

## To resolve the mystery of biological phenomena, we examine the protein structure

Our unit provides high quality structural characterization methods to the field of biological science, aiming to further understand the mechanism and action of biological molecules. We manage specialized and technical instruments including protein chemical analyses, mass spectrometry. Our challenge to research, develop and fine-tune novel characterization methods for biological molecules, is an endless yet rewarding process.

### Research Subjects

- Development and application of analytical methods for structural details on biological molecules
- Development of quantitative analysis of biomolecules
- Identification and characterization of RNA by mass spectrometry

### Research Results

- We determined the crystal structure of amino acid transport protein YddG, and revealed from the results of amino acid composition analysis that its dynamic structural changes cause amino acid transport.
- We identified the O-GlcNAcylation at the Serine 40 of histone H2A as a novel epigenetic modification correlated with the emergence of embryonic animals in the evolution process.
- We developed the rapid, simple and comprehensive analytical method for N-termini of histone including lysine 9 of histone H3 (H3K9) modifications which is important for gene transcription, revealed that the trimethylation of H3K9 is specifically increased in mouse testis.

### 主要論文 / Publications

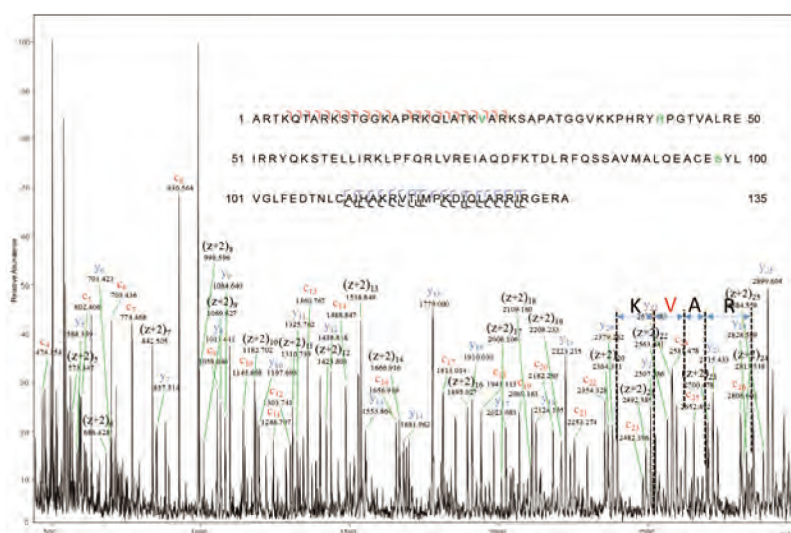
Tsuchiya, H. *et al.*  
 Structural basis for amino acid export by DMT superfamily transporter YddG.  
*Nature* **534**, 417–20 (2016)

Hirosawa, M. *et al.*  
 Novel O-GlcNAcylation on Ser(40) of canonical H2A isoforms specific to viviparity.  
*Sci. Rep.* **6**, 31785 (2016)

Kwak, HG., Dohmae, N.  
 Characterization of post-translational modifications on lysine 9 of histone H3 variants in mouse testis using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-in source decay.  
*Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.* **30**, 2529–2536 (2016)

### 2016年度メンバー / FY2016 Members

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Our analytical method based on matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization in source decay enabled us to sequence histone H3 N-termini including H3K9 modifications. (Kwak, HG., Dohmae, N. 2016 *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.*)

