

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Building on Tradition, Cultivating New Scholarship

Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has cultivated its own distinct style of scholarship, emphasizing long-term research achievements over short-term results. Throughout that process the university has fostered countless of outstanding graduates, maintaining a spirit of independence and self-reliance built on a philosophy of academic freedom.

The fruits of that tradition continue to be internationally acknowledged: this year, Kyoto University alumnus Dr. Masatoshi Nei of Pennsylvania State University was awarded the Inamori Foundation's internationally prestigious 2013 Kyoto Prize in Basic Sciences. Dr. Nei's accolade comes hot on the heels of last year's award of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of our Center for iPS Cell Research and Application. We congratulate Prof. Nei on his achievement, and feel a sense of pride that Kyoto University may have contributed to his development as a world-class scholar.

Research Activities was launched in 2011 as a platform to publicize and provide current information on the undertakings and achievements of Kyoto University's researchers. As with previous editions, this issue will introduce some of our most recent developments. It also includes a feature on the work of Dr. Nei, pieces on our historically rich international exchange activities, and a feature on selected collaborative projects with the industrial sector, which have made a significant impact on drug discovery research in Japan.

Kyoto University will continue to be inspired by our excellent location in the rich cultural center of Kyoto, and work on cultivating new scholarship which can contribute to harmonious coexistence among the human and ecological community on this planet. I hope that this edition of *Research Activities* will convey some of our passion and enthusiasm to our readers.

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Hiroshi Matsumoto
President, Kyoto University

