

Career Development Session

In the Career Development Session, you will gain valuable insights on success in academia and industry from successful people who graduated from Kyoto University. The main purpose of this event is to help current students and young researchers see what there is after graduation.

We asked all six graduates some general questions about their background.

Ms. Kyoko Hirano

2011.4 - 2013.3	MSc Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Ryoichiro Kageyama
2013.4 -	Scientist Laboratory for Pharmacology, Asahi Kasei Pharma Corporation



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

When I was a student in Kyoto University, I knew nothing about bones...but now, I can enjoy seeing dinosaur bones in a museum.

Hobby: Japanese tea ceremony (Cha-do in Japanese), Real escape game

What is your current research or job?

Animal model studies involving in orthopedic surgeries to evaluate effects of drugs on bone regeneration.

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

Some scientists working for pharmaceutical companies told me how challenging it is to develop a new drug in career seminars. That made me interested in drug discovery/development.

Could you give students some advice?

If you would like to know research in industry, do not hesitate to contact companies you are interested in. Most companies are open for students.

Dr. Hirotaka Kazama

1995.4 – 1997.3	MSc Biological sciences, Grad. Sch. Science, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Shin Yonehara
1997.4 – 2000.3	PhD Biological sciences, Grad. Sch. Science, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Shin Yonehara
2000.4 – 2002.2	Postdoctoral Researcher The Institute of Virus Research, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Shin Yonehara
2002.2-2005.2	Research associate, Washington University in St. Louis
2005.3-2008.3	Staff scientist, Washington University in St. Louis
2008.4-2011.12	Assistant Prof. in Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University
2012.1-2017.10	Medical Liaison, Eli Lilly Japan
2017.11-Present	Medical Manager, Sanofi Genzyme Japan



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

I was a student in rowing club in Kyoto University. Recently two of my friends became the general manager and the director of rowing club. I'm proud of it and will stay to be a patron of the rowing club.

I'm still experiencing the regatta every year as a cox. I also take bike rides every weekend.

What is your current research or job?

My last research topic was the decision-make of immune response to the antigen associated with dead cells. This is something to do with immune oncology. So I'm working in a medical branch of a global pharmaceutical company that is preparing new drug launch in Japan.

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

It was difficult situation to stay in academia in terms of affordability for educational opportunities of my children. I was lucky to be introduced to an agent for job search in my network. Taking other jobs in pharmaceutical industry is very common for stepping up your carrier.

Could you give students some advice?

Be social. Don't be shy and hesitate to communicate with people around you. You can learn something more thorough communication especially by face-to-face than through just reading papers and textbook. Take the opportunities in the meetings like congresses for networking.

Mr. Tomohiro Asano

2005.4 – 2007.3	MSc Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Fuyuki Ishikawa
2007.4 – 2012.8	Chief Packaging Section, Nishinomiya Brewery Asahi Breweries, Ltd.
2012.9 – 2016.5	Assistant Section Manager R&D Promotion Office, Production Technology Center Asahi Breweries, Ltd.
2016.5 -	Deputy Manager Department of Production Strategy, Production Headquarters Asahi Breweries, Ltd.



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

My first priority is satisfying private time. After work (No overtime!), going back home, then enjoying yummy dinner, chatting with my wife, reading books, listening to the music – my meaning of life.

I like traveling abroad – every summer I take a one week off and visit foreign countries. In 2017, I went to Iceland and drove through its great nature. It's one of my best experience ever.

What is your current research or job?

After 10-year career as the packaging technology expert, I'm working in the headquarters and responsible for establishing and carrying out long-term strategy of technology development, investment for breweries, human resource development and so on (especially in the field of packaging).

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

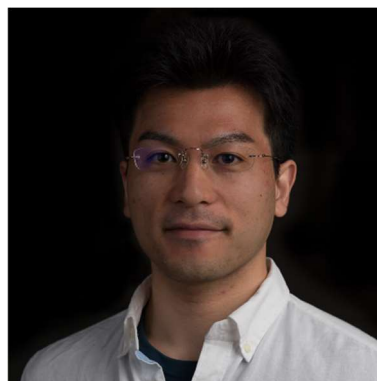
My first business trip to Germany and Italy in 2013. It was very tough experience to visit overseas ALONE, but changed my mindset. Foreign technologists are familiar not just with technologies but also with business management. That evoked my interest to the world of business and management.

Could you give students some advice?

I guess most of you think of continuing your career in the research field – regardless of academic or industrial – but many people try to new job and enjoy it after finishing the degree. You have not been differentiated yet. You can go any direction you choose. Please don't limit your possibility by yourself.

Dr. Tomomi Kiyomitsu

2002.4 – 2004.3	MSc Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Prof. Mitsuhiro Yanagida
2004.4 - 2008.1	PhD Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Prof. Mitsuhiro Yanagida
2008.2 – 2010.3	Postdoctoral Researcher Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Prof. Mitsuhiro Yanagida
2010.4 – 2013.7	Postdoctoral Researcher/ HFSP fellow Whitehead Institute, MIT Supervisor: Prof. Iain M. Cheeseman
2013.8 – present	Assistant professor/ PRESTO researcher Grad. Sch. Science, Nagoya University



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

I like to see something beautiful and dynamic, especially under the microscope. Recently, I started to use fish embryos to study the dynamics of the mitotic spindle positioning during the early embryonic divisions. It is so beautiful and I am so excited!

What is your current research or job?

Please see the following link:

<https://researchmap.jp/tomomi.kiyomitsu/>

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

When I was a PhD student, I could fortunately occupy a nice microscope and enjoyed live-cell imaging for a long time. I still remember the excitement and enthusiasm that I had and shared when I first succeeded in visualizing the dynamics of chromosome segregation.

Could you give students some advice?

Someday, you need to make a decision for your next position. When I selected Iain Cheeseman Lab, many colleagues disagreed with me. But now I am very proud of this decision. When you choose your next lab or position, it is really important to see whether the PI/boss could be a lifelong mentor for you.

Dr. Kyogo Kawaguchi

2010.4-2012.3	MSc Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo. Supervisor: Masaki Sano
2012.4-2015.3	PhD Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo. Supervisor: Masaki Sano
2013.5-2014.10	Visiting student Kageyama lab, Institute of Virus Research
2015.4-2018.8	Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School. Supervisor: Allon M. Klein
2018.9-	Team Leader (RIKEN Hakubi) RIKEN BDR



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

I am a relatively low key and indoor person who likes to read in his (limited) free time. My one year old daughter who was born in Boston has started to enjoy watching anime with her father.

What is your current research or job?

We are currently interested in two things: building a strong theoretical understanding of multicellular dynamics, and solving the physical origin of cell differentiation. We mainly do live imaging experiments using cell cultures with some micropatterning, and do image analysis to compare with theory or invent some framework of understanding.

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

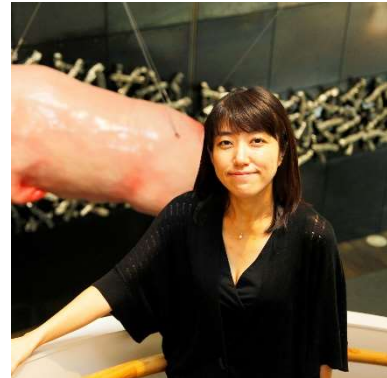
I was a kid loving doing handicrafts like origami and building Legos, but it was probably the Gakken magazines that guided me into science. In high school I decided (wished) to become a biologist, but then studied little bits of other stuff like physics in university, and then recently came back to biology.

Could you give students some advice?

Read a lot, work hard, and have fun!

Dr. Sakiko Honjoh

2003.4 – 2005.3	MSc Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Eisuke Nishida
2005.4 – 2009.1	PhD Grad. Sch. Biostudies, Kyoto University. Supervisor: Dr. Eisuke Nishida
2009.2 – 2012.8	Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Kyoto University Supervisor: Dr. Eisuke Nishida
2012.9 – 2015.8	HFSP Long-term fellow Department of Psychiatry, University of Wisconsin-Madison Supervisor: Dr. Giluo Tononi
2015.9 – 2017.8	JSPS overseas researcher Department of Psychiatry, University of Wisconsin-Madison Supervisor: Dr. Giluo Tononi
2017.9 –	Assistant Professor (PI) International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine University of Tsukuba



Please introduce yourself! (personality, hobby, etc.)

I'm a terrible procrastinator on paper work. But I do like doing experiments and analyzing data. Favorite beer: IPA, favorite animal: pandas.

What is your current research or job?

To understand functions of sleep

Thinking back, what event/experiment helped you determined your career?

In my PhD, I had an opportunity to conceive one project from scratch. I learned a lot from that experience.

Could you give students some advice?

Be independent, know what you're doing and why you're doing it.