



# JSPS London

# NEWSLETTER

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Photo: Long walk to the Windsor Castle

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### JSPS Open Partnership Joint Research Project “Japan-Italy-UK Mini-workshop on Amyloidosis”

University College London  
Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th September  
2015

Prof Hironobu Naiki, University of Fukui, Japanese Team Leader of the project reports the kick-off meeting for the newly funded JSPS Joint Research Project, showing project’s future direction based on his strong collaboration with Europe and the next generation’s passion.



On 28th to 30th September, 2015, we visited London to hold the “Japan-Italy-UK: Mini-workshop on Amyloidosis” at the UCL Royal Free Campus. Our visit to London was supported by the JSPS Joint Research Project “Molecular pathogenesis of human amyloidosis revealed by the synergistic interaction of protein science and animal models”. This project is part of our international collaborative work with Professor Vittorio Bellotti of UCL.

Our history of interaction and friendship started more than ten years ago. On December, 2004, the 1st Italian-Japanese Workshop “Dialysis-related amyloidosis: from molecular mechanisms to therapies” was held in Pavia, Italy, organized by Professors Vittorio Bellotti, Rino Esposito and Yuji Goto, who all again took part in this mini-workshop. Many Japanese investigators including myself attended the Pavia workshop. Ten years later, Japan-Hungary Seminar “Mechanism and regulation of aberrant protein aggregation” was held on November, 2014, in Osaka, Japan, organized by Professors József Kardos and Yuji Goto. Professor Bellotti and I also attended this seminar. The bilateral Workshop and

Seminar were supported by JSPS Joint Seminar Programs. Before the Seminar, Professor Bellotti and I started collaborative work about the effect of extracellular chaperones to the amyloid fibril formation. I visited London four times during the last two years for the discussion with his team and this became my fifth trip to London. Last March, Professor Bellotti and I visited JSPS London office, where Ms. Polly Watson, International Programme Coordinator, kindly explained how to apply for the JSPS Joint Research Project and encouraged us to put our full passion and enthusiasm to the grant proposal. Thus, I described enthusiastically all of our history and future prospects in our grant proposal. Fortunately, our proposal was accepted in May and we could make this visit to London.

One of the purposes of this visit, and our JSPS grant proposal was to give young investigators the opportunity to present their data and to exchange valuable information with foreign investigators. Thus, many young investigators from Japan, UK, and Italy presented their ongoing, fresh data in this seminar. In a relaxed, completely

informal atmosphere, we could enjoy thorough, constructive discussion together. At the round table session Tuesday morning, we thoroughly discussed the future perspective of our collaboration and the possibility of applying for the big international grant together. Remarkably, at the conclusive remark session in the Wednesday’s morning, young participants first discussed the summary of this workshop and future plans of our collaboration without the accompaniment of old professors, then presented their proposal to the old professors. Their proposal was fresh, enthusiastic and full of inspiration, which was enough to convince the old professors that they will be developing the new horizon of amyloid science by themselves. This workshop will add an unforgettable new page to the interaction and friendship of all the participants and will be our scientific inspiration forever.

Finally, we sincerely thank Professor Kunio Takeyasu, the Director of JSPS London office for giving us a speech at the opening session and all of JSPS staff for their continuous support of our interaction and friendship.