

## Request for donations

### 1. Donation project

Donations to support research for beneficial use of intestinal bacteria

### 2. Activity to be supported

#### (1) Project title

Research for beneficial use of intestinal bacteria

#### (2) Purpose

In recent years, research results have shown that activation of intestinal bacteria has a significant effect on the human body and the general public has become interested in intestinal flora.

The demand for beneficial intestinal bacteria is expected to increase in the future. However, as separating a group of intestinal bacteria into its component species and cultivating them is very difficult, the process of finding beneficial bacteria is very slow. It is said that about 70% of intestinal bacteria species have not yet been cultivated or identified. Because a large number of bacteria coexist in a complex bacterial flora structure in the human intestine, we have found that the conventional method to separate bacteria has limitation because it can only be used for species that are able to survive on their own. Therefore, to deepen our understanding of the ecosystem involving symbiotic intestinal bacteria, and to identify their distribution, biological activity and function, research is needed in the new field of “intestinal environmental science.” To this end, we will facilitate research to ensure a supply of intestinal bacteria that are beneficial to humans.

These techniques, developed by the Benno Laboratory, in which microorganisms that are difficult to culture may be separated and identified, are expected to produce a breakthrough. Recruiting and training young researchers, along with research and development using the skills we developed to date will greatly contribute to the establishment of this new field. This project will be a key initiative in this effort.

#### (3) Program details

##### ① Conducted by

Benno Library (Laboratory head: Yoshimi Benno)

##### ② Details

Research support for studying the health benefits of intestinal bacteria for future generations

- Hold symposiums to discuss the future health benefits of intestinal bacteria
- Support young researchers studying the health benefits of intestinal bacteria
- Bear research expenses for young researchers studying the health benefits of intestinal bacteria for future generations
- Develop research facilities for studying the health benefits of intestinal bacteria

### 3. Target amount

10 million yen

4. Donation period  
July 10, 2018-June 30, 2020

5. Expenditure plan

Expenditures (unit: 1,000 yen)	
Support for young researchers (research and travel expenses and participation fees of symposiums or conferences)	9,000
Hold symposiums to discuss the future research related intestinal bacterium for beneficial use	1,000
Total	10,000

6. Donation procedures

Please refer to the websites below

- Support RIKEN on RIKEN's external website  
(URL: <http://www.riken.jp/en/about/support/>)
- Internal websites of RIKEN and centers
- Others

7. Special benefits

Acknowledgements will be posted on the RIKEN website and donors' names and support will be announced at conferences.

8. Inquiries regarding the project

Benno Laboratory

Baton Zone Program

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