# ISS "Kibo"

# zation research in Japan

## The 11th Korea-Japan Joint Seminar on Space Environment Utilization research July 24-25 2014

## Makoto Asashima, Ph. D.

Fellow, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)/Fellow and Director, Research Center for Stem Cell Engineering (SCRC) Chairman, the ISS & Kibo Utilization Promotion Committee

## Topics

The Dawn of Japanese Space Environment Utilization Research

- □The preparation of "Kibo" Utilization Research
- Beginning of "Kibo" Utilization Research
- "Kibo" Utilization Research
- "Comparison" "Contraction of the second s

## The Dawn of Japanese Space Environment Utilization Research

□ Japanese space environment utilization research activities started by the Space Shuttle/Spacelab mission launched in September of 1992.
▶ 12 Life science experiments
▶ 22 Material and Physical experiments

Duration: 7days

In the same year, 1992, first announcement of opportunity for "Kibo" utilization research was released. And in 1993, 50 proposals were selected as the candidates research projects. This is the beginning of "Kibo" utilization research preparation.

➤ 21 Life science experiments

> 29 Material and Physical experiments

## The Preparation of "Kibo" Utilization Research

- Until "Kibo" operations starts, many space experiments had been conducted by Space Shuttle or sounding rocket missions.
  - ➢ 9 sounding rocket flights
  - ➢ 9 Space Shuttle missions (including 3 Space Shuttle/Mir missions)
- Under these circumstance, this Korea-Japan Joint Seminar on Space Environment Utilization research has started in 2003.







Plant experiment on Space Shuttle(STS-95)

## **Beginning of "Kibo" Operation**

- The assembly of "Kibo" started with the launch of Pressurized Logistic Module on March 11<sup>th</sup> of 2008.
- "Kibo" was assembled by three Space Shuttle launches. The assembly was completed by the Exposed facility attachment on July 19<sup>th</sup> of 2009.



Assembly of Japanese Exposed facility

## **Beginning of "Kibo" Utilization Research**

- "Kibo" Utilization research has been conducted with phased approach.
- □ The first pahase is from 2008 until around 2010 and its aim is;
  - > To conduct various themes to explore space environment utilization
- The the second is from around 2010 until now and the third phase is until around 2014. The aim of those phases are;
  - Implement leading scientific researches
  - Foster utilization to meet society need and citizen's expectation
- Around 80 Experiment projects have been conducted in "Kibo" since its Utilization start.

## Life science experiments in Kibo

Life science experiments on Kibo began (in Feb. 2009). 2010 2011 2013 2014 later Year 2009 2012 Frog kidney cell (dome Cells: gravity response、 muscle atrophy, bone formation) [Asashima] marrow cell: osteogenesis Nematodes: gene effects Nematode (RNA Cell & Life through aging and alternation of interference) (CBEF) generations in space [Higashitani] Aquatic organisms: effects Medaka bone Goldfish scale Muscle atrophy across generations (breeding metabolism Medaka 2[Kudo] (bone metabolism) across 3 generations), muscle (ubiquitin) atrophy, reproductive function, [Kudo] [Suzuki] [Nikawa] and stress evaluation Human cell p53 influence Effects on life by long-term radiation exposure (max. 3 [Ohnishi] **Technology for** Mouse's years), evaluation of effects on 3.2 reproduction, growth and frozen and measuring the n-wt Silkworm egg [Furusawa] multiple generations dried sperm effects of Nerve cell 75 76 [Wakayama] (Mitochondria Development of real-time radiation Frozen ES cells radiation measuring apoptosis) Mutant human cell technology [Majima] [Morita] [Yatagai] Systems of graviperception Arabidopsis and posture control thaliana Plants cultivated Effective plant (CBEF) Auxin Oryza sativa cell production, utilization (long term the structure of Root hydrodvnamics wall (ferulic acid) technology, and life till 60<sup>th</sup> day) Plant's gravity "cortical tropism [Takahashi] support [Wakabayashi] microtubules [Soga] response system [Kamisaka] (auxin) [Hoson] [Takahashi] In-orbit analysis and Monitoring microorganism in the adaptation to monitoring Microorganism and environment Kibo module [Makimura & Nasu] Experiment 3 Experiment 1 Experiment 2

Present

## Material and Fluid science experiments in Kibo



## Space Medicine in Kibo



## **Exposed experiments in Kibo**



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## **Techinical Development and Education Activities**



This Korea-Japan joint seminar reached 11 times. Furthermore, a Korea-Japan researcher raises a study level each other and promotes the Korea-Japan space environment utilization and raises the science technology of the two countries, and a thing becomes important.

□Therefore, it is important that the academic cooperation by the Korea-Japan researcher continues evolving more.

# Highlights of Kibo Utilization Overview ~Life Science~

## High-quality Protein Crystal Growth(PCG) Experiment

#### The purpose of the experiments

- To obtain high-quality protein crystals under microgravity and to achieve more precise 3-D protein structures.
- Developing industrial applications as functional protein and drug designs based on protein structures.
- Contributing to structural biology by clarifying protein structures and functions.

#### Examples of Results



Create new enzymes and catalyze the synthesis of nylon-6 (reverse reaction) or other potential products.

Influenza virus RNA polymerase (Yokohama City University)





Structural insight into the RNA polymerase lead to the development of new medicine regardless of influenza viruses type.



#### Prostaglandin D Synthase (Osaka Bioscience Institute)



A drug for muscle diseases was designed by pharmacists and its effect was confirmed with animal experiments.

### **High-quality Protein Crystal Growth Experiment**





#### Soyuz/Progress



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## **Crystallization in Kibo**

Concept of JAXA PCG
User-friendly support system
Application of accumulated know-how to maximize space crystallization







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Visual inspection and X-ray diffraction

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Soyuz





#### Medaka Osteoclast - 2

Effect of Microgravity on Osteoclasts and the Analysis of the Gravity Sensing System in Medaka PI: Professor Akira Kudo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, et al. Sponsoring Space Agency: JAXA



Visible fluorescent bone cells glow in a Medaka fish. The cells that create bone are red, while those that break it down are green



Multigenerational research of model fish onboard the ISS. [JAXA]

Using Medaka as a "model specimen", the effects of space flight on individual systems can be investigated:

- Bone degradation
- Muscle atrophy
- Radiation effects
- Early development

**Space Applications:** Elucidation of the molecular mechanism of bone mineral density decrease in space flight.

**Earth Applications:** Development of pharmaceuticals to treat senescent osteoporosis.

#### **Research Objectives**

During space flight, bone mineral density is decreased by the influence of osteoclast activation. The molecular mechanism of this phenomenon is investigated in this study. In order to examine the effect of microgravity on osteoclast activation in space, this experiment performs *in vivo* imaging analyses of gene expression and cell mobility with embryonic and juvenile Medaka from osteoclast-specific transgenic lines. In combination with the long-term growth experiment (Medaka Osteoclast), the alteration of osteoclast activity in microgravity is studied microscopically and by means of gene expression analysis.



Fluorescence imaging of Medaka osteoclasts. [JAXA]

Medaka (Oryzias latipes) in the Aquatic Habitat (AQH).

## Japan's Mouse Habitat Experiment in ISS/Kibo



#### Advantages of Japanese experiment to the other mice experiments in space

- 1. Comparison between micro-G and artificial-G (1G) conditions in space: Provide the world's first, long-term artificial gravity environment for mammal in space
- 2. Individual Habitat (1 mouse per cage): Able to accommodate male mice which may fight each other in a group habitat condition; Able to monitor behavior of individual mouse
- **3.** Return mice to the ground in living condition: Skilled researchers can dissect mice for their detailed analysis with cutting-edge techniques

## **Preparation Status of JAXA Mouse Habitat Experiment**

- 1. Development of experiment system (Mouse Habitat Unit)
  - 1) Animal compatibility tests using mice with test models of hardware completed.
    - 30-days for onboard cage unit
    - 10-days for transportation cage unit
  - 2) Critical design of the flight model on going.
  - 3) Target timeframe of the first experiment is early 2016.
- 2. Researches using the Mouse Habitat Unit
  - 1) A research focusing on epigenetic alterations is planned as the first experiment using the Mouse Habitat Unit in early 2016.
  - 2) Post landing dissection procedure has been developed and verified.
- 3. Ground-based experiment
  - 1) Preliminary centrifugation experiments showed a short-arm centrifuge (R=15cm; same as onboard CBEF) is usable for mice.
  - 2) Various mice experiments using elements of the Mouse Habitat Unit have been conducted and fundamental data have been accumulated.



Cage unit used in CBEF (test model)



Transportation cage unit (test model)



Short-arm centrifuge for mice (R=15cm)

#### **Stem Cell**

Study on the Effect of Space Environment to Embryonic Stem Cells to Their Development PI: Professor Takashi Morita, Osaka City University, Osaka, et al. Sponsoring Space Agency: JAXA

#### **Research Objectives:**

Stem Cells is an investigation that uses embryonic mouse stem cells to study the effects of the space environment on their DNAs, chromosomes, and on their development into adult mice after return to Earth. Frozen stem cells are placed in the Kibo module for periods ranging from 6 to 36 months, and then returned to Earth where scientists will microinject them into 8-cell mouse embryos that will be implanted in female mice. Investigators will also look for double-strand DNA breaks and chromosome aberrations caused by space radiation





Mouse ES Cell





Cryo tubes in the Case



Stem Cells Sample Case



A "Stem Cells Sample Case" in a mock up of MELFI 1/2 box module



MELFI

#### **Space Pup**

Effect of space environment on mammalian reproduction PI: Professor Teruhiko Wakayama, Yamanashi University, et al. Sponsoring Space Agency: JAXA

**Research Objectives:**Space Pup represents the first step towards studying the effects of space radiation on mammalian reproduction, which must be understood to sustain life beyond Earth. This starts by holding freeze-dried mouse sperm aboard the International Space Station for one, 12, and 24 months, and then fertilizing mouse eggs on Earth to produce mouse pups to study the effects of space radiation.



Ampoule (in the case)



Space Pup Sample Case

<sup>\*</sup> A "Space Pup Sample Case" in a mock up of MELFI





linjecting male germ cells directly into an oocyte using microscope

**Space Applications**: Sustaining life beyond Earth either on space stations or other planets requires a clear understanding of how the space environment affects key phases of mammalian reproduction. So far only non-mammals have been used in reproductive studies in space. Studies using simulated microgravity on Earth showed birth rates due to poor placental development, indicating that microgravity has an adverse but unknown role in fertilization and gestation. Space Pup will help isolate radiation as a factor in long-term studies. **Earth Applications:** The gestational period is highly sensitive to environmental factors, including radiation and potentially the effects of gravity. Results from this experiment should provide valuable information for the collection and preservation of mammalian reproductive tissue for a range of uses.