

Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion Innovation Center of NanoMedicine received  
“Japan Open Innovation Prize Selection Committee Special Award”!

Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion  
Chairperson, Atsushi Miura

This time, the project of the Innovation Center of NanoMedicine (iCONM) operated by the Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion, "In-Body Hospitals will change the future-Aiming for innovation from a sick care society to smart life care society-" received the 3rd Japan Open Innovation Prize Selection Committee Special Award from the Cabinet Office.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved and so many people who supported us.

To Dr. Hiromichi Kimura, COINS Project Leader, Dr. Kazunori Kataoka, COINS Research Leader and iCONM Director General, Dr. Takanori Ichiki, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo, all the scientists, and all of the participating institutions, I would like to pay my deepest respects for their long-standing and continuing efforts toward research and social implementation.

Secondly, I would like to thank Kawasaki City centered on the Kawasaki City Coastal Area International Strategy Headquarters. They have been committed, for many years, to developing the King SkyFront. It is an advanced life science research area where the Innovation Center of NanoMedicine is located. Moreover, I would like to thank numerous public officials at national, prefectures, and related local government offices for their on-going support.

Furthermore, I am very grateful for the support of companies, research institutions, academia, and local citizens from this area.

By 2045, we are aiming for realizing a society where people become healthy by being freed from diseases that have a heavy social burden, by creating “In-Body Hospitals”; a virus-sized smart nanomachine and autonomously patrol the body and perform treatment and diagnosis 24 hours a day.

iCONM plays a central role with a total number of 25 institutions (6 universities, 12 companies, 5 research institutes, 2 local governments: as of December 2020) participating. With the backing of Kawasaki City, we have built, under-one-roof, a research system facilitating industry, government and academia collaboration. We have achieved many results; academic research papers, patent applications, license acquisition, as well as the creation of venture companies. It is a reflection of these material efforts that we been highly evaluated and recognized by this award.

Currently, the research on intractable cancer, dementia, osteoarthritis, etc., which are major issues in the super-aging society is underway, as well as developing diagnostic devices. Furthermore, in readiness for the potential invasion of new viruses in the future, we are conducting research toward the development of vaccines that can be efficiently produced, in a short period of time, in cooperation with the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science.

Encouraged by this award, we will continue to strive to realize a smart life care society with the aim of becoming the most innovative base in the world that local citizens can be proud of, and we ask for your continued support.