

●Dr. Kunihiro Hattori

Date of Birth: February 25, 1960 (Age 66)

Place of Birth: Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture

Education

March 1978: Graduated from Himeji Nishi High School, Hyogo Prefecture

March 1984: Completed Master's Program, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University

September 1996: Received Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University

**Career**

April 1984: Joined Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

April 2004-September 2011: Head of Genome and Antibody Research Department, Research Division

October 2011-March 2016: Head of Discovery Research Department, Research Division

April 2016-March 2019: Fellow, Research Division

April 2017-March 2024: Visiting Professor, Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC), Osaka University

April 2019-March 2024: Associate Vice President and Senior Fellow, Research Division

January 2026-current: Mentor, Japan International Drug Discovery Ecosystem Association

Key Achievements

After joining Chugai, Dr. Hattori engaged in drug discovery research on granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) and erythropoietin. He subsequently established the foundation of Chugai's biopharmaceutical research through the creation of recycling antibody technology that prolongs antibody activity and the development of bispecific antibody research for hemophilia A. His ideas and leadership became the driving force behind Chugai's technology-driven drug discovery approach and the origin of the Chugai R&D Principles.

Research Motivation and Reflections on the Award

“My aspiration during junior high school to become someone who could contribute to society, together with my university research on platelets, laid the foundation for my work in blood coagulation research. The research leading to emicizumab began with the idea of using an antibody to perform the bridging function of Factor VIII, rather than simply replacing the missing factor itself.

I am deeply honored that our collective efforts, together with many researchers and clinicians working for the benefit of society and patients, have been recognized through this award.

At the same time, there are still people around the world who require treatment but have not yet fully benefited from advances in care. I believe our continuing mission is to ensure that this treatment reaches patients everywhere.”

●Dr. Takehisa Kitazawa

Date of Birth: October 12, 1968 (Age 57)

Place of Birth: Akiruno City, Tokyo

Education

March 1987: Graduated from Ibaraki High School, Osaka Prefecture

March 1993: Graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Tokyo; Licensed Veterinarian

March 2021: Received Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Science and Technology, University of Tsukuba

**Career**

April 1993: Joined Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

April 2017- December 2018: Head of Biologics Research Department

January 2019- June 2023: Head of Pharmacology Research Department

July 2023- June 2026: Head of Pharmacology Research Department II

January 2026: Deputy Head of Research Division

April 2026-current: Associate Vice President and Deputy Head of Research Division

Key Achievements

Dr. Kitazawa contributed to the creation of emicizumab, a treatment for hemophilia A based on his expertise in drug discovery research, particularly in the field of blood coagulation. He has also worked across a wide range of research areas, including rare hematologic diseases (crovalimab), cancer immunology, and muscle disorders. Today, he serves as one of the leaders of Chugai's Research Division, driving the realization of next-generation innovative drugs.

Research Motivation and Reflections on the Award

“As a high school student, I became fascinated by biotechnology, which was emerging as a transformative technology for the future through a newspaper series I used to read. Since then, I have been driven both by the excitement of uncovering the unknown and by a desire to deliver innovative treatments to patients.

It has been a privilege to contribute to the creation of emicizumab through collaboration with numerous healthcare professionals and fellow researchers. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people with hemophilia A and their families who participated in the clinical studies. I hope this recognition will inspire further innovation, and I remain committed to advancing the next generation of scientific breakthroughs.”

●**Dr. Tomoyuki Igawa**

Date of Birth: September 27, 1976 (Age 49)

Place of Birth: Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture

Education

March 1995: Graduated from Toin Gakuen high school

March 2001: Completed Master's Program in Chemical System Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

March 2011: Received Ph.D. in Chemical System Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo



Career

April 2001: Joined Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

January 2016- March 2017: Head of Biologics Research Department

April 2017- December 2020: CEO and Research Head, Chugai Pharmabody Research Pte. Ltd., Singapore

January 2021- December 2023: Head of Translational Research Division

January 2024: Head of Research Division

April 2024-current: Executive Officer and Head of Research Division

Key Achievements

Dr. Igawa invented several of Chugai's proprietary antibody technologies, including the bispecific antibody technology applied to emicizumab, as well as recycling antibodies, sweeping antibodies, and switch antibodies, thereby establishing the concept of technology-driven drug discovery. He contributed to the creation of emicizumab, satralizumab, crovalimab, and nemolizumab, and later helped establish Chugai Pharmabody Research. As CEO and Research Head of Chugai Pharmabody Research, he built antibody technology and macrocyclic peptide drug discovery capabilities in Singapore. Today, he leads Chugai's drug discovery research as Head of the Research Division, striving to create and develop innovative drugs that benefit patients worldwide.

Research Motivation and Reflections on the Award

"As a child, I was fascinated by LEGO bricks and loved creating things beyond what was described in the instruction manuals through my own imagination and creativity.

The desire to create something that does not yet exist with my own hands has remained the driving force behind my research throughout my career. The hope of reducing the burden on patients and their families, while helping them live fuller and more independent lives, has enabled us to overcome many scientific challenges.

I am truly honored that the three of us have received such a prestigious award together. We will continue to pursue innovative medicines that make a meaningful difference in people's lives through scientific excellence and creative thinking."