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Technology and Development Team for Mouse Phenotype Analysis

Shigeharu Wakana 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"?

The development of sufficient phenotype analysis for mutant mouse resources is a large topic. It has great value for the BRC. In order to raise it to a world-class level, facilities sufficient for an increased number of analyses are required.

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

The path to development of Japan's mouse clinic facilities is clear. However, although expectations for on-demand analysis are very high, they are not being met. Use of analysis data to match these needs is required.

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

Getting a "mouse clinic" started in Japan should be possible in five years. However, they need to have a concrete strategy for standardization. This goal is achievable, but we want them to achieve more. But making a business model is not easy.

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

They are working in cooperation with similar projects in Europe and America and showing some international leadership in getting to these goals. They need to think about strategies for leadership from now on.

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 items related to the evaluation of the "mouse clinic" are fixed, and the number of processes which can be carried out per year are decided, so we think it is possible for them to achieve these goals. However, it is important to balance both the number of processes and their processing ability, and if their processing ability becomes better they can set their goals higher.

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

Expression information will change the future value of mouse resources, and this plan is a response to that. This has the role of an external interface for mouse bioresources, and so it is a high priority project for BRC.

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

On-demand clinics are currently very rare in the world, and this project will contribute to this field in Japan. This is a column which has not been available to researchers in Japan, and this response to new technology will raise the standards of all research.

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

We are not fully confident in the current system if the demand should prove to be large. If there is too much demand, they may not be able to process it, so they may need some kind of traffic control system.

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

They have shown sufficient experience and achievements in the mutagenesis project to now.

3. Other

We are concerned about what they will do if they get too many requests to handle. Forty requests a year from all of Japan is a low figure, so they may need to set up a charging system in order to expand.



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