**Meeting report**

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Environmental Mutagen Society

Shizuyo Sutou\(^1\)

1School of Pharmacy, Shujitsu University, Okayama, Japan

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The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Environmental Mutagen Society (JEMS42) was held on November 29 and 30, 2013, at the Okayama Convention Center in Okayama. The venue is two minutes walk from the Okayama Station. The main theme of JEMS42 was "Mutation and evolution: where do we come from and where are we going?" The number of attendants was approximately 300. One day before the meeting, the Editorial Board Meeting, the Administrative Board Meeting, the Council Meeting, and three subgroup meetings were held at Shujitsu University. The subgroups were the Mammalian Mutagenicity Study Group (MMS), the Bacterial Mutagenicity Study Group (BMS), and the Environmental Epigenomics Study Group (EGG).

Key words: Bacterial Mutagenicity Study Group, Environmental Epigenomics Study Group, Mammalian Mutagenicity Study Group

Subgroup Meeting

The 63rd MMS meeting was held at Shujitsu University on November 28. Summaries of five working groups at the 6th IWGT (International Workshop on Genotoxicity Testing, held at Iguassu, Brazil, on October 31–November 2, 2013) were reported: 1) the comet assay by Sachiko Kitanomoto of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., 2) the repeated-dose liver micronucleus assay by Shuichi Hamada of the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), 3) the Pig-a assay by Katsuyoshi Horibata of Mitsubishi Chemical Medience Corporation, 4) the quantitative evaluation of genotoxicity by Toshio Kasamatsu of Kao Corporation, and 5) identification of mutagens acting on germ cells by Kenichi Masumura of NIHS. There was an announcement that three posters were presented by MMS to the 11th International Conference on Environmental Mutagens held in Iguassu on November 3 to 8, 2013, and that another one was presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (USA). Finally, an invited speaker Alex Cayley of Lhasa Ltd. gave a lecture titled "Methods employed by Lhasa Limited in the in silico prediction of mutagenicity and how such predictions can be used to aid experts in decision making relating to DNA reactive impurities."

The 50th BMS meeting was organized by Kumiko Kawakami of Food and Drug Safety Center. Firstly, Yasushi Yamazoe of Food Safety Commission of Japan gave an instructive lecture entitled "Safety evaluation of foods and the role of genotoxicity testing." Then, Keiichi Sugiyama of NIH reported information on the OECD Specialists Meeting. Atsushi Hakura of Eisai Co., Ltd. proposed a collaborative study "Ames test-data collection of reagents, catalysts, and solvents widely used in chemical syntheses." Finally, Masayuki Kato of the CMIC Bioresearch Center made an interim progress report on the quality control testing.

The 10th EGG meeting was organized by Tohru Shibuya and Yukiharu Horiya of "Tox21" Study Group. Two lectures were made. Toyooka Tatsushi of University of Shizuoka talked about "Changes of histone modifications by metallic elements and their meaning." Hideko Sone of the National Institute for Environmental Studies delivered the lecture "Detection of epigenetic changes using mouse ES cells GFP-MBD-nls."

JEMS Award 2013

The JEMS Award 2013 was given to Kayoko Shimoi of University of Shizuoka, who made the award lecture "Antimutagenic effect of plant components—Genetic and biochemical study." There were two winners of the JEMS Achievement Award 2013. One was Masanobu Kawanishi of Osaka Prefecture University, who gave the lecture "Molecular mechanisms of adduct formation, repair and mutagenesis of an atmospheric polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon." The other was Manabu Yasui of NIH, who delivered the lecture "Site-specific..."
DNA adduct mutagenesis in vitro."

**Poster Presentations and Best Presentation Awards**

A total of 105 posters were presented and 16 of them were delivered orally. The JEMS Council members chose three best presentation awardees from the all. The Hadano Award was given to Mizuki Ohno of Kyushu University (Analyzing system for somatic and germ line mutations using mutator mouse line), the Oxford Journals Award was to Kaori Matusuki of Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (γH2AX foci count by imaging analysis is useful for investigating the mechanism of micronuclei induction in vitro), and the Elsevier Award was to Seiya Nagano of Osaka Prefecture University (Construction of plasmids containing a spirominodi-hydantoin, a base damage induced by phenalenone and UVA radiation, and analysis of TLS in human cultured cells).

**Symposia**

Two symposia were held. The first one was the Kitaji Mochizuki Memorial Symposium, “Mutation and evolution: where do we come from and where are we going?” sponsored by Biosafety Research Center. Five speakers were Shizuyo Sutou of Shujitsu University (The hairless mutation hypothesis: a driving force of bipedalism by enforcing baby-holding with both hands and brain enlargement by allowing immature baby delivery later), Hitoshi Suzuki of Hokkaido University (Human mediated eastward dispersals of the house mouse Mus musculus in East Asia), Gen’ichi Idani of Kyoto University (Men of today through the great ape society), Hisao Baba of the National Museum of Nature and Science (Origin and migrations of modern humans (Homo sapiens)), and Saitou Naruya of the National Institute of Genetics (Homo sapiens under neutral evolution).

The second symposium was “Photogenotoxicity.” Five speakers were Hajime Sui of the Food and Drug Safety Center (Photogenotoxicity testing methods), Sakae Arimoto-Kobayashi of Okayama University (Photochemical reaction between DNA and mutagens), Yuko Ibuki of University of Shizuoka (Histone modifications induced by chemicals and photogenotoxicity), Hironobu Ikehata of Tohoku University (Genotoxicity of ultraviolet radiation for skin–mouse study), and Tsukasa Matsunaga of Kanazawa University (Development and application of two types of cell-based immunoassays for nucleotide excision repair).

Some lectures presented in these symposia are reported as reviews in this issue of Genes and Environment.

**Financial and Other Supports**

The organizing committee of JEMS42 is grateful to the Yakumo Foundation for Environmental Science, the Okayama Medical Foundation, and the Ryobi Teien Memory Foundation for their financial supports; their funds were competitive and S.S. was the winner of the three prizes. The BioSafety Research Center, a public interest incorporated foundation, sponsored the Kitaji Mochizuki Memorial Symposium. The Okayama Visitors & Convention Association supported us financially and materially. It has a program to support financially international and domestic meetings depending on the number of visitors to Okayama and lodgings in Okayama.


The Hatano Research Institute of the Food and Drug Safety Center, Oxford University Press, and Elsevier Japan KK provided us with best presentation awards. Drinks and beverage were donated by Kagome Co., Ltd., Kirin Holdings Co., Ltd., Japan Beverage Holdings Inc., and Tominaga Pharmacy Inc.

Twelve organizations ran advertisements on the JEMS42 Program and Abstracts: these were BioReliance Corporation, Fujijymatech Co., Ltd., Fukujyuikai Incorporated Medical Association, Food and Drug Safety Center, Japan Food Research Laboratories, Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association, Kibi Taxi Co., Ltd., Tominaga Pharmacy Inc., UBE Scientific Analysis Laboratory, Inc., Ssmile Co., Ltd., Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd., and ZAG ZAG Co., Ltd.

Eight organizations took part in sponsored exhibitions: these were BOZO Research Center, Chemicals Evaluation Research Institute, Japan, Fujitsu Kyushu Systems Ltd., GSI Creos Corporation, IEDATRADING Corporation, IWAKI & Co., Ltd., LMS Co., Ltd., and Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

**Banquet**

Welcome banquet was held at the Reception Hall of the Okayama Convention Center in the evening on November 29, 2013. Riches of seafood from the Seto Inland Sea, delicacies of Okayama specialties, and lots of others were served. JEMS4’s special offer was four pieces of ham each of which weighed around 10 kg. These were products of Itoham Foods Inc. for the Central Research Institute of which S.S. had worked once. “Bichukagura”, a traditional stage performance of the Okayama area, was shown in the mid-course of
the banquet.

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