



Prof. Akira Ito

Professor

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Professor Emeritus and Visiting, Asahikawa Medical University from April 2012

My professional career has been dedicated to two parts. One is immunology (serology) with molecular biology in zoonotic cestodiasis (echinococcosis and neurocysticercosis). The main interest in cestode immunology was on the developmental stage specific gene expression by detection of the stage specific antigens in *Hymenolepis* infections. Then, it shifted to the improvement of serology in zoonotic metacestodiasis in humans and animals, and molecular identification of the species in *Taenia* and *Echinococcus*. The other is international collaboration through the transfer of technology for encouragement of junior colleagues in endemic countries. These two parts fused very well each other.

These cestodiasis are two major causes of human morbidity and mortality, particularly affecting people in the world's poorest countries. My research group with M Nakao, T Yanagida and M Okamoto has re-analyzed the taxonomy of the family Taeniidae, mainly the genera of *Taenia* and *Echinococcus*. These two approaches could only be possible through international joint projects sponsored by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Japan from 1994 until 2015 and the US-NIH R01 project (PI: PS Craig, 2000~2008). The major field work in cestode zoonoses was in China with 89 joint papers. Using additional several special funds from MOE, Japan, I could invite a total of more than 200 junior and less than 50 senior collaborators to Asahikawa from 1998 until 2015.

I dedicate my sincere thanks for PM Schantz, PS Craig, Ana Flisser, ZS Pawlowski, GF Mitchell, JD Smyth, Lord Soulsby, MD Rickard, MW Lightowers, DP McManus, P Giraudoux, JH Cross, PC Fan, JM Qiu, C Tang from foreign countries, for F Sendo, I Tada, Y Aoki, K Yoshimura, K Okamoto, H Ohtomo, Y Kubo, and my beloved wife Hikari Ito from Japan.

- Guest editor-in-chief on Asian Parasitology (2005) vol. 2 on "Taeniasis/Cysticercosis and Echinococcosis in Asia", Federation of Asian Parasitologists, pp. 334
- Guest editor-in-chief on Parasitology International (2006) vol. 55 (supplement) on "Taeniasis/cysticercosis and echinococcosis with focus on Asia and the Pacific", pp. 308.
- Guest editor on Tropical Medicine and Health (2007) vol. 35 on "Symposium on cestode zoonoses in Asia and the Pacific at the 21st Pacific Science Congress, 12-18 June 2007, Okinawa, Japan", pp. 48.

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- Guest editor-in-chief on Parasitology (2013) vol. 140 on “Control of cestode zoonoses in Asia: role of basic and applied science”, pp. 154.
- Editorial board member of Acta Tropica (2017~), Parasitology (~2018), Parasite Immunology (~2015), Parasitology International, PLoS Negl Trop Dis, Trop Biomed.
- Author of >400 internationally-refereed scientific publications, more than two thirds of which either as the first or the last author.
- Honorary International Fellow of American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (from 2014~)

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