



Nurture of Creative Research Leaders
in Immune System
Regulation and Innovative Therapeutics

NEWS LETTER



number **9**
2018 spring



LGS
LEADING GRADUATE SCHOOL
AT CHIBA UNIVERSITY

4th LGS Winter Camp

LGS 4th Year Member Hiroaki Kanzaki

We held the "4th LGS Winter Camp" at ITINOMIYA SEASIDE OTUKA, Chiba from January 27 through January 28, 2018. This was an event where students made business plans on a given medical topic.

This year, Dr. Hiroki Sonehara, who is an LGS student and CEO of a venture company offering personal genome analysis, gave a lecture on difficulties before and after starting a business. We were able to understand issues and challenges of startups.

We also invited Dr. Naoya Hashimoto, CEO of Kids Public, Inc. He created an online pediatric clinic, which is a remote medical consultation service. Hearing stories from the active player in the medical venture business, we could clearly see problems in the pediatric field, and the way to build a business model based on them.

As for the students' presentation, the students were divided into three groups and made business plan PowerPoint presentations on new medical products, which are to solve contemporary medical problems, on the first day. There were lively discussions between students and supervisors.

After that, each group conducted a group discussion on the issues and problems raised in the discussion with supervisors. All the students exchanged their own opinions and actively discussed to improve their plans.

On the second day, we presented the improved business plans. Compared to the first day, all the groups offered more polished plans. This time, "SIGNIS" which proposed a wearable vital sign monitor, won the first prize.

Through presentations and discussions on business models at this Winter Camp, we were able to exchange opinions on various topics ranged from business startups to our futures. As I believe the interactions we had during this Camp may contribute to our growth and development, I would like to hand over the mission and activities of the Camp to the next LGS team.



Contact



Leading Graduate School at Chiba University

TEL.+81-43-226-2817 FAX.+81-43-226-2005

E-mail:lgs-jimu@chiba-u.jp

URL:http://www.isrit-igp-chiba.jp

1-8-1 Inohana Chuo-ku Chiba-city, Chiba 260-8670 JAPAN

News Letter number 9

■ Issued on MARCH 2018

Overseas Training 2017 (La Jolla, San Diego, USA)

LGS 4th year member Hiroki Furuya

The LGS program provided us with a great chance to visit Kyowa Kirin Pharmaceutical Research, Tanabe Research Laboratories, Ajinomoto Althea, and BioLegend in San Diego from August 28 to September 2 last year. San Diego is the 3rd most common place for innovation clusters in the US, next to Boston and San Francisco. There are close interactions between industry and academia in San Diego, and it is surely one of the best places to learn how biotech industries operate in the US. During the visits to the above-mentioned industries, we had lectures of their histories, products and strategies to compete with others. Moreover, they enabled us to look around their facilities. Seeing their fully equipped facilities with specialized and well-organized system, we understand how superior their research environments are to those of Japanese facilities.

There were a wide range of lectures on their products; some of which are familiar to me. Some lectures helped me understand the underlying mechanisms of the products further, and the others made me feel that I had gained another tool that could be useful in the near future. It was my first occasion to learn the management of health science companies including marketing and utilization of open-innovations, which were both exciting and fascinating.

Although I have been interested in working in such institutes in the US, I had hardly imagined myself making new drugs or managing a venture company till I joined this training. The program surely broadened my horizons by deepening my understandings of how to compete with others in the US as a researcher, and making me realize a new future option.



In front of the Ajinomoto Althea Headquarters

Overseas Training at International Organizations in Geneva

LGS 5th year member Takuya Minamizuka

I participated in the study tour of international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland from September 25 to 27, 2017.

On the first day, we attended a series of lectures to learn about the following six topics: works at the United Nations, WHO activities, WHO food safety measures, scientific research and the roles of WHO, polio eradication, and the life of interns.

On the second day, we visited three international organizations to study the roles of each organization: the Global Fund, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Labor Organization (ILO). At each institution, we introduced Chiba University. We also called at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva to listen to a lecture on how to become a UN staff member. After that, we conversed with the Japanese staff of the international organizations.

On the third day, we participated in a tour of the United Nations Office at Geneva Office (UNOG), and moved to WHO to discuss this training program.

Currently, I am conducting doctoral research on lifestyle diseases. The talk on lifestyle disease stood out in my memory. Western foods are widespread throughout developing countries these days; however, people do not have the custom of eating vegetables and doing exercises. As a result, there is a possibility that lifestyle diseases will become more prevalent than infectious diseases in those countries in 20 years' time. I would like to acquire expertise and language ability in order to pursue my dream with a strong commitment just as people working at international organizations.



In front of WHO

Leading Forum 2017

LGS 2nd year member Hiroki Sonehara

I participated in the Leading Graduate School Forum 2017 hosted by Nagoya University from October 20-21, 2017, and made a poster presentation. In the presentation, we introduced a Chiba University originated venture company, which aims for medical application of personal genome analysis. We introduced what we had done in our research and discussed future technical and social issues. Many students and faculty members belonging to other LGS programs gathered from all over the country and gave us various opinions and advice. For me, it was such a precious experience to exchange my views with students from other university-originated ventures. I found out that some universities have established more than 100 ventures and established good venture ecosystems including the support systems. Through the discussion with them, I was able to obtain useful insights and ideas to improve a venture development system at Chiba University. As Chiba University is still in the process of building the system, more concrete and advanced efforts are expected. For example, the University can establish funds and invest in early stage ventures originated from the University.

The theme of this LGS Forum was "PhDs shaping the Future, PhD programs investing in the Future". Therefore, many presentations and workshops covered the topic of "Exit Strategy for the Leading Program". In these sessions, participants had lively discussions on how the society maximizes the value of PhD students to create a superb PhD program. Through the discussions, I came to think that a PhD program requires a more sustainable strategy, such as priority research funds allocating to basic research areas. Thus, the program, which has more potential of practical application of research findings, can operate without subsidies.



The Oral Defense of a Dissertation

LGS 2nd year member Seitaro Nakagawa

In the LGS program, students are supposed to take the oral defense of a dissertation in English. The program provides plenty of English lessons and overseas trainings to foster human resources who can work successfully in international settings. Therefore, you could say the dissertation in English is the culmination of our efforts in the program. Three Japanese professors and one foreign professor, Dr. Mark Bix, examined my dissertation.

In the dissertation, students are expected to show skills to conduct research properly, and sufficient cutting-edge knowledge in the concerned field. Besides these, LGS students are also required to present English ability enough to convince professional researchers of logicity and validity of their research methods and findings. In the United States, the oral defense of a dissertation is a place to "defend" your dissertation from never-ending scientific questions and criticism. Dr. Bix, who had got his Ph.D. degree in the United States and worked as an associate professor at University of Washington Medical School, imposed me the exact strain on me. I had to bring out all the knowledge and abilities gained in the LGS program to defend my dissertation from his detailed questions and opinions.

This would be the only opportunity that our abilities and research are examined so fairly and strictly throughout the four-year LGS program.

Intellectual argument and excitements I had with professional scientists were precious experiences for me. At the same time, I felt motivated by just thinking that I am now standing at the entrance of science where I can present new values to the world.



Up on completion of Leading Graduate School Program



Eri Komai

LGS 2nd Year Member

Being a member of the leading program gave me new insights and ideas from unfamiliar fields. It was a valuable experience to have opportunities of training abroad and discussions with global famous researchers. With friends that I met through this program I could work hard and we could encourage each other. I will keep on working to develop this experience through the program.



Shintaro Ide

LGS 2nd Year Member

Through the LGS program, I have obtained not only knowledge of the medical and pharmaceutical fields but also a connection with LGS students and researchers in other fields. This connection will contribute to my progression and development. I appreciate the LGS program giving me this chance.



Hiroki Sonehara

LGS 2nd Year Member

I have gained much valuable experience from the Leading graduate school program at Chiba University. In particular, it was a great stimulation for me that I went to the training in Europe and the United States and interacted with the leading medical doctors, researchers and entrepreneurs. As a result, my doctoral course research advanced, furthermore leading to the establishment of a university-originated venture aiming for medical implementation of personal genome analysis. Utilizing the experience of this LGS program, I will continue to make efforts to contribute to people's health.



Risa Yamazaki

LGS 2nd Year Member

The overseas training and interaction among other PhD students outside of the lab were the two most precious things I experienced during the Leading Graduate School program. In the program, I was always excited and inspired by very talented and positive people. Although the English presentation for my thesis was very tough, it gave me some confidence after it was over. I started working as post-doc in France last autumn. Here, I stepped into the new field of research and so every day I am learning from my mistakes and improving. Still I am really enjoying it because I am doing what I had dreamed to do for a long time (Picture: small group in the lab).



Tetsuya Kanai

LGS 2nd Year Member

The LGS program at Chiba University gave us an entrepreneurship, the English skill to have a global career and many opportunities to practice. This practice helped us acquire various skills, including presentation, leadership, and communication skills. I will put these skills to use for not only research and clinical examination but also solution of social problem. To do this, I'll keep making an effort and be a global leader.



Aiko Saku

LGS 2nd Year Member

I feel I could take interest and gain further insights into various fields of studies through the LGS program. With the experiences in this program, I would like to try even harder. I thank all the people who had interactions with me through this program.



Eishika Dissanayake

LGS 2nd Year Member

I will continue working towards my goal of contributing to the understanding of childhood allergic diseases. The LGS program equipped me with the confidence I need to take the next step in my career and opened up avenues that I can explore to achieve my goal. I will use the experience that I have gained not only to contribute to better scientific knowledge, but also to guide younger generations of students in finding their way to a future in science through research and entrepreneurship.



Seitaro Nakagawa

LGS 2nd Year Member

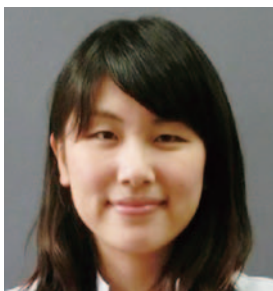
I learned a lot of things through the 4 years LGS program. I acquired knowledge not only in medical fields but also about social and cultural issues through the Advanced General Education course. I also learned high quality English presentation and discussion skills which will help me in international fields. I hope that we LGS members can help each other in the future to accomplish big aims. Finally, I appreciate all the organizers, office members and all the LGS members for supporting me over this 4 years.



Yuki Yoshi Mita

LGS 2nd Year Member

First of all, I would like to thank everyone that I have met through the LGS program. The people I have encountered in the last 4 years in this program expanded my view of current issues in our society, and taught me there is more that I can do than I had ever imagined to solve those issues. My journey to become a next generation leader does not end with my graduation from this program, but it actually starts right here. I will keep on amplifying what I have learned through this program with my colleagues, and aim at problem-solving through creation of new values.



Huizi Li

LGS 2nd Year Member

The Leading program has provided a lot of personal network and chance. It also taught me the importance of being eager for further opportunity and achieve it without being satisfied with the present. The things I learned from leading program: taking initiative, having leadership, being decisive, listening to others and standing in other's shoes, and making precious friends whom I would never met anywhere else. These will enrich my life. I appreciate this precious experience.



Ola Mohammed Kamel RIZQ

LGS 3rd Year Member

As a Leading Graduate School student, I had the opportunity to train at different medical and pharmaceutical labs, attend lectures by distinguished professors from around the world and have discussions with elite students. One of the most important lessons I learned was that collaboration with colleagues from diverse scientific fields is at the heart of any research breakthrough. The knowledge I gained will help me in the next chapter of my professional life, and the wonderful friends I made will be my future collaborators.