As of November 16, 2026

The 5th Keio University WPI-Bio2Q International Symposium
"Wiring the Body: Brain–Organ–Microbiome Networks"

DATE	**Wednesday December 9th – Thursday December 10th, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)**
VENUE	**Kitasato Hall**, 2F Kitasato Memorial Medical Library, Keio University Shinanomachi Campus, 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8582 Japan
CONTACT	Keio University WPI-Bio2Q Office bio2q@info.keio.ac.jp +81-(0)3-6709-8106
LANGUAGE	English
ADMISSION	Free
REGISTRATION	Required

DAY 1, Wednesday December 9th

9:00 - 9:15 Opening Remarks

Ryosuke Takahashi / Program Officer, JSPS/WPI, Kyoto University, Japan
Kenya Honda / Center Director of WPI-Bio2Q, Keio University, Japan
Toru Takebayashi / Dean, Keio University School of Medicine, Japan
Michisuke Yuzaki / Symposium Organizer, WPI-Bio2Q, Keio University, Japan

9:15 - 11:55 Session 1 : Microbiome → Brain

chaired by Kunimichi Suzuki

9:15 – 9:55 **Dr. Brittany D. Needham**
Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology, Indiana University School of Medicine, USA
"Gut bacterial signals that influence myelination patterns"

9:55 – 10:35 **Dr. Michisuke Yuzaki**
Keio University / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
"Synaptic Connections Across the Brain and Body: From Disease Mechanisms to Repair"

10:35 – 10:55 **Coffee Break & Networking**

10:55 – 11:35 **Dr. Christoph Thaiss**
Department of Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine, USA
"Environment-body-brain interactions"

11:35 – 11:55 **Ms. Lianshi Chen**
Keio University Graduate School of Medicine / WPI-Bio2Q WPI RA (STaMP), Japan
"Defining a minimal gut microbial consortium regulating enteric neuronal activity"

11:55 – 13:25 Lunch Break

13:25 – 17:05 Session 2 : Peripheral → Brain

chaired by Kenji Tanaka

13:25 – 13:45 **Dr. Takako Ichiki**
Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Niigata University, Japan
"Inflammation reshapes enteric and vagal sensing of the intestinal environment"

13:45 – 14:25 **Dr. Diego V. Bohórquez**
Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Duke University School of Medicine, USA
"Deciphering visceral instincts"

14:25 – 14:45 **Dr. Keiko Matsuda**
Keio University / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
"Beyond the CNS: Exploring the Cbln Family in the Enteric Nervous System"

14:45 – 15:05 **Coffee Break & Networking**

15:05 – 15:45 **Dr. Yoshiko Takahashi**
GSAIS Kyoto University, Japan
"Entrainment and rhythm-coupling: insights from gut peristalsis"

15:45 – 16:25 **Dr. Ivan de Araujo**
Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Germany
"(TBD)"

16:25 – 17:05 **Dr. Akiyuki Taruno**
Graduate School of Science, Division of Biological Sciences, Kyoto University, Japan

"Discovery of the Channel Synapse and its Biological Functions"

17:30 – 19:00 Poster Session & Reception
19:00 – 21:30 Symposium Dinner (By Invitation Only)

DAY 2, Thursday December 10th

9:20 – 11:40 Session 3 : Neuro-Immune Communication
chaired by Keiko Matsuda

9:20 – 10:00 Dr. Gloria Choi
Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT, USA
"Neuroimmune interactions shaping social behavior"

10:00 – 10:20 Dr. Nahoko Kuga-Sasaki
Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Tohoku University, Japan
"The Paraventricular thalamus for interoception and stress resilience"

10:20 – 11:00 Dr. Guy Boeckxstaens
Department of Chronic Diseases and Metabolism, KU Leuven / UZ Leuven, Belgium
"Interaction between resident macrophages and the peripheral nervous system"

11:00 – 11:40 Dr. Takanori Kanai
Keio University School of Medicine / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
"The mechanism by which the gut microbiota regulates sugar preferences"

11:40 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:00 Panel Discussion
Theme: *From microbiome molecules to neuro-immune circuits: What are the actionable nodes, and what is needed to move the field forward?*
Panelists: Dr. Ivan de Araujo / Dr. Guy Boeckxstaens / Dr. Diego V. Bohórquez /Dr. Gloria Choi Dr. Jun Huh / Dr. Brittany D. Needham / Dr. Christoph Thaiss/ Dr. Nahoko Kuga-Sasaki
Moderator: Michisuke Yuzaki

13:00 – 14:30 Luncheon Seminar
Speaker: Professor Kenya Honda, Center Director, WPI-Bio2Q
"Mining the gut microbiota for effector microbes —From correlation to causation"
chaired by Oltea Sampetrean
Lunch boxes will be provided.

14:30 – 14:45 Closing Ceremony
14:30 – 14:40 Poster Awards Ceremony
14:40 – 14:45 Closing Remarks
Kenya Honda / Center Director of WPI-Bio2Q, Keio University, Japan
Michisuke Yuzaki / Symposium Organizer, WPI-Bio2Q, Keio University, Japan

Symposium Organizing Committee Chair Michisuke Yuzaki
Symposium Organizing Committee Keiko Matsuda, Oltea Sampetrean, Kunimichi Suzuki, Kenij Tanaka