

Organizer's Report on the 20th Leading Seminar

Name / Grade	May June Thu / 3rd year
Date / Place	May 16, 2017 / Lecture Hall
Number of attendees	78 students, 15 others



Lecture title	Molecular epidemiology and genomic research on vector-borne pathogen (only pathogen?) in Africa
Lecturer	Dr. Oleg Mediannikov
Affiliation of Lecturer	Institute of the Research for the Development (IRD), Research Unit of Tropical and Emerging Infectious Disease (URMITE), Medical faculty, Marseille, France

Background of invitation	<p>I am doing research on genetic diversity of <i>Rickettsia</i> spp. in Japanese ticks. Dr. Nakao recommended me to read Dr. Oleg papers when I started my PhD training. I have been impressed with a number of papers on <i>Rickettsia</i> from his research group. I personally believed that Dr. Oleg will give the great lecture and nice idea for youth researcher. Therefore, I continued to write the proposal to invite Dr. Oleg since I was in my first year of doctoral course.</p>	
Seminar contents, questions and answers	<p>Seminar content: The seminar consisted of two parts, the first part contained Mediterranean Infection project in France and the second part included the Point-of-Care laboratory diagnoses in Senegal in western Africa. Dr. Oleg introduced the Mediterranean Infection foundation that was based on the research of infectious and tropical diseases in human patients. The second part emphasized on the diagnosis of febrile illness in Africa. Dr. Oleg's research group implemented the Point-of-Care laboratory in rural Senegal to minimize the time lag (within two hours) between diagnostic results and patient care by a single molecular method. As many of pathogens are emerging and neglected vector-borne diseases, they performed the extensive research in vectors to control neglected diseases in rural communities in Senegal.</p> <p>Question and answer session: An active question was made from 2 international students, 1 Japanese (During seminar) and 2 international students and 3 undergraduate students (After seminar).</p>	
Activities outside of Leading Seminar	<p>16th May: Morning Research talk with Pro. Katakura, Prof. Sugimoto, Dr. Nakao, Dr. Isoda and PhD students, Evening → Leading Seminar</p> <p>17th May: Hokkaido University Botanical Garden, Otaru aquarium</p> <p>18th May: Discussion for my research career</p> <p>19th May: Tick sampling around Shikotsu lake and return back</p>	
Impressions and opinions	<p>Under leading program, we can submit a proposal to invite our favorite researcher. However, most of the researchers didn't accept our invitation and it was hard to negotiate. Fortunately, I had a chance to become a student organizer of the 20th Leading Seminar. I really appreciate Dr. Oleg positive response to our offer. He is truly a biologist. He is a very friendly and active person. On the day of sightseeing, Dr. Oleg shared the deep knowledge of plant and animals. I was so glad to have taken Dr. Oleg lecture. I had great discussion on my career path during his short stay in Sapporo. The most difficult thing for me was to contact Dr. Oleg by e-mail. At the beginning, Dr. Oleg could not receive my e-mail and I delayed in discussing with student committee. Thanks to Dr. Nakao, who supported me for e-mailing conduct Dr. Oleg. Finally, I would like to express thankfulness to leading office staff Ms. Maki, Ms. Terashima, Leading program coordinator Prof. Horiuchi and laboratory members from CZC and Parasitology for making the Leading seminar a success.</p>	