

# **Kobe University Global COE Program**

**Education and Research in Integrative Membrane Biology**

**Excellence for Education and Research on Signal Transduction Medicine in the Coming Generation**

## **“Faculty Development Lectures”**

### **Abstracts**

**December 18 , 2008**

**Shinryoku-Kaikan,**

**Kobe University Graduate School, of Medicine**

## Faculty Development Lectures

Date: Friday, December 18, 2008

Time: 16:00-17:30

Venue: Shinryoku-kaikan (Alumnus Hall), School of Medicine, Kusunoki cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe

Professor Azuma will talk about our graduate education system and current problems of the doctoral program in Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine.

Professor Bajjalieh will give us a brief introduction to PhD program in UWSOM and suggestions of solution to problems in our graduate education system. She will also talk about mentoring PhD students.

<i>Chair :Tohru Kataoka</i>		
Time	Content	Speaker
16:00-16:30	Graduate Education System in Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine	Takeshi Azuma (Professor, Division of Gastroenterology; Chairman of the Committee for Graduate Education and Student Affairs, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine; and Global COE Program Leader of “Global Center of Excellence for Education and Research on Signal Transduction Medicine in the Coming Generation”)
16:30-17:30	Developing Scientific Talent	Sandra M. Bajjalieh (Professor, Department of Pharmacology, University of Washington School of Medicine)

This program is cosponsored by Kobe University Global COE Program “Global Center for Education and Research in Integrative Membrane Biology” and “Global Center of Excellence for Education and Research on Signal Transduction Medicine in the Coming Generation - Bringing up clinician-scientists in the alliance between basic and clinical medicine - ”

## GRADUATE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KOBE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Takeshi Azuma; Division of Gastroenterology; Chairman of the Committee for Graduate Education and Student Affairs, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine; and Global COE Program Leader of “Global Center of Excellence for Education and Research on Signal Transduction Medicine in the Coming Generation”

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine has mainly three types of graduate programs; specialized for advanced clinicians, life science researchers, or clinician-scientists. Recently, Global Center of Excellence (G-COE) for Education and Research fund was provided in Kobe University. I will introduce the G-COE program in my lecture.

In the past, universities in Japan attempted to promote an alliance between basic and clinical medicine, but the reality is that such alliance has still been limited to research collaborations at the individual scientist level. In Kobe University, however, all of the faculty members are classified into (a) life science research, (b) basic medical research (disease-oriented basic, experimental research), and (c) clinical medical research (patient-oriented clinical research), and are assigned to the same “*Kouza*”, an education and research unit in the university system in Japan corresponding to a “Department” or “Division” in universities in the USA. A cross-disciplinary “Training Course for Leaders of Clinician-Scientists and Medical Researchers” is established. Students are selected based on strict evaluation of their research proposals. They are provided with grants for independent research, other financial support, and appropriate guidance by education and research coordinators to nurture them to become clinician-scientists and medical researchers who are capable of conducting original research activities at the international level. At the Graduate School of Medicine, an International Visiting Professor (IVP) system is introduced to further enhance the quality of the graduate programs from the global viewpoint. Kobe University is providing a three-stage nurture system: a conventional post-doctoral course and, for young researchers who have completed post-doctoral training, Track A and Track B. Track A is a tenure track in which the researcher is promoted to a tenured position (associate professor) in 3 to 5 years, based on strict evaluation. In Track A, a young researcher (assistant professor) is a principle investigator (PI), and is assured complete independence in research and provided research funding and space. Track B is an intermediate position between post-doctoral fellowship and Track A, similar to that of a research associate in the USA. Promotion from Track B to Track A is also based on strict evaluation. Both Track A and Track B candidates will be recruited by international public advertisement and recommendation. Candidates are selected only after strict evaluation, including review of research proposals written in English and past achievements. For outstanding students and post-doctoral fellows, a career path will be provided to continue their activities at Kobe University. For selection of young researchers to become leading clinician-scientists, advanced clinical skills will be evaluated as well as experimental research ability.

## DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC TALENT

Sandra M. Bajjalieh; Department of Pharmacology, University of Washington School of Medicine

The University of Washington has three types of graduate programs in biomedical science - Departmental PhD programs, umbrella PhD programs and an MD/PhD program run by the School of Medicine. In addition, several of the residency programs mandate a year of lab research and nearly all have fellowship programs for medical residents who wish to do research after completing their residency.

The success of the graduate programs is based in the high caliber of the applicants, an emphasis on research experience in admissions decisions, and structured programs that depend on significant faculty involvement. The current trend is for early qualifying examinations, an enforced schedule of yearly meetings with thesis committees, and multiple mechanisms for professional development. In addition, inclusion of students in departmental and program decision-making - including the evaluation and recruitment of new students - has been successful in encouraging students in academic careers.