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

構造生物化学(岩崎 憲治) Structural Biology and Chemistry (IWASAKI Kenji)



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多角的なアプローチによる構造生物化学

電子顕微鏡単粒子解析を中心に構造生物化学研究を行っています。電子顕微鏡単粒子解析の特徴は、巨大な分子でも解析可能なこと、結晶化を必要としないこと、大きなコンフォメーション変化や構造多型を捉えられることです。特にクライオ電子顕微鏡を用いた単粒子解析は、原子分解能まで解析できるようになりました。ターゲットは、がんの一つ軟部肉腫を引き起こす分子です。その解析のためには、電子顕微鏡単粒子解析だけでなく、生化学を基盤として様々な手法を組み合わせて研究を行います。

Structural biology and chemistry by a multifaced approach

We have been studying structure and chemistry of biological molecules mainly using single-particle electron microscopy (EM). The biggest advantages of single-particle EM are as follows. (1) Crystallization is not necessary (2) Large macromolecular complexes can be analyzed (3) A certain amount of sample heterogeneity can be dealt with. Especially single-particle electron cryo-microscopy (cryo-EM) has become a new tool to solve 3D molecular structures at near-atomic resolution. We are planning to study one of fusion gene products that has been thought to cause soft tissue sarcomas using various biochemical methods as well as single-particle EM method.

