

## The 3rd Symposium of "AIST Upbringing Talents in Bioinformatics Course"

The "AIST Upbringing Talent in Bioinformatics Course" program, adopted in 2001 as part of the MEXT Promoting Science and Technology Fund initiative, has entered the 4th year of this 5-year plan. At this, the 3rd symposium, trainees presented the results of their research while post trainees and tutors presented the hottest research topics.

We invited Professor Toshihisa Takagi, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo to be the guest lecturer. Prof. Takagi spoke about the current situation and issues affecting bioinformatics education in Japan. Attendees at the symposium found the difficulties confronted by those involved in the field of education, their strategies for coping with the challenges they face, and their determined outlook, insightful. Such considerations will help us to consider the needs and importance of this training course in the future.



Prof. Takagi giving a lecture

### Presentation Program (CBRC)

(The position is as of that time.)

#### Trainees

- **Toshitaka Kumagai** (AIST Research Staff, Mathematical Model Team)  
"Genome analysis and comparative genomics of the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus oryzae*"
- **Chie Motono** (AIST Research Staff, Biomembrane Informatics Team)  
"Molecular dynamics study of hyperthermophilic, thermophilic, and mesophilic cold shock proteins: Exploration of mechanism for protein thermostability"

#### Post-trainees

- **Kazuhiko Fukui** (Research Scientist, High Performance Computing Team)  
"Computational study of oligosacchrides and glycopeptides: analysis of reaction mechanism for mass spectrometry"
- **Nozomi Nagano** (Research Scientist, Protein Function Team)  
"Enzyme catalytic-mechanism database: EzCatDB - Elucidation of catalytic mechanisms leading to drug design"

#### Tutors & others

- **Wataru Fujibuchi** (Research Scientist, Sequence Analysis Team)  
"CellMontage: A Cell Type Search System based on Gene Expression Profiles"
- **Kentaro Tomii** (Research Scientist, Molecular Modeling & Design Team)  
"Our approach to CASP6"
- **Kiyoshi Asai** (Principal Researcher, Mathematical Model Team)  
"Searching and classifying non-coding RNA sequences"

*Pioneering  
in Bioinformatics  
from Odaiba to the World*



From the upper right clockwise, Fukui, Fujibuchi, Nagano, Motono, Kumagai, Tomii, Asai

## BioJapan2004

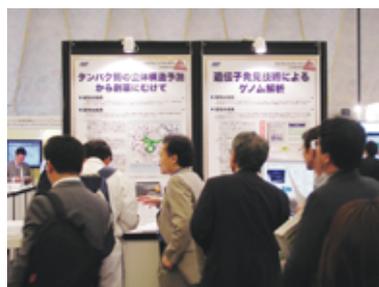
BioJapan2004 was held at the New Takanawa Prince Hotel (Shinagawa) for 3 days from 28th to the 30th September. The CBRC exhibited in the AIST booth and presented systems and tools we have developed. More than 100 institutions and companies that exhibited in this event and it was well attended.

The CBRC exhibited panels and monitors to explain our programs, DBs for gene searches, and the web tools and techniques for elucidating protein structure and function that have been spotlighted recently. We saw enormous interest in bioinformatics research in our meetings with visitors, many of whom were interested in joint



research ventures.

Also the symposium, "Molecular Target Drug discovery" (Chairman: Yutaka Akiyama, Director of CBRC) were held on the 29th and talks were given by Prof. Kyoung Tai No (Yonsei University, Korea), Prof. Noriaki Hirayama (Tokai University), Takatsugu Hirokawa (CBRC) and Minoru Asogawa (NEC). There was a lively discussion on



cutting edge research and the potential application of informatics to drug discovery, such as the development of pharmaceuticals based on protein structure information and theoretical analysis of inner body activities.