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TAMOTSU YOSHIMORI

Dr. Tamotsu Yoshimori received his PhD degree in 1989 at Osaka University. After working at several places including European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Prof Kai Simons lab) and National Institute of Basic Biology (Prof Yoshinori Ohsumi lab), he is now a distinguished professor of Osaka University (Graduate School of Medicine and of Frontier Biosciences) and a director of Research Center for Autophagy, Osaka University. His research interests are focused on intracellular membrane trafficking, and especially for the last 21 years, autophagy. He started his study on mammalian autophagy in the lab of Prof Yoshinori Ohsumi, a pioneer in the field who received Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2016. Yoshimori identified LC3 as an autophagosome-binding protein, which has been widely used as the gold standard in autophagy assays. The paper has been cited over 4,000 times. He also provided new insights into membrane biogenesis in autophagy and the role of autophagy in pathogen defense and suppression of various diseases. He authored or coauthored over 220 journal articles and book chapters. He is an editor of Journal Cell Science, and on the editorial board of Journal of Cell Biology, Molecular Biology of the Cell, and so on. He is now a president of Japan Society for Cell Biology. He was awarded Osaka University Presidential Award for 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Prize for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for 2013, Kakiuchi Saburo Memorial Prize by the Japanese Biochemical Society for 2014, Uehara Prize for 2016 by the Uehara Memorial Foundation, and selected as Highly Cited Researchers 2014 and 2015 by Thomson Reuters.