



## Message from Toru Tamiya, Director, JSPS San Francisco



In recent years, the tendency for Japanese youth to be more introverted has been highlighted by the mass media. According to the Institute of International Education (IIE), the number of Japanese students abroad in the U.S. plunged from around 46,000 in the period between 1994 and 1997 to a record low of around 19,000 in the period between 2005 and 2014, falling 59%. Whereas Japan ranked first in the world in abroad students sent to the U.S. in 1994, it fell to eighth from the top by 2014, thus triggering the debate over introverted Japanese youth. Yet by examining records from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the total number of Japanese studying abroad during this period decreased at nearly the same rate as the decrease in population. Thus, the percentage of Japanese students stud-

ying abroad remained relatively unchanged. It can only be concluded that rather than becoming more introverted, the needs and preferences of Japanese students looking to study abroad have changed, and that more students have preferred to study in countries other than the United States.

Now, let us look at the tendency of researchers who are eligible for JSPS grants. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announces the number of Japanese residing overseas every year, including the number of long-term Japanese residents by occupation and region. The statistics show that the number of students, researchers, teachers and their family members residing in the U.S. total around 90,000, a figure which has remains unchanged for the period between 2004 and 2015. Despite the decrease in the total number of Japanese students studying abroad in the U.S., there has been no change in the number of researchers residing in the U.S. Thus, it is only reasonable to surmise that the number of researchers who find long-term and permanent positions in American research institutions is increasing. Based on

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the data from the IIE, MEXT, and MOFA, it is clear that there has been a shift in the goals of Japanese coming to the U.S. to study. Whereas previously, students flocked to the U.S. to improve English language skills, now there are many English language programs in Asia offering a closer and often more cost-effective options. Students who decide to study in the U.S., on the other hand, are increasingly interested in long-term collaborative research. When I visit universities to introduce JSPS activities, I see a large number of Japanese professors and researchers active in university roles. Specifically, the tendency has changed from the old days when Japan simply borrowed knowledge from the United States and has tended toward more collaborative efforts, with Japanese residing in the United States for longer periods and playing leading roles in studies and research.

As trends in research shift, I see a strong need to build a network of Japanese researchers who are playing leading roles in the United States, promoting collaboration across multiple fields. With more and more Japanese researchers gaining long-term and permanent positions in the U.S., it is critical that JSPS begin building a system for grant extensions to enable researchers to continue.

## PAST EVENTS

### JSPS Support for the 2nd UC San Diego - Kyoto University Joint Symposium at UCSD

On March 14-15, JSPS San Francisco brought Japanese and American leaders in the field of medicine and engineering together by supporting a joint symposium on the themes of: “Cancer & Drug Development,” “Regenerative Medicine & Biology,” and “Advanced Energy Research” at the



University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Kyoto University and UCSD in February 2014 led to the inaugural joint symposium at Kyoto University last March, and the two universities continued to deepen their partnership by holding this second symposium at UCSD.

Nobel Prize winners Prof. Roger Tsien (Chemistry, 2008) and Prof. Shinya Yamanaka (Physiology or Medicine, 2012), attended as keynote speakers, lecturing on “Molecules for Multi-color Imaging and for Long-Term Memory Storage,” and “New Era of Medicine with iPS Cells,” respectively. The roughly 340 participants in attendance had ample time for networking and discussion of the symposium’s three themes throughout the first day, setting the stage for Day

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Two, in which participants were divided into three breakout sessions by theme.

The format of this symposium maximized discussion and collaboration amongst prominent researchers at both universities, leaders in the fields of medicine and engineering in Japan and the U.S. By continuing to fund such symposiums, JSPS will promote scientific progress through academic collaboration between the U.S. and Japan.



## 16th Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 16th workshop for Japanese university administrative staff in the U.S. on June 1, 2016.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a professional development and networking opportunity for university administrative staff from Japan. It was held in Colorado, during the NAFSA 2016 annual conference in Denver. Fourteen participants joined this workshop from Japanese and U.S. universities.

The main event was a lecture on skills required for internationalization given by Mr. Tsugihiko Shimura, Project Specialist, International Affairs Department, the University of Tokyo. Mr. Shimura discussed Japanese university staff development and the mission of Japanese universities, sharing his conceptual framework with participants. He emphasized the need for Japanese universities staff to have knowledge and skills that can be applied outside of the university campus. In order to gain these skills, he recommended experiencing other cultures and other types of business, rather than staying confined at one organization.

After his lecture, participants were divided

into three groups to discuss work style differences between Japanese universities and US universities, critical skills for administrative staff, and other topics in career development. Participants with diverse backgrounds and experience exchanged their opinion freely in a relaxed atmosphere. At the end of the workshop, each group shared their ideas with other groups, and Dr. Toru Tamiya, Director of the JSPS San Francisco gave comments.

This workshop was very fruitful for the participants as an opportunity for staff development and networking. JSPS San Francisco will continue holding this workshop regularly.



## JSPS Fellowship Information Session at the University of Arizona

JSPS Fellowship information Session took place at the University of Arizona (UA) on June 28th.

JSPS San Francisco holds information session regularly to promote JSPS fellowship, and it was our first trial to hold it in the middle of America.

With the generous help of PhD. Shelley Hawthorne Smith, graduate college office of fellowships and community engagement, the session was well-attended by not only postdoctoral researchers but also professors, nevertheless in the vacation season. After our presentation, attendees introduced themselves and their interest in the collaboration with Japan. They also asked many questions about the details of JSPS programs, such as Core-to-Core program, Invitation programs, how to protect human rights, etc.

The information session was ending in applause and JSPS San Francisco will continue to

promote JSPS programs by a variety of ways.

For more information about JSPS fellowship, please feel free to contact the JSPS San Francisco office ([fellowships@jpspsusa-sf.org](mailto:fellowships@jpspsusa-sf.org)) or visit our website: <https://www.jpsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/>



JSPS San Francisco held information sessions at the following universities from March to July 2016.

Date	Venue
15 March 2016	The University of California, San Diego (the 2nd UC San Diego - Kyoto University Joint Symposium )
19 May 2016	Texas A&M University, College of Medicine
20 May 2016	The University of Texas at Austin, Office of the Vice President for Research
27 May 2016	The Scripps Research Institute
27 May 2016	The University of California, San Diego
27 June 2016	Arizona State University, International Initiatives, Graduate Education
28 June 2016	The University of Arizona, Graduate College Office of Fellowships and Community Engagement

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **JUNBA 2016 in JAPAN**

#### **“Looking back on 10 years”**

In this symposium, the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) will look back on the past 10 years of JUNBA and share our experiences and knowledge so as to support global higher education in Japan.

We are looking forward to the participation of all who are interested in global education.

**Date: September 30, 2016**

**Venue: Gakushikaikan (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)**

For further information, please visit the website: <http://www.junba.org/junba2016.html>



#### **“Womenomics, the Workplace and Women”**

**Symposium sponsored by the US-Japan Foundation (USJF) and JSPS**

**Organized by the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (S-APARC)**

**Date: November 4, 2016**

**Venue: Encina Hall, Stanford University**

For further information, please contact JSPS San Francisco at: [webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org](mailto:webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org)

## INTERVIEWS WITH JSPS FELLOWS IN THE U.S.

### TSUKASA FUKUSATO

- 06/2016 | Internship at Adobe Research in San Jose, California, USA.
- 07/2015 | Internship at Adobe Research in San Jose, California, USA.
- 04/2015 | Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC2), JSPS, Japan.
- 06/2014 | Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan (IPA):  
Exploratory IT Human Resource Project (The MITOH Program).
- 04/2014 | Ph.D candidate, Waseda University, Japan.
- 03/2014 | M.E, Waseda University, Japan.
- 03/2012 | B.E, Waseda University, Japan.



Tsukasa Fukusato is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Pure and Applied Physics at Waseda University.

He obtained his B.E. and M.E. degree in 2012 and 2014. His main research areas are user interface design such as sound effects, comic-style abstraction and 2D&3D computer graphics techniques for cartoon animation. As a JSPS fellow on the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, he worked at Adobe Systems, Inc. as an intern for three months from July 2015 and for three months from June 2016. He joined an exploratory software project, IPA MITOH Program as a programmer for ten months from June 2014. He also worked as a research assistant of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) CREST from 2014 to 2015. He received the Institute of Image Electronics Engineers Japan (IIEEJ) Nishita award in June 2014.

#### Why did you choose the U.S. to conduct your research?

When I was a child, I was deeply impressed by computer graphics (CG) animation (especially, TOY STORY)

and hand-drawn animation. After that, I became interested in computers, animation, and sketch design.

In Japan, I studied these under the guidance of Prof. Shigeo Morishima, investigating many research papers to find recent research trends (for example, a deep learning approach is getting a lot of attention as a new computer graphics animation method).

It is true that much research about generating 2D and 3D computer graphics animation has been proposed for around thirty years. However, most of this research focuses only on constructing new techniques and writing research papers, so it is difficult to apply the research results to society. I always think that it is necessary for CG researchers to present their results at CG movies, games & production studios. My main project in my Ph. D work is to quantify animator feeling and to develop an intuitive graphics tool for users working for a production studio without professional skill.

I would like to do a collaborative project with a research institution. Based on my research results, I participated in several projects, and international & do-

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mestic conferences. During these conferences and projects, I spent a lot of time job searching.

Finally, through ACM SIGGRAPH, one of the top international conferences for computer graphics animation, I became acquainted with Mr. Daichi Ito, who works on a variety of new media related technologies at Adobe Systems, Inc. as Senior Experience Designer. I thought Adobe would be the best place for me to tackle the challenge of finding new techniques for professional artists or programmers under his guidance. Through him, I have gotten two opportunities to work at a top-level research institution, Adobe Research, with a lot of great researchers, engineers, and professional artists.

### What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?

In the U.S, I can put 100% into my work and my leisure (play), but I don't mix them together and maintain a lifestyle with a clear separation between the two. I think that we should try to set a clear boundary between studying and working. For instance, when we take a break, we should get away from our desks and do some light exercise or put on some music, etc. Working without focus for extended periods is not effective.

Truly, many U.S workers treasure lunch time with colleagues on workdays and with their family every weekend. In addition, Adobe is equipped with many facilities such as a cafeteria and a gym to reduce some working stresses. Many great events for the intern students are also held, and we have opportunities to talk and play with a lot of Adobe workers. In my case, I often talk with them about Japanese manga or movies during lunch time, and I enjoy exploring San Jose and San Francisco on the weekend :)

On the other hand, during working time, we are required to have a high level of motivation toward our projects such as "Photoshop", "Illustration" and so on, and it is essential to discuss with a lot of engineers and professional artists about our project. There are a lot of discussions with the Adobe research group, once a week at least, and it is easy to talk with the members. As a result, we are always planning what we should do next step (in my case, I am developing an intuitive 3D

modeling engine for non-3D artists). Of course, we have a great responsibility to make our project succeed at first, but now I enjoy the pressure.

Moreover, I think that it is a big honor to release our results to society such as new software engine or Adobe MAX, the creativity conference, and I can do my best about it.

### How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?

I think that U.S life broadens my future options by broadening my perspective and my friendships. During the internship periods, I have been enjoying homestays. I've learned a lot (e.g., the unique U.S. culture) from my host families.

In the case of my lifestyle, I became a person who separates work time and play time. And, I changed the current priority of my research. In college, I presented much research (including co-author papers) and received some awards (my publication list is here: <https://sites.google.com/site/tsukasafukusato/>), but I may have to do a little reconsidering about "Who uses my research?", because many researchers, including me, focus only on high-quality mathematical and physical techniques.

From Adobe's experience, I'm getting better at thinking not only about state-of-the art techniques, but also targeting users such as paint designers. Now, I am in my final year in school, so I will graduate next year. Although I haven't decided what I want to do in the future (researcher or engineer...), I believe that I will make use of my U.S. experience. I want to be useful to others in my life, so I will do my best in my career and personal life (e.g., Adobe, my next lab, my home and so on). I am looking forward to life in the future!!

Finally, I would like to give special thanks to D.Ito, R.Mech, D.Prasad, D.Ceylan and my intern colleagues for giving me the wonderful opportunity to engage in new research. I thank the Barrera family, Shoda family, Ikeda family, and Austin family for supporting my great San Jose life. I also thank JSPS for supporting me to study CG research field as a doctoral student.

## DR. MASASHI TABUCHI

2015 | JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad,  
Johns Hopkins University

2013 | Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University

2013 | Ph.D., Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo

2010 | JSPS Research Fellow (DC1), Graduate School of Engineering,  
the University of Tokyo

2008 | B.S., College of Biological Sciences, University of Tsukuba



Masashi Tabuchi received his Ph.D. in engineering with particular expertise in electrophysiological approaches and signal processing at the University of Tokyo in 2013, and then joined Dr. Mark Wu's lab at Johns Hopkins University as a postdoctoral fellow. Since 2015, he has participated on the JSPS postdoctoral fellowship program for research abroad. He is specifically interested in one of the most important and mysterious behaviors--sleep--and as a model to study sleep, he is using a fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster* to take advantage of the unique genetic features of the *Drosophila*, as well as the ability to conduct large-scale screening on the fruit fly in order to uncover new sleep behaviors.

His career goal is to become an independent Principal Investigator in the field of neuroscience with a focus on deciphering how neural coding emerges from specific spike sequences to generate behavioral states such as sleep.

### Why did you choose the U.S. to conduct your research?

My interest in neuroscience research was sparked during my junior year of undergraduate studies, when I spent the year abroad at the University of Manchester (U.K.) on an exchange scholarship. I was serendipitously placed in a lab doing hippocampal slice physiology and became fascinated with the brain and how neural networks functioned. That year, I became convinced

that a strong background in engineering and electrophysiological approaches would be instrumental in pursuing my future studies in neuroscience, and thus I decided to become a neurobiologist with a Ph.D. in engineering and particular expertise in electrophysiological approaches.

At the same time, I was also strongly motivated to conduct my research in the U.S. This was mainly because I was significantly influenced by my own research experience in the U.K.

During my time in the U.K., I realized the importance of networking skills related to not only English but also social ability. I felt that, in order to be successful, I had to connect to the vast network of researchers, and thus chose the U.S. as a potential place to do this.

### What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?

Compared to Japan, and even compared to the U.K., I feel that scientific discussion here is very open. During discussions, no one cares about the individual position such as student, postdoc, and PI. Additionally, scientific discussion is also extremely active. Everyone voices their opinion without fear.

Frankly, it is sometimes hard for non-native English speakers like me to jump in such open and active scientific discussions and to debate on even ground. However, I'm just trying to do it without hesitating. It requires more energy to debate in English compared

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to using Japanese, but I feel it's also more exciting. I believe these open and active scientific discussions can lead to inspiring new ideas and creating new collaborative work.

### How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?

Dr. Mark Wu's laboratory currently consists of five post-doctoral fellows, two doctoral students, one research technician, and four undergraduate students. Each lab member is studying a distinct aspect of molecular and circuit mechanisms underlying motivated behavior, with a focus on sleep. Thus, while my project is unique and independent, each of the lab's projects is conceptually related, and I will continue to benefit from ideas, techniques, constructive advice, and discussions offered by other lab members. Through these interactive experiences, I am learning about

what is required to manage my own laboratory in the future. Moreover, I am also doing several collaborative projects with the other laboratories, and thus, I am feeling that I am now connecting to the vast researcher network in the U.S., and I would like to further strengthen these connections as I aim to be an outstanding faculty candidate.

Finally, I appreciate JSPS giving me the opportunity to conduct research in the U.S. and broaden my experiences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, which is a leading medical research institute leading the U.S. in research spending for the past 35 years.

## UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Application period:

**August 29 -  
September 2, 2016**



Applications must be submitted to JSPS Headquarters by host institutions in Japan. Every host institution has a specific timeline. It is critical that you check with your host institution to determine the deadline to submit your application.

### Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/application.html>

- Standard (12-24 months)
- Short-term for North American and European Researchers (1-12 months)
- Pathway to University Positions in Japan (12-24 months)

### Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html>

- Long-term (2-10 months)
- Short-term (14-60 days)
- Short-term S (7-30 days)

## TIPS FROM THE LOCAL STAFF

### The Art of Small Talk

#### Small talk, big results

*"Hey, how about those Warriors?"*

*"Oh yeah, Steph Curry!"*

*"I know, right? Amazing. Hey by the way ..."*

Small talk.

You hear it everywhere, every day.

Yesterday's freak rainstorm. Today's pitching match-up. Tomorrow's presidential primary.

You can't avoid it. Sometimes you wonder, what's the point? What are we even talking about? What a waste of time.

But small talk is an important part of American work life, and can make or break a successful work relationship.

Why?

→ Small talk creates a connection, a sense of closeness and friendliness which is the grease that allows the communication machine to function smoothly. Your shared interest in some relevant topic helps to start any conversation with a certain level of trust, fundamental to effective communication.

→ Small talk is a reminder that "it's bigger than me." There are things going on in the world outside of what we can immediately see, putting the communication in context, and taking some of the pressure off of even the most intense conversations.

→ Small talk segues into more serious topics. Even if the "real" conversation doesn't immediately follow the small talk, people remember the effort later. That connection you made with your mail carrier over yap-py dogs last week may very well help you to track down the package that got lost in the mail yesterday.

Okay so small talk is important. How do you boost your small talk game? Here are three ways to improve your communicative competence:

**1 Keep up on current events.** Most small talk focuses on a broad range of current events. Yesterday, today, tomorrow. Read the SF Chronicle. Listen to NPR. Watch the BBC. A broad understanding of what is going on around you, locally, nationally, and internationally, is key to successful small talk.

**2 Read the situation.** Who are you talking to? And where? And when? Is the person you're talking to sad, happy, tired? Are they in a rush? Is it five minutes before lunchtime or five hours into a lecture? Are you in a garage elevator or a reception hall at the theatre? Adjusting your small talk to the situation will increase your chances of making a good connection with the person you're talking to.

**3 Observe.** Reading the situation can be hard. How do you judge what topics to bring up, with whom, and for how long? The best way is to watch others. Chances are, small talk will differ by age, gender, ethnicity, situation ... Post up at a café, near a BART station or at a shopping mall and take mental note of trends you notice. Then, try applying them to your own small talk.

Of course, all of this takes practice, lots and lots of practice. No one will get it right on the first try, or in every situation. But the more you expose yourself to various kinds of small talk in various situations, the further along you will be on the road to communicative success in American society.

By Lauren Nakasato,  
Liaison Officer



## OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

### Farewell to Our Advisor

**Yasuyuki Nakayama** completed his commitment to JSPS San Francisco as Advisor at the end of June and returned to his job at MEXT in Tokyo. Here is his farewell message, including comments about his stay in the U.S.

The past year and 3 months flew by before I knew it.

First I would like to thank the Japanese researchers active at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco; the director and staff of Japanese University Network in the Bay Area; our business associates thriving in Silicon Valley; the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco; and everyone at JSPS San Francisco for collaborating and interacting with me both professionally and personally. I will continue to value these connections even after my return to Japan.

My work at JSPS San Francisco mainly focused on projects dedicated to the enrichment of the West Coast Japanese Researchers Network. The coming together of 17 representatives of the Japanese Researchers community at the Japanese Researchers Network Conference was an event that especially contributed to the strengthening of partnerships between each community and JSPS San Francisco. As the main organizer of this event, I worked alongside representatives of the researchers community from the planning stages to the day of the event. We were able to connect not only professionally but in our personal lives as well—a valuable experience that I will always carry with me.

I began Awa Odori after coming to the United States. Throughout the year the Bay Area is host to many events that introduce Japanese culture, and I had the chance to enjoy performing Awa Odori dance with my



group mates of Sakura Ren at events like the Japanese Cultural Festivals in Sonoma and Santa Cruz, the San Francisco Sakura Matsuri, and the San Francisco Giants' Home-Field AT&T Park. As an employee of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology—which takes lead in the cultural administration of Japan—I hope that in subtle ways I was able to contribute to the dissemination of Japanese culture.

I have been practicing Judo since I was 4 years old, and here in the United States, I had the opportunity to join the Hanabi Judo Club and became the “Kata” instructor. Additionally, I entered the 2016 USA Judo Senior Nationals in Texas and won the Masters competition (for participants over 30) in the 81kg class. That was such a great experience, and I intend to continue my relationship with Hanabi Judo Club after my return.



As an avid fisher I was so very impressed and excited by California's rich fishing environment, where I could spend my whole life fishing without ever getting bored. I had decided that I wouldn't go back to Japan until I caught a big fish, but despite my best efforts, unfortunately I had to return before I was able to fulfill that goal. I'm thankful to the people who accompanied me on these fishing trips as well. The year and 3 months I spent here in the United States was a truly unforgettable experience. Even after returning to Japan, I will continue putting my all into my work and my hobbies so that I can come back to the U.S. again.

Thank you for everything!

*Yasuyuki Nakayama*



## New International Program Associates



Vernal Fall, Yosemite

**Yuki Hashimoto** is excited to join our office and take on administrative affairs for the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) along with coordinating workshops for administrative staff of Japanese universities in the U.S. She is also in charge of publication and PR, and maintains the office website and newsletter. Last year, she worked at JSPS headquarters in Tokyo, where she coordinated the BRIDGE Fellowship Program for JSPS Alumni members, supported JSPS Alumni Associations in 15 countries, and coordinated orientations for newly arriving JSPS overseas fellows. Originally a staff of the University of Tokyo, she will work with us for one year from her start date in April under the JSPS Overseas Internships for University Administrative Staff Program.

During her stay here, she is aiming to learn about the university research support system in the U.S. Also, she looks forward to enjoying beautiful nature in California.

**Marie Tani** joined our office this April. She is in charge of accounting and coordinating gatherings for Japanese researchers. Last year, she worked in the Overseas Fellowship Division at the JSPS headquarters in Tokyo and was in charge of the Invitation Fellowship Program. She is originally a staff of Oita University, and she will work with us for one year under the JSPS Overseas Internships for University Administrative Staff Program.

During her stay here, she is aiming to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in the U.S. Also, she looks forward to enjoying local foods and interacting with local residents here in California.



Rocky Mountains, Colorado



# JSPS

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