National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology(AIST)

電子顕微鏡学(佐藤 主税)

Electron microscopy (SATO Chikara)



SATO Chikara, Ph.D.
Visiting Professor / Visiting Professor
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST),
School of Integrative and Global Majors (SIGMA),
University of Tsukuba
Biological Science, Aoyama Gakuin University



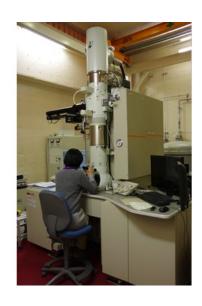
E-mail address: ti-sato@aist.go.jp URL: https://www.chikarasato.com/

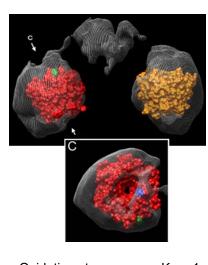
構造生理学による生物のシグナリング研究

生体機能を理解する上で、顕微鏡は極めて強力なツールです。特に電子顕微鏡は、最近の革新的な装置開発によって、タンパク質の3次元原子構造の決定や、細胞・組織の高分解観察のツールとして大きく飛躍しています。我々は、この進展著しい親水環境での電顕観察法、すなわちクライオ電顕や水中観察電顕を駆使し、生化学と生物物理と無機化学的な手法を組み合わせて研究を進めています。脳神経・細菌ウィルス・骨内でのシグナリングなどがテーマで、その解明のために、氷の中で様々に向いたタンパク粒子を撮影し3次元構造を計算する単粒子構造解析を行ってます。また、大きなレベルでの解析は、水環境で細胞・組織の微細構造をそのまま観察できる大気圧電子顕微鏡(ASEM)と光学顕微鏡で撮影した細胞内複構造を AI・情報学と組み合わせ解析しています。

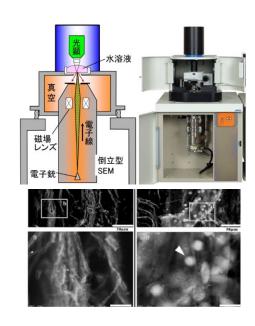
Structual physiology of bio-signaling

We investigate the structures of protein complexes, cells and tissues using a combination of cryo-Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) and our original Atmospheric Scanning Electron Microscopy (ASEM). By combining large numbers of cryo-TEM images using single particle analysis (SPA) technique, we determine high-resolution 3D structures of various proteins, especially membrane protein complexes using our newly-developed image analysis algorithms including artificial intelligence (AI). We have determined the 3D structures of signaling complexes, including ion channels, receptors, and oxidative stress sensors (Left figure). We have also developed a new electron microscope, ASEM, for larger scale observation of samples in liquid. It is applied to study signaling in various biological phenomena, including brain/neuronal differentiation, anti-microbe biofilm/virus immunity, bone response to mechanical stress, embryogenesis, carcinogenesis and metastasis (Right figure).









Cancer metastasized spinal cord (right)