

11/8/2010

Professor Hitoshi Okazawa
Neuropathology
Medical Research Institute
Tokyo Medical and Dental University JST, CREST
1-5-45, Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8510 JAPAN

Dear Professor Okazawa and Colleagues:

It was my great pleasure to attend and speak at the Kick Off Symposium of the Scientific Research on Innovative Area "Foundation of Synapse and Neurocircuit Pathology" held on October 27, 2010 at Tokyo Medical and Dental University. I very much enjoyed all of the talks and lively discussion.

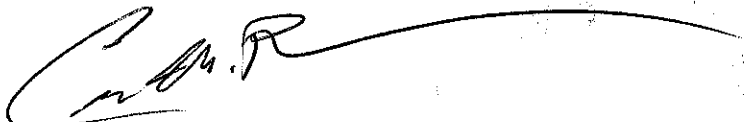
This meeting outlining the research accomplishments and research funding goals of your investigators and distinguished guest speakers was extremely comprehensive in scope and very innovative in design. It is very rare to have such extremely accomplished participants talking about such a broad array of topics critical to approaching diseases of the nervous system. The themes ranged from neurodevelopment to neurodegeneration while the technical expertise ranged from synapses to cell culture to fly and mouse models of disease all the way to human neurons derived from inducible pluripotent stem cells in humans with neuropsychiatric disorders. It is just this type of multidisciplinary focus that is likely to make meaningful advances in understanding and treating diseases of the nervous system.

The conference was very well attended and lively discussions and questions followed each session. The theme of early synaptic and neural circuit level changes in psychiatric disorders and in neurodegenerative disorders was maintained throughout each talk. Clearly, there will be much progress made on understanding how synapses and circuits are selectively affected in a broad range of early neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders.

I hope that you found my involvement, comments and suggestions helpful. I am very happy to be involved in evaluating the scientific progress of your distinguished

colleagues during the course of this grant program of Scientific Research on Innovative area. Please let me know how I can help as your work progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.M.P.', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Craig M. Powell, M.D., Ph.D.