

News release

A Faculty Member of the School of Life Science and Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo has been Appointed as a Researcher at Kyowa Kirin through the Cross-Appointment System.

- Creation of innovative pharmaceuticals through a novel form of collaboration -

Tokyo, Japan, Oct 24, 2024 --Kyowa Kirin Co., Ltd. (Kyowa Kirin, TSE:4151, President and CEO: Masashi Miyamoto) announced Associate Professor Tetsuya Kadonosono from the School of Life Science and Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo (established on October 1, 2024, formerly Tokyo Institute of Technology) has been appointed as a senior research scientist at Kyowa Kirin, utilizing the Cross-Appointment System*. This marks the first time that a university faculty member has worked at a pharmaceutical company using this system within both organizations.

In 2023, Kyowa Kirin entered into an agreement of joint research and organizational collaboration with School of Life Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology ("Tokyo Tech") in drug discovery technology. Under this agreement, Kyowa Kirin aims to achieve the discovery of innovative drugs originating from Japan by combining the outstanding technology seeds in School of Life Science and Technology of Tokyo Tech with Kyowa Kirin's Drug Discovery Technology. By sharing cutting-edge life sciences and technology in a neighboring industry-academic partnership, we aim to construct a drug discovery ecosystem through frequent discussions and information exchanges centered on drug discovery within the life sciences field. As part of this collaborative initiative, we have implemented innovation creation activities utilizing the Cross-Appointment System.

Associate Professor Tetsuya Kadonosono, who takes on a central role in this initiative, continues his research as a faculty member at the School of Life Science and Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo while also working in Kyowa Kirin. He will engage in research activities as a senior research scientist at Kyowa Kirin's Tokyo Research Park (Machida City, Tokyo).



Assoc. prof. Kadonosono

Kyowa Kirin aims to continuously create innovative drugs by combining his high expertise in biopharmaceutical design technology with Kyowa Kirin's advanced drug discovery technology.

For the School of Life Science and Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo, staff are expected to learn practical approaches and experience in the pharmaceutical industry by working on research projects and challenges that address the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. Furthermore, efficient research and development is anticipated to improve research capabilities with a view to practical application.

Since the start of the partnership in April 2023, by leveraging the geographical proximity of Suzukakedai Campus (Yokohama City, Kanagawa) of Institute of Science Tokyo and Kyowa Kirin's Tokyo Research Park, we have been creating opportunities for close collaboration (ex. research introduction and workshops) between the two parties, which focus on life science and technology. This cross-cultural exchange between researchers from academia and industry leads to the inspiration for new ideas and opportunities for growth for each.



Neighborhood seminar
at Tokyo Research Park,
Kyowa Kirin



Workshop
at Suzukakedai Campus,
Institute of Science Tokyo

Susumu Kajiwara, Ph.D., Dean, School of Life Science and Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo, said, " The project's high frequency of discussions and information exchange between industry and academia has led to a series of opportunities for exploratory research, commissioned research, joint research, and research at the company through the Cross-Appointment System. In particular, I hope that the practical experience of university faculty members in the industry will bring about new innovations, and that the flow of talent between industry and academia will not only be one-directional from industry to academia but will become a default for innovation. "

Yoshifumi Torii, Ph.D., Executive Officer, Vice President, Head of Research Division at Kyowa Kirin, commented, "In this collaboration, which started last year, multiple collaborations are being generated through various opportunities for information exchange and close interaction. It is a great pleasure to have launched a new activity for innovation by utilizing the Cross-Appointment System through industry-academia collaboration, which is a first attempt for both. We believe

that this activity will lead to the construction of an ecosystem with academia and the creation of life-changing value, as a new challenge for industry-academia collaboration through unprecedented close interaction.”

The Kyowa Kirin Group companies strive to contribute to the health and well-being of people around the world by creating new value through the pursuit of advances in life sciences and technologies.

* Cross-Appointment System

In accordance with a program established by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan, researchers may be employed by two or more organizations within a university, public research institution, or company. This enables them to engage in research, development, and education while managing their efforts in accordance with their roles at each organization. By allowing researchers and other human resources to work across organizational boundaries, this program is expected to strengthen function of bridging technology.