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Bioresource Engineering Division

Atsuo Ogura Head of Division

1. Are the proposed goals appropriate for this Team (Division or Unit)?

- 1) Are these goals meaningful and valuable for the BRC?
Are the goals of this team in accordance with the BRC's own goal of "facilitating the finest bioresources of the global standard"?

Development of technology to deal with frozen embryos, germ cells, and stem cells is the core of the work of the "bank" operations. Having world-leading developmental technology contributes greatly not only to the "bank" operations, but also to the development of scientific research. This meets the criteria well because it mediates between resource facilities and related research and development programs.

Are there defined programs or plans to accomplish their goals and to contribute to achieving the BRC's goals?

By categorizing the development into three levels, this cyclic method of development is reasonable. The plan for development of human resources clearly specifies concrete methodology. We would like more clarification about collaboration with organizations other than BRC. We would also like to consider the necessity of using animals other than mice.

- 2) Are the goals achievable within this Midterm of five years?

It is classified from the exploratory level to the practical level and we have every confidence in it. The A and B levels are well within the bounds of possibility. Success in the C level of development requires a great deal of effort, and whether to progress or change track will also require guidance, but from the results so far, we think there is great potential.

- 3) Are the goals proposed from the international point of view? (Does this goal lead to international leadership?)

From the international point of view, they are developing leading research, and if they can master this difficult topic the research will be world-leading. Research on mouse transportation has a possibility of becoming a world standard, and the possibility of gaining international leadership is high.

2. Are the proposed plans adequate to achieve the goals of this Team (Division or Unit)?

1) Are these plans realistic and specific to achieve the goals?

The plan has concrete steps depending on the level of difficulty of the goal. They need to be a little more specific about what they are going to do about animals other than mice.

2) Are these plans high priority in BRC and critical for the BRC?

Since this develops the fundamental technology for the "bank" activity of BRC, its fundamental function, it is an important proposal. It will greatly contribute to the advancement and the reliability of BRC, and thus is very high priority. If they are to deal with animals other than mice, they need more personnel and space.

3) Do the plans have originality in ideas and technology? (not merely a follow up?)

Plans for the development of fundamental technology such as the improvement and standardization of existing technology for the storage of frozen sperm are being pursued at a high level. Cloning of somatic cells and establishment of induced germline stem cell lines are the hottest topics in development around the world, and thus this has high originality.

4) Are the plans achievable with the allocated research resources (budget and man power)?

The contents of the research are divided into three levels - exploratory, priority, and practical levels- and the balance of these parts is good. From the high level of skill and results of the laboratory so far, we think this project is achievable. Considering the number of projects we think they need more budget and personnel, and this will lead to greater results.

5) Does the Team (Division or Unit) have sufficient experience and a record of achievements to carry out the plans?

By training outstanding experimenters, we think they can open up leading-edge fields. Because there are a lot of

research topics, this kind of project is good for getting and training young researchers, and we think RIKEN needs to consider it carefully.

3. Other

They need to permanently ensure a supply of talented people. The relationship between indefinite term employees and other staff is good. If they achieve their goal at Level C including development of transportation methods without LN2, they will be able to make a large global contribution.



RIKEN BioResource Center
3-1-1 Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-0074 Japan
brcqa@brc.riken.jp