

## Greeting

As the leader of Nagasaki University Global COE Program entitled "Global Strategic Center for Radiation Health Risk Control", it is a great honor and pleasure to have this opportunity to address a heartfelt greeting of the International Symposium on Perspective of Radiation Response Research organized by our young investigators in Nagasaki University.

First of all, I would coordinately like to welcome all the young researchers from domestic and abroad, to this historical town, Nagasaki. As all of you may know, our Medical College was completely destroyed by the second Atomic Bombing, just three days after the Hiroshima on August 9, 1945. Our Medical College was exactly located only 500 meter near from the epicenter. However we have overcome many of the difficulties with a full of trials and finally set up remarkable result of a continuous endeavor in Radiation Health and Life Sciences. Our study has received the highest rating in the first competitive assessment of the "Global COE Program" in 2007 following a successful achievement of "the 21st COE Program" from 2002 to 2006, and its high standard has already been widely recognized. The aim of our program is to explore human health risks from radiation on a global scale, to develop measures for overcoming the negative legacies of radiation and to establish a scientific integrated international strategic research and human resource development in the field of radiation health and life sciences. To promote one of the three main research themes, "fundamental radiation life science", here

we plan to hold a Young Investigators' International Symposium entitled "Perspective of Radiation Research" focusing on chromatin response to DNA double-strand breaks, cellular and molecular response to radiation, and radiation and microenvironment. Eleven foreign speakers are invited who are really expected to stimulate our young researchers in Japan. From the beginning of the planning of the symposium, Mr. Yamauchi and the young organizing committee members have worked hard and prepared for a wonderful academic program. Many important topics will be discussed; chromatin remodeling, histone post-translational modification, and nucleosome assembly and disassembly are examples involved in DNA double strand break repairs. We really appreciate their great contribution on behalf of all the members of our Global COE Program, especially from the senior members.

Finally I would like to express my warm wishes for the success of this Young Investigators' International Symposium and my sincere hope that it will contribute to the cultivation of internationally renowned researchers. The concrete exchange research projects among the participants would be highly welcome and appreciated near in the future. I also hope that the guests from overseas will take the opportunity to enjoy Nagasaki, the Japan's western gateway to the world especially more than ten thousands lanterns decorated in China town during the special Nagasaki Lantern Festival this winter.

Shunichi Yamashita, M.D., Ph.D.

Director

Atomic Bomb Disease Institute

Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences