

Request for donations

1. Donation project

Research to elucidate causes, and to develop therapies, of mental disorders (schizophrenia, autism and mood disorders); solicited donations

2. Activity to be supported

(1) Project title

Development of clinical applications for the treatment of schizophrenia, autism and mood disorders by the RIKEN BSI Laboratory for Molecular Psychiatry

(2) Program

The RIKEN Brain Science Institute (BSI) conducts a wide range of theoretical and experimental research on the mechanisms of awareness and memory within the brain on the microscopic and macroscopic level, as well as research to elucidate causes of brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and mental disorders.

BSI's Laboratory for Molecular Psychiatry has been focusing on finding the causes of mental disorders such as schizophrenia, autism and mood disorders for the benefit of society.

The laboratory has succeeded in finding methods to discover the onset of mental disorders at an early stage, as well as some of the disease mechanisms involved. While intending to continue this research, the laboratory will be expanding into research that involves clinical applications based on its earlier findings. The new research will require a diverse approach for analysis with the following specific goals to accelerate the research. These four goals involve research on schizophrenia, autism and mood disorders.

- i. Search for new biomarkers for early diagnosis
- ii. Development and analysis of research resources for ascertaining causes of the diseases and modes of therapy
- iii. Genetic analysis to search for and elucidate the genetic characteristics of susceptible individuals
- iv. Search and elucidation of environmental and acquired factors

For this project to succeed, gathering large amounts of data and samples—and exchanging information with many medical professionals and other researchers in organizations within Japan and abroad—are indispensable.

With your support, it is our intention to expand our research and do everything we can to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from mental disorders.

(3) Outline

- i. Representative researcher
Takeo Yoshikawa
Laboratory Head
Laboratory for Molecular Psychiatry
RIKEN Brain Science Institute

ii. **Research theme**

Treatment of mental disorders (schizophrenia, autism and mood disorders):

1. Search for new biomarkers for early diagnosis
2. Development and analysis of research resources
3. Genetic analysis
4. Research on environmental and acquired factors
5. Travel and meeting expenses for gathering information

3. Amount required

30 million yen by March 31, 2018 (Target: 10 million yen per year)

4. Donation period

February 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018

5. Estimate of expenditures

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| (1) Search for new biomarkers for early diagnosis | Approx. 10 million yen |
| (2) Development and analysis of research resources | Approx. 3 million yen |
| (3) Genetic analysis | Approx. 11 million yen |
| (4) Research on environmental and acquired factors | Approx. 5 million yen |
| (5) Travel and meeting expenses for gathering info. | Approx. 1 million yen |

6. Donation procedures

See RIKEN Donations at: <http://www.riken.jp/en/about/support/> (English)

7. Inquiries regarding the program

Attn: Y. Mazuka

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8. Other matters

- (1) Donors' names may appear in the slides acknowledging contributors in presentations made at academic meetings and other venues. If you wish to have your name or organization appear in the presentations, please indicate your preference in your application.
- (2) Donors' names may appear in the posters describing the work of the BSI Laboratory for Molecular Psychiatry displayed on RIKEN Open Day. If you wish have your name or organization on the posters, please indicate your preference in your application.