



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
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
GSAIS 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 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

- 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