

Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT)
Advanced Insect Research Promotion Center (AIRPC)
Joint Research Program Application Guidelines (Fiscal 2020)

AIRPC is now seeking partners for joint research projects in health science which utilize advanced insect science.

1. Outline

Japanese aged 65 and over now comprise 26.7 % of the population and their number is rising at an unprecedented speed that we had never experienced before. As members of such a super-aged society, we have to cope with the various elderly population issues. Among them, extending the healthy life expectancy (HLE) and then reducing the difference from the average life expectancy are urgent. At the same time, seeking solutions for patients with rare undiagnosed diseases is also highly demanded in today's society because "rare" is not synonymous with "not many affected" anymore. Indeed, there are 5,000 to 8,000 rare diseases and more than 400 million people are affected by such a disease. Furthermore, amid the growing impact of human activity, we are facing the globally growing environmental and food issues. All these issues should be solved right away.

At AIRPC, we are developing *Drosophila* and other disease models for the study of genetic and epigenetic factors of disease development and then to search for prognostic and preventive methods as well as therapeutic strategies for alleviating various human diseases; we also grow food and non-food crops and study ecosystems with the aim of developing sustainable and environmentally friendly food systems. In sum, we are challenging ourselves to build a sustainable society in the three areas of healthcare, food, and environment.

We are specifically looking for joint health science research promotion projects that utilize advanced insect science to upgrade current model insects, to elucidate life phenomenon, and to utilize insects in practical ways.

2. Capacity

We will accept approximately 10 projects.

3. Joint Research Program Proposal Requirements

All project proposals should relate to health science research promotion that utilizes advanced insect science and involves AIRPC researchers.

4. Applicant Eligibility

Applicants (project leaders) should be researchers at a university or a national, public, or *Dokuritsu Gyosei Hojin* (Administrative Agencies' Institution) research institution. Researchers at KIT are not eligible. Applicants may be from a private enterprise or institution if the non-AIRPC researcher is approved by the president of KIT. Both domestic and foreign institutions are eligible.

Any joint research with private enterprise must practice open innovation.

5. Application Period

Applications will be accepted from December 2, 2019 to January 10, 2020.

No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

6. Application Procedure

Applicants should consult with a responsible AIRPC member about their proposed project

and obtain approval from the head of their institution (Form 2) before submitting a joint project application.

Note: See attachment “Staff and Instrument List” for information concerning research divisions and staff.

After completing your Word file application form (Form 1), attach it to an e-mail with the subject line, “Application for 2020 Joint research,” and send it to Joint Research Strategies, Research Promotion, KIT (e-mail address: ken-senryaku @jim.kit.ac.jp).

We will send you a confirmation E-mail as within 3 days except holidays after receiving your application form. If you do not receive an E-mail, please contact us through AIRPC members.

7. Project Funding and Research Period

- (1) The standard research period is from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
- (2) AIRPC will provide travel and lodging expenses according to KIT regulations. Consumable supplies will also be provided. The total of these joint research project expenses must not exceed 300,000 yen.

8. Instruments and Equipment Available for Joint Research Activities

Refer to the attachment “Staff and Instrument List.”

9. Selection Results

The AIRPC Promotion Committee will review all applications and allocate funding to selected applications. The director of AIRPC will give final approval. All applicants will be notified of final selection decisions by Mid- February, 2020. Persons whose applications have been selected will be required to submit a “Consent for Participation in Joint Research” (Form 2) immediately upon acceptance.

10. Report of Joint Research Project Findings

After the Joint Research Project is completed, participants are required to promptly submit a report (Form 3) on their findings (approximately 1,000 words). They are also required to make their findings public in journals and/or presentations at scientific or public meetings.

11. Attention

- (1) In principle, joint research projects utilize KIT research facilities.
- (2) Research requiring certain safety precaution procedures, such as those involving recombinant DNA experiments or experiments on animals or both, may require special education and training or committee approval or both.
- (3) When publishing project results in an academic paper, the researcher must clearly state in that paper that his/her research activity was carried out in collaboration with AIRPC and a copy of the paper must be sent to us in PDF format.

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In addition, rights to and interests in any patents resulting from AIRPC joint research, **must be discussed by the parties concerned.**

12. Contact

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