

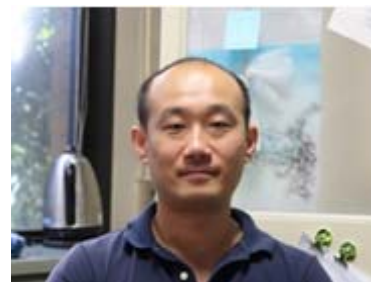
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Presentation title: **“Parasitology” to “Parasitology for Immunology”**

Message to the participants:

During my PhD study in the University of Tokyo, I conducted researches for identification of a pathogenic protozoan parasite of the Pacific oyster and development of the diagnosis methods to understand the life cycle of the parasite. After completion of PhD course, I was involved in a project of antimicrobial peptides of bivalve, a totally new research field for me, as a post-doc researcher in Louisiana State University. Then, I also conducted a different aspect of bivalve immunology, pathogen recognition molecules, in Tohoku University



Recently, I moved back to the laboratory where I spent my PhD duration, and, in order to develop immunological studies of bivalves, now I am enjoying studies for host-parasite interactions and physiology of parasites in bivalves. I had little interest in these topics when I was a student, and I think my scientific views were changed and expanded by the past experiences in LSU and Tohoku Univ.

I clearly remember that I was very reluctant to change my research field when I got PhD, (maybe) because I had very limited scientific views and I was afraid of jumping into totally unknown environment. But now I can say that those past experiences were necessary to for my research career and would be the treasure as a scientist even in future. Hence, I strongly recommend younger researchers not to be afraid of new things and expand scientific views for careers.