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上智大学 理工学部 物質生命理工学科 主催
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Secret ingredients of immune-boosting herbal remedies

Prof. Akira Kawamura

Hunter College of CUNY, Associate Professor of Chemistry

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Immune-boosting herbal remedies have been used throughout the world to treat infectious diseases. Although medicinal plants used for this purpose are different from place to place, many of them stimulate the immune system through a common mechanism. Mechanistic studies on Echinacea (Europe, North America), Withania somnifera (India), and Juzen-taiho-to (Japan) indicate that they stimulate the innate immune system, including antigen-presenting cells, which in turn activate the adaptive immunity. However, the active immunostimulatory factor in these remedies had long been a mystery. In this presentation, I present studies by us and others that led to the discovery of key immunostimulatory factor in these herbal remedies. To our surprise, the factor is not of plant origin; instead, it is derived from plant-associated microorganisms. This finding fundamentally changes the way we understand these herbal remedies. Furthermore, the finding opens a new opportunity to facilitate the development of immunotherapeutic agents, such as vaccine adjuvants.

学外の方の聴講歓迎・申込不要・参加無料

問い合わせ：臼杵豊展 t-usuki@sophia.ac.jp