antibody variable fragments for optimal development of biparatopic antibodies. Dr. Akiba received his PhD from the Department of Advanced Interdisciplinary Sciences, School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo in 2013, by a study of a chemical sensor to detect tyrosine phosphorylation. He also holds a MS from the Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology, School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo (2010), and a BS from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tokyo (2008).



**Seiji Kishi** is an associate professor at the General Medicine section at Kawasaki Medical School. Previously, he worked as an assistant professor at Tokushima University Hospital, where he conducted clinical practice, student and resident education on kidney disease. Prior to that, he was employed in the Renal Division of the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital as a research fellow. He has also worked at the Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki Hospital as an attending physician and fellow. In his current capacity, he works as a general internist at the University Hospital, and also educates medical students, residents, and fellows at clinical practice sites. His research focuses on elucidating the molecular mechanisms of why acute kidney injury transitions to chronic kidney disease, using genetically modified animals and organoids. Dr. Kishi received his PhD in Nephrology from Tokushima University Graduate School in 2011, as well as an MD from the Department of Medicine at Tokushima University in 2000.



**Takahiro Kogawa** is a staff physician at the Department of Experimental Therapeutics and Department of Breast Medical Oncology at the National Cancer Center East Hospital. He has previously worked at the Department of Medical Oncology at the KKR Sapporo Medical Center Tonan Hospital. In his current position, he performs patient treatments at inpatient and outpatient clinics, and implements clinical trials for phase I studies for cancer agent developments. He also engages in educating residents and fellows at his institution for clinical treatment methods and research activity guidance. Dr. Kogawa completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2014, and received his PhD in Gastroenterology from the Graduate School of Sapporo Medical University in 2007. He received his MD from Sapporo Medical University in 2000.



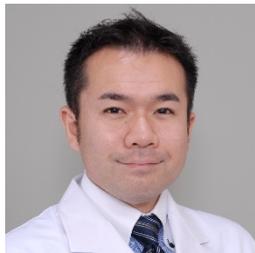
**Narihito Nagoshi** is an assistant professor at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Keio University's School of Medicine. Previously, he worked as a spine surgeon at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, at the Spinal Cord Injury Center in Hokkaido Chuo Rosai Hospital, as well as at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Murayama Clinical Center. In his current capacity, his research focuses on regenerative medicine for spinal cord injury, and is also responsible for clinical research on patients with spinal cord injuries using iPSC cells. He also engages in teaching appropriate diagnostic techniques and treatment methods for spine and spinal cord diseases for trainees, as well as perform over 100 surgical operations a year as chief of a spinal cord disease treatment group. Dr. Nagoshi received his PhD in Orthopaedics in 2009 from Keio University's Graduate School of Medicine, and a MD in 2002 from Keio University's School of Medicine.



**Hitomi Okuma** is a medical oncologist at the Clinical Trial Management Section in the Research Management Division of the Clinical Research Support Office, and the Department of Breast and Medical Oncology at the National Cancer Center Hospital. Her current responsibilities include conducting a project related to platform (basket/umbrella) trials with a registry study for rare cancers (MASTER KEY Project). In addition to coordinating between the multiple committees involved in the project, she plans and designs clinical trials and accompanying research, and acting as liaison between academic researchers and companies, with the goal of accelerating drug approval for rare cancers. Dr. Okuma received her PhD from the Graduate School of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Chiba University in 2017, and holds a MD from Nagasaki University School of Medicine (2011).



**Kazutaka Otsuji** is an assistant professor at the Department of Breast and Endocrine Surgery at the University of Tokyo Hospital. Previously, he worked as a general surgeon at JR Tokyo General Hospital. In his current role, he engages in medical practice and treatment of diseases related to the breast and thyroid gland. He also researches the application of droplet-digital PCR as a diagnostic tool for breast cancer and breast fibro epithelial tumors. He is also involved in educating the medical students, trainees, and graduate students at the University Hospital. Dr. Otsuji received his PhD in Surgical Science from the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo in 2018, and an MD from the University of Tokyo, Medical School in 2009.



**Masamichi Takahashi** works at the Department of Neurosurgery and Neuro-Oncology at the National Cancer Center Hospital as a neurosurgeon, neuro-oncologist, and a basic researcher for patients with malignant brain tumors. His current research involves overseeing the distribution of multicenter, phase II, investigator-initiated clinical trials of eribulin mesylate in patients with recurrent glioblastoma. Prior to his current position, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) for three years, and conducted basic scientific research, focusing on translational research and developing novel gene therapy from bench to bedside. Dr. Takahashi holds a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Medicine (2011), and a MD from the School of Medicine at Niigata University (2001).



**Hiroyoshi Tanaka** is an assistant professor at the Department of Pharmaceutical Biomedicine at the Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, at Okayama University. His research pertains to elucidating the pathogenesis and formulating novel therapeutic strategies for pancreatic cancer. In addition to analyzing human histopathology as well as conventional animal models, he works in collaboration with clinicians and basic researchers of other disciplines to generate novel in vitro platforms using original 3D culture techniques. These 3D models enable for screening of compounds that control the malignant tumor microenvironment. Mr. Tanaka received his MD from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine in 2013, and was subsequently enrolled in the Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Immunology and Microbiology, at the University of Tokyo until 2016.



**Takao Watamoto** is division chief at the Division of Project Promotion, Department of Cyclic Innovation at the Japan Agency of Medical Research and Development (AMED). Previously, he worked at Tokai-Hokuriku Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare as section chief, as well as at the Graduate School of Biomedical Science in Nagasaki University as an assistant professor. In his current role, Dr. Watamoto manages the Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment project at AMED. Dr. Watamoto holds a PhD in Prosthodontics from the Graduate School of Dentistry, Osaka University (2005), and has graduated the School of Dentistry, Osaka University in 2001.



**Nariaki Iwasawa** is a reviewer at the Office of Pharmacovigilance II and Office of New Drug V, at the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA). Previously, he worked at the Office of New Drug II at PMDA, where he was involved in drug approval review, specifically in evaluating efficacy and safety data of clinical studies and pharmacological data of non-clinical studies. In his current role, he formulates post marketing risk management plans regarding anticancer drugs, in which he looks at the risk involved after marketing, based on safety data of clinical and non-clinical studies, adverse reaction reports, as well as results of post-marketing surveillance. Dr. Iwasawa holds a PhD and a Master's degree from the Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University (2014 and 2011, respectively), and a Bachelor's from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Kyoto University (2009).