

Dr. Chiara Romagnani, Berlin, Germany

Innate lymphocyte memory and clonality

Dr. Yukinori Okada, Tokyo, Japan

Statistical genetics elucidate biology and medicine in immunology

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

9 am in Germany (GMT+2) / 5 pm in Japan (GMT+9), via zoom

Organizers:

Christina Zielinski (Jena), Osamu Takeuchi (Kyoto)







Speakers

Prof. Dr. Chiara Romagnani

Director, Institute of Medical Immunology, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Chiara Romagnani pursued her medical studies at the University of Florence, Italy, before specializing as an Oncologist at the National Cancer Institute in Genova. Following the completion of her PhD in Immunology at the University of Genova, under the guidance of Lorenzo Moretta, she was granted an EMBO fellowship to train as a postdoctoral researcher at the German Rheumatism Center (DRFZ) in Berlin, Germany.

She established there her research focus in innate immunity and inflammation, first as a group leader and later as a DFG-Heisenberg Professor. Her significant contributions include the identification of signals responsible for the differentiation and activation of Innate Lymphoid Cells (ILCs) and the discovery of human innate lymphocyte clonality and memory. Presently, she holds the position of Berlin University Alliance Joint Full Professor at the Charité University and Free University Berlin and serves as the Chair of the Institute of Medical Immunology at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Additionally, C. Romagnani holds the role of Chief Editor at the European Journal of Immunology and was recently awarded an ERC Advanced Grant.

Dr. Yukinori Okada

Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo

Yukinori Okada, M.D., PhD is the Professor of Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, and Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, and the team leader of RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences. He received the M.D. (2005) and PhD (2011) from the University of Tokyo. His research theme is the elucidation of mechanism where genetic variants in the populations affect clinical phenotypes of individuals, especially for autoimmune diseases and clinical biomarkers.

Through active collaborative partnerships among the researchers in the field of human genetics, Prof. Okada have enormously conducted genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of human complex traits and identified >15,000 novel genetic risk loci (Okada Y. Nature 2014, Kanai M. Nat Genet 2018, Sakaue S. Nat Genet 2021, Ishigaki K. Nat Genet 2021, NamKoong H. Nature 2022, Yengo L. Nature 2022). He also has experiences for analyzing genetic variants in the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) region including human leukocyte antigen (HLA) genes and killer immunoglobulin receptor (KIR) region, which have substantial impacts on disease genetics and can act as clinical biomarkers (Okada Y. Nat Genet 2015, Hirata. Nat Genet 2019, Naito. Nat Commun 2021, Sakaue. Cell Genom 2022).

His interests are now moving towards genetic and bioinformatics analysis using multi-modal huma omics data generated by technologies in the post-GWAS era, and its application to novel drug discovery and drug repositioning (Sakaue S. Nucleic Acids Res 2018, Sakaue S. Bioinformatics 2019, Namba S. Cell Genom 2022), trans-omics analysis (Tomofuji Y. Ann Rheum Dis 2021/2022, Cell Genom 2022, Nat Microbiol 2023), single cell sequencing (Edahiro R. Nat Genet 2023), human evolution (Okada Y. Nat Commun 2018, Sakaue S. Nat Commun 2020, Yasumizu Y. Mol Biol Evol 2020), and personalized medicine (Sakaue S. Nat Med 2020, Namba S. Can Res 2023).