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Mutagenesis and Genomics Team

Yoichi Gondo Team Leader

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"?

Yes, they match the goal. The library of 10,000 mutant mice is an extremely valuable resource of the BRC.

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

Yes, their research and development will add and enhance the value of resource; thereby, their plan and strategies are clear how to contribute to achieve the goals of the BRC. It remains to be clarified how to integrate the "\$1,000 sequencing" technology to their system.

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

Yes, they are feasible. To make them more feasible, it is necessary for the team to strengthen collaborations with other research groups inside and outside RIKEN.

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

Yes. The team has been forming international collaborations; thus, the system developed by their goals has a good possibility to become one of the core centers (HUB) of the international ENU consortium.

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?

Yes, they are practical ones. It is necessary for the team to

exhibit more successful examples so that the significance of the resource will be more recognized internationally.

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

Yes, they are necessary ones for the BRC with a high priority. It is also an essential project as a fundamental infrastructure to support mouse genetics and further advancements are well expected.

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

Yes. They are recognized as a part the international efforts in the mouse mutagenesis project, and are responsible for a significant portion of international resources. They have a high potential to furthermore grow and expand by continuing their plans.

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

No. The budgets and manpower are short. This problem must be resolved by increasing the budgets and manpower and/or by collaborating with research groups inside as well as outside of RIKEN.

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

Yes, we judge that the team has enough experiences and basic achievements. We appreciate the review article published in Nature Reviews Genetics (NRG) as a high quality paper. Supports of a full-time informatics specialist(s) may be needed.

3. Other

The library of 10,000 mutant mice is valuable.

It is necessary to promote this project forward strongly by collaborating with both inside and outside RIKEN.

Advertisements and announcements of the project in Japan are essential. They should be done through, for instance, the animal centers/facilities at the universities.

As far as possible, two or three successes need to be reported for domestic groups.

It is important to exhibit several successful examples by domestic research groups.

Ethical issues also need to be cleared when the model mice for mental illnesses are addressed.

The publication of their activity as a review article (in Nature Reviews Genetics) is highly appreciated.



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