



# The 5<sup>th</sup> Keio University WPI-Bio2Q International Symposium

## “Wiring the Body: Brain–Organ–Microbiome Networks”

|              |                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE         | Wednesday December 9 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <a href="mailto:bio2q@info.keio.ac.jp">bio2q@info.keio.ac.jp</a> +81-(0)3-6709-8106                         |
| LANGUAGE     | English                                                                                                                                      |
| ADMISSION    | Free                                                                                                                                         |
| REGISTRATION | Required                                                                                                                                     |

### DAY 1, Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>

#### 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
- 9:55 – 10:35 **Dr. Michisuke Yuzaki**  
Keio University / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
- 10:35 – 10:55 **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 10:55 – 11:35 **Dr. Christoph Thaiss**  
Department of Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine, USA
- 11:35 – 11:55 **Ms. Lianshi Chen**  
Keio University Graduate School of Medicine / WPI-Bio2Q WPI RA (STaMP), Japan

#### 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
- 13:45 – 14:25 **Dr. Diego V. Bohórquez**  
Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Duke University School of Medicine, USA
- 14:25 – 14:45 **Dr. Keiko Matsuda**  
Keio University / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
- 14:45 – 15:05 **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 15:05 – 15:45 **Dr. Yoshiko Takahashi**  
Graduate School of Science, Division of Biological Sciences, Kyoto University, Japan
- 15:45 – 16:25 **Dr. Ivan de Araujo**  
Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Germany
- 16:25 – 17:05 **Dr. Akiyuki Taruno**  
Graduate School of Science, Division of Biological Sciences, Kyoto University, Japan

#### 17:30 – 19:00 Poster Session & Reception

#### 19:00 – 21:30 Symposium Dinner (By Invitation Only)

### DAY 2, Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>

#### 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

- 10:00 – 10:20**     **Dr. Nahoko Kuga-Sasaki**  
Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Tohoku University, Japan
- 10:20 – 11:00**     **Dr. Guy Boeckxstaens**  
Department of Chronic Diseases and Metabolism, KU Leuven / UZ Leuven, Belgium
- 11:00 – 11:40**     **Dr. Takanori Kanai**  
Keio University School of Medicine / WPI-Bio2Q, Japan
- 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  
*chaired by Oltea Sampetean*  
*Lunch boxes will be provided.*  
*AI real-time translation will be available.*
- 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 Sampetean, Kunimichi Suzuki, Kenji Tanaka*