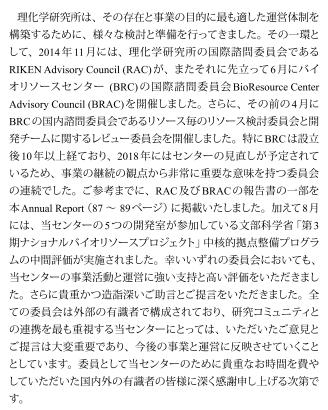
## センター長挨拶

Greeting

バイオリソースセンター センター長 Director of BioResource Center

## 小幡 裕一 (理博) Yuichi OBATA, Ph.D.



平成27年4月1日より、理化学研究所は、「国立研究開発法人」 の新制度の下に業務を行うことになりました。上述しましたように、 野依前理事長が陣頭指揮を取った運営体制の改革が功を奏したこ とになります。理化学研究所はこれまで独立行政法人として運営さ れてきました。しかし、独立行政法人が実施機能を最大限発揮でき るよう見直しが行われ、3種類の法人に分けることになりました。研 究開発を主たる事業とする法人は、研究開発の長期性、不確実性、 予見不可能性、専門性等の特性から、異なる取扱いの必要性があ ることが認識され、新たに「国立研究開発法人」と位置付けられる ことになりました。「国立研究開発法人」においては、中長期的な目 標・計画に基づき、我が国の科学技術の水準の向上を通じた国民 経済の発展その他の公益に資するため、研究開発の最大限の成果 を確保することが目的となります。これまで独立行政法人としての効 率的かつ効果的という目的、サービスその他業務の質の向上という 目標のみから大きく改善され、評価主体も文部科学大臣となり、理 化学研究所の本来の設置目的に合致した制度となります。国立研究 開発法人制度の下、バイオリソースセンターの活動は、より適切に 評価され、研究コミュニティ、そして国民へ還元されることになりま す。

昨年来、STAP細胞問題等、我が国においてライフサイエンスに 対する国民の信頼を損なう事例が続きました。文部科学省が研究



不正を未然に防ぐためのガイドラインを制定し、それに対応して、理化学研究所においても「アクションプラン」を 策定し、徹底を図っています。現在、理化学研究所では、 全ての職員を対象に教育、指導が行われています。特に 若手の研究者や学生に対しては、個別に指導を行っています。国民の信頼を取り戻すため、今後も、真実を追究 する科学において不正は全く受け入れることができないも

のであることを徹底的に浸透させることとしています。

ライフサイエンスにおいて、研究不正とは質が全く異なりますが、 研究材料 (バイオリソース) とそれに付随する情報の不正確さが原 因で、研究成果が第三者によって再現できず、科学への信頼を失う 事態が頻発しています。これは、全世界的な問題であり、平成26 年6月に主要な学術雑誌の編集者、欧米の研究助成機関の代表者、 学術界のリーダーが共同で、生物医学研究の再現性を確実なもの とするガイドラインを提案しています。その一つとして、研究に用い たバイオリソースをバイオリソースセンター等を介して研究者間で共 有すること、また、バイオリソースの供給源、種名、株名(系統名)、 特性、操作遺伝子の詳細、微生物汚染の有無等を発表論文に記載 することを求めています。このことは、バイオリソースセンターの果 たすべき役割とバイオリソースセンターへの期待が大きくなったこと を意味しています。さらに、世界で研究に用いられているバイオリ ソースの約10%に汚染や取り違え等の不具合が存在していることは 良く知られた事実です。我が国も例外ではありません。不具合のあ るバイオリソースの存在は、研究者コミュニティ、政府、研究助成 機関にとっては決して誇れることでない大変不都合な事実です。バ イオリソースセンターは品質管理を厳格に行い、不具合を排除した バイオリソースを提供することによって、第三者による研究の再現 性を向上させ、研究の効率化を高め、国民のライフサイエンスに対 する信頼を取り戻すことに大きく貢献できると考え、実施してきまし た。実際、当センターに寄託されるバイオリソースの10%に不具合 が存在し、品質管理により、不具合があるバイオリソースを0.5%ま で削減してきました。0.5%の90%、即ち0.45%は提供当時、検査 方法が存在しなかった、もしくは当センターの検査範囲が十分でな かったことに起因します。残り0.05%は当センターのミスです。しか し、昨年、当センターが提供したリソースに不具合があったことが、 マスコミによってセンセーショナルに取り上げられました。それ以降、 当センターでは、品質検査の拡充、検査項目と検査結果のホーム ページへの掲載と利用者への通知、不具合を有するバイオリソース を提供した場合は、個別の利用者へ伝えることは当然として、研究 コミュニティ全体及び社会一般にもホームページを介して発信する こととしています。品質管理についての責務を果たし、真正なバイ オリソースの利用の重要性について、今後も啓発活動を強化するこ ととしています。

バイオリソースセンターは、引き続き、当センターの3つのモットーである、「信頼性」、「継続性」、「先導性」を事業の柱に世界最高水準のバイオリソースを整備、提供し、ライフサイエンスの発展、ひいては国民の生活・福祉の向上と人類の持続的発展に貢献することを目指しています。国民、研究コミュニティの皆様のご理解とご支援を宜しくお願い申し上げます。

RIKEN went through vigorous analyses and discussions, and carried out preparations for establishing a new operation system most consistent with its original raison d'etre and objectives. Among such efforts, RIKEN's international advisory body, RIKEN Advisory Council (RAC) was held in November 2014, preceded by the meeting of the international advisory body of BioResource Center (BRC), BioResource Center Advisory Council (BRAC) in June 2014 where performance of BRC was evaluated and advice and recommendations to BRC's future strategy and plans were given. Dating back even further to April 2014, the BRC's domestic advisory bodies, Resource Committees were held for evaluating BRC's respective Infrastructure Divisions as well as Review Committee for its Key Technology Division and BioResource Frontier Programs. Our Center will be subject to review in 2018 as it is longer than ten years since it was established. Therefore, these committees had significant meaning for us in light of succession of our operations. For your information, please find the outlines of the RAC and BRAC reports in this Annual Report (page 89, 90-92). Besides, the five Infrastructure Divisions of our Center were also reviewed in August 2014, in the mid-term evaluation of the core facility upgrading program of "the third term of the National BioResource Project" funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). It was a great honor that we were given strong support and high rating for our activities and operations in any of these committees. Furthermore, we were provided invaluable and profound advice and recommendations. All these committees consisted of outside experts, and we are determined to make every effort to incorporate their advice and suggestions to our future activities and operations as we emphasize cooperative relationships with research community. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the domestic and overseas experts for their time and effort as committee members for our Center.

RIKEN was reborn as a newly implemented status of "National Research and Development Institute" (NRDI) on April 1, 2015, which was an accomplishment of the above-written system restructuring led by our ex-president Dr. Ryoji Noyori. Until then, RIKEN had been operated as one of the Independent Administrative Institutions (IAIs). IAIs were divided into three categories according to their operations in order to maximize their functions. It was recognized that institutions whose major operations are Research and Development (R&D) need to be treated differently from other IAIs in light of the characteristics of R&D such as long-term nature, uncertainty, unpredictability, and specialty. RIKEN was thus designated as NRDI to execute its activities in accordance with a plan for achieving the objectives for a medium to long term and thereby maximizing its R&D achievements in order to contribute to the sound development of the national economy and other public interests through improving the level of science and technology in Japan. By this restructuring, dramatic improvements in achieving the goals and aims of NRDI are expected. As a former IAI, the goals and aims of RIKEN were focused only to efficiency and effectiveness of its operation and improvement of quality of its service. The Minister of MEXT now evaluates our activities directly. The whole system is more consistent with the original raison d'etre of RIKEN. Under the newly established status of NRDI, the activities of RIKEN BRC will be evaluated more appropriately, giving back more of the benefits to research community and the public.

Since last year, a series of scandals including the STAP affair have raised questions about the integrity of life science research and have shaken the public trust in science in our country. The MEXT enacted a guideline to prevent further instances of research misconduct, and RIKEN also set an "Action Plan" in accordance with that measure. At present, all its staff members are given guidance and educated accordingly. In particular, young researchers and students are trained in a personalized manner by mentors. In order to restore public confidence, RIKEN will make continued efforts to penetrate the minds of staff thoroughly with the moral that misconducts are absolutely unacceptable in seeking truth in science.

Although totally different in nature from the research misconducts, some kind of incidents have frequently happened in life science that research results cannot be reproduced by third party due to defects in experiment materials (bioresources) and inaccurate information associated with them, damaging the reputation of science. This is a global issue of common concerns, and therefore, a group of editors representing major journals, representatives from funding agencies in the USA and Europe, and scientific leaders endorsed guidelines for biomedical research in June 2014. Among those guidelines, it is required that bioresources they use should be deposited to repositories for sharing materials among fellow scientists and that bioresources should be described in the publications with detail information such as the source, species, strain, characteristics, details of modified genes, microbial contamination status, etc. This means that responsibility as well as expectation on repositories including our Center has been enlarged. Furthermore, it is a well-known fact that there are incidents of defects such as contaminations or misidentifications in 10 percent of the bioresources used for research around the world, and our nation is no exception. The presence of bioresources with defects is a dishonorable reality for research community, government, and funding agencies and should never be proud of. We dedicate ourselves to implementing rigorous quality control in order to distribute bioresources without any defects, with the firm belief that we can improve research reproducibility and increase the efficiency of research, thereby making a significant contribution to the recovery of trust in life science from the public. In fact, we detect defects in 10 percent of all the deposited bioresources, and reduce this rate down to 0.5 percent by quality control. 90 percent of the 0.5 percent resources with defects, i.e. 0.45 percent of total resources are due to the facts that there was no method available to examine the materials properly when we distributed them or that the range of our tests was not sufficient to cover the materials fully. Defects in the remaining 0.05 percent are caused by our mistakes. Nevertheless, the media reported sensationally last year that some of the bioresources we had offered happened to contain defects. Since that event, our Center has decided to expand quality test items, announce the information on quality test items and their results broadly through personal notification to users and via our official website, and in case of any defect detected in our resource, we have promptly released information not only to the users of that resource, but to the whole research community and to the public via our website. We have done everything to minimize the negative impact. We are committed to fulfilling our obligations pertaining to quality control and to enhancing our enlightening activities on the importance of using authentic bioresources.

RIKEN BRC will strive to collect and offer bioresources of world highest standard upon our three founding principles, "Trust," "Sustainability," and "Leadership," with the aim to contribute to development of life science, improvement of quality of life and welfare in our society, and sustainable development of humankind. We hope that we may rely on the understanding and continued support by all stakeholders.