Life Science Center for Survival Dynamics, Tsukuba Advanced Research Alliance (TARA)/Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences

メチル化生物学(深水 昭吉) Methylation Biology (FUKAMIZU Akiyoshi)



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生物寿命の謎に迫る~メチル化反応の発見~

生物の「寿命(longevity)」とは何でしょう? 生きる期間は何が決めているのでしょうか? 私たちは寿命を決める遺伝子発現の仕組みを研究し、メチル化(メチル基 $[-CH_3]$ を転移させる反応)が鍵を握っていることを突き止めてきました。その反応はタンパク質をメチル化するだけでなく、DNAやRNAも標的として寿命調節に関わります。多細胞生物の寿命を理解するため、マウスや線虫の遺伝学・生化学・化学の手法を駆使し、網羅的に遺伝情報を解析しながら標的を絞り込み、分子の実体に迫ります。私たちは寿命の研究を通して、生物がどのくらい長く生きるかだけでなく、どのように生存していくのかを知り、人間の健康や生活の質の向上にフィードバックできるよう取り組んでいます。

Unlocking the mystery of biological longevity through methylation

What is longevity? What factors do determine how long we live? We have discovered that methylation (the biological reaction to transfer the methyl group [-CH₃]) has the key to determine the longevity by investigating the regulation of gene expression. The reaction is deeply involved not only in protein methylation, but also in that of DNA and RNA. To understand the longevity of multicellular organisms, we are approaching the molecular entity of the longevity by applying the techniques of genetics, biochemistry, and metabolomics of mouse and *C. elegans*. Through advances of the longevity research, our laboratory is working on with the aim of knowing how long organisms can live and survive, and feeding back to the increase in the quality of health and life.

