

---

**First collaborative event for LINK-J and UC San Diego, inviting a prominent researcher**

**LINK-J Symposium on “MICROBIOME – Latest Research & Development”**

**An internationally-respected authority on a field with great potential and expectations for market expansion will lecture for the first time in Japan.**

---

On November 27, 2017, in Tokyo, Japan, Life Science Innovation Network Japan, Inc. (chairman of the board: Hideyuki Okano; hereinafter “LINK-J”), will hold a symposium on “MICROBIOME – Latest Research & Development” on Thursday, January 25, 2018, inviting one of the leading experts in microbiome research from the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego).

LINK-J and UC San Diego agreed on collaborations in the life science field in May 2016, and will annually hold events inviting prominent researchers from UC San Diego for three years, starting in 2017.

As the first collaboration event, this symposium was titled “MICROBIOME – Latest Research & Development,” and internationally-respected microbiome researcher Dr. Rob Knight, Professor of Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering, and Director of the Center for Microbiome Innovation at UC San Diego, will take the rostrum. Dr. Knight’s research is highly evaluated, and he was awarded the 2017 Massry Prize, which is bestowed upon scientists who have made substantial contributions in the biomedical field. This will be his first lecture in Japan.

In addition, Dr. Sandrine Miller-Montgomery, executive director of the Center for Microbiome Innovation at UC San Diego, is also invited as a speaker, along with Japanese microbiome researchers Mr. Takahiro Matsuki (Manager, Symbiotic Systems Laboratory, Basic Research Department, Yakult Central Institute), Mr. Wataru Iwasaki (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tokyo), and Mr. Hiroshi Mori (Assistant Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics) as speakers for the second half of the symposium.

**[Date and Time]** Thursday, January 25, 2018; 13:30 - 17:50 for the symposium; 17:50 - 19:00 for the gathering (Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation will be available during the symposium.)

**[Location]** Nihonbashi Life Science Hub (8F Muromachi Chibagin Mitsui Building, 1-5-5, Nihonbashi-muromachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo)

**[Host]** LINK-J

**[Registration Fee]** LINK -J Member, ¥1,000; Others (LINK-J Non-Member), ¥5,000

**[Capacity]** 150 persons (Registration is on a first come, first served basis.)

**[Registration]** Please register at: <http://peatix.com/event/317195> \*Registration will start on November 28, 2017.

**[Speakers]**

Dr. Rob Knight; Professor, Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering/Director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, UC San Diego

Dr. Sandrine Miller-Montgomery; Executive director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, UC San Diego

Mr. Takahiro Matsuki; Manager, Symbiotic Systems Laboratory, Basic Research Department, Yakult Central Institute

Mr. Wataru Iwasaki; Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tokyo

Mr. Hiroshi Mori; Assistant Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics

(Chair) Mr. Ken Kurokawa; Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics

\* Speakers' profiles and a detailed program are available in a separate document

LINK-J pursues collaboration with overseas leading universities and institutions in the area of life sciences, including UC San Diego, Biocom (a life sciences association also located in San Diego), Kyoto Research Park (a corporation supporting innovation creation in Kyoto), and Eurobiomed (a French life sciences association). We will continue to promote the activation of life science innovations in Japan by strengthening collaborations with parties in Japan and overseas.

**【PROGRAM】 English Only ※Japanese-English Simultaneous Interpretation is available during the symposium.**

13:30-13:40 Opening Remarks

Soyama Akihiko	President and CEO, Director, LINK-J
Miwako Waga	Director, Office of Research Affairs, UC San Diego
【Chair】Ken Kurokawa	Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics

13:40-14:50 Lecture1

Rob Knight	Professor, Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering/ Director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, UC San Diego
------------	---

14:50-15:30 Lecture2

Sandrine Miller-Montgomery	Executive director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, the University of California, San Diego
----------------------------	--

15:30-15:50 Break (20min)

15:50-17:20 Lecture3

Takahiro Matsuki	Manager, Symbiotic Systems Laboratory, Basic Research Department, Yakult Central Institute
------------------	---

16:20 -16:50 Lecture4

Wataru Iwasaki	Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, the University of Tokyo
----------------	---

16:50 -17:20 Lecture5

Hiroshi Mori	Assistant Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics
--------------	---

17:20 -17:40 Q&A (20min)

17:40 -17:50 Closing Remarks (5min-10min)

※For the profiles please see the other side

## **【PROFILE】**



### **Rob Knight (Professor, Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering/Director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, UC San Diego)**

His work combines microbiology, DNA sequencing, ecology and computer science to understand the vast numbers of microbes that inhabit our bodies and our planet. He was recently honored with the 2017 Massry Prize for his microbiome research. He authored “Follow Your Gut: The Enormous Impact of Tiny Microbes” and co-authored “Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child’s Developing Immune System.” His TED talk on the human microbiome has been viewed over 1 million times.



### **Sandrine Miller-Montgomery (Executive director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, UC San Diego)**

She leads a team focused on expanding industry and academic collaborations in the field of microbiome research. She comes directly from industry and has worked in large biotech and multinational companies as well as start-ups. Most recently, she was leading MO BIO Labs, a biotech focused on nucleic acid purification.



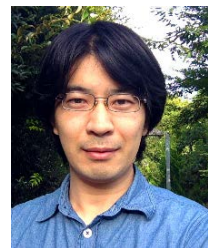
### **Takahiro Matsuki (Manager, Symbiotic Systems Laboratory, Basic Research Department, Yakult Central Institute)**

Graduated from Faculty of Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1992. Completed master’s course at Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1995. 1995 to Present, Yakult Central Institute. Visiting Scientist at the University of Tokyo from 1996 to 1999. PhD at the University of Tokyo in 2005. Visiting Scientist at Institute Pasteur from 2008 to 2010. Prize: Kuroya Prize awarded by Japanese Society for Bacteriology. Major field of studies: Molecular ecology of human gut microbiota, Bacteriology, Genome microbiology.



### **Wataru Iwasaki (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, the University of Tokyo)**

2005 —B.S. in Department of Biophysics and Biochemistry (the University of Tokyo). 2009 —Ph.D. in Department of Computational Biology (the University of Tokyo). 2011 —Assistant Professor at Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo. 2014 —Associate Professor at Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Bioinformatics and Systems Biology, Department of Computational Biology and Medical Sciences, and Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo. Major in bioinformatics, especially areas related to genomics, evolution, ecology, and ethology.



### **Hiroshi Mori (Assistant Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics)**

Assistant Professor of National Institute of Genetics and Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Japan. He obtained his Ph.D. in bioscience from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2011. He worked on microbial genomics and metagenomics as an Assistant Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology till 2016. His research interest includes genome science for microbes, bioinformatics tool development for metagenomics, and biological database.



**Ken Kurokawa (Professor, Center for Information Biology, National Institute of Genetics)**

Education: 1993 B.Sc., Tohoku University, 1995 M.Sc., Tohoku University, 1998 Ph.D., Osaka University. Professional carrier: 1998-2001 Post -Doctoral Fellow, RIMD, Osaka Univ., 2001-2004 Assistant Professor, RIMD, Osaka Univ., 2004-2008 Associate Professor, Graduate School of Information Science, NAIST, 2008-2013 Professor, Graduate school of Bioscience and Biotechnology, TITECH, 2013-2016 Professor / Vice-president, Earth- Life Science Institute, TITECH. Major research field: Genomics, Metagenomics and Bioinformatics.

■ **University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego)**

University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) was established in 1960, offering 87 undergraduate courses and 55 master's courses. It is a state research university where approximately 34,000 students are engaged in more than 100 major fields of study as of fall 2015. US San Diego conducts cutting-edge research in medicine, science, and engineering and is recognized as one of the world's top 15 universities in terms of area of research. Of note is that in San Diego, where the nation's top-notch life science clusters are found, the university is known for its state-of-the-art research system in the life science realm and proud of having chalked up a track record in taking the initiative in life science clusters in California through industry-university collaboration. For further details, please visit the website: <http://www.ucsd.edu/>

■ **Life Science Innovation Network Japan, Inc. (LINK-J)**

LINK-J is a general incorporated association established by Mitsui Fudosan and volunteers from academic circles. With its base in the Nihonbashi district, where a number of pharmaceutical companies are clustered, it aims to promote open innovation in the life science realm through industry-government-academia cooperation and extend support to the creation of new industries. Across the entire life science area, i.e., the area where all sciences are combined, ranging from medicine to science and further to engineering or new technologies, such as information and communication technology (ICT) or artificial intelligence (AI), it will accelerate interdisciplinary human and technological exchanges.