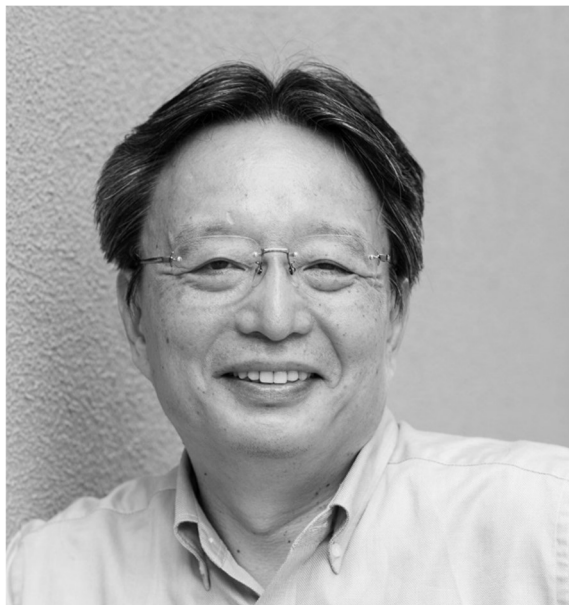


Professor

MICHIO MURATA



“for his successful research and his good cooperation with the researchers at the Laboratory of Lipid and Membrane Biochemistry of Åbo Akademi University”

Murata, Michio, Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Osaka University.

Born on October 5, 1958 in Osaka, Japan.

Dr. Murata received his PhD from Tohoku University in 1986. He served on the faculty of Food Science Department, Tohoku University from 1985 to 1993, the faculty of Chemistry Department, the University of Tokyo from 1993–1999, before assuming his current position.

Dr. Murata has conducted chemistry-based research on the chemical structure of organic compounds (primary and secondary metabolites) bearing interesting biological functions. At the early state of his career, he worked on the structure determination of trace amounts of natural organic compounds. For example, the structure determination of ascidian sperm active material was achieved with a sample volume of several nanomoles. Historically, the biggest challenge in structural studies of bioactive natural products has been the collection of producing organisms. Reducing the sample amount required for structural analysis has not only expanded the range of natural products that human wisdom can reach, but is also a remarkable achievement in terms of the protection of natural resources and rare organisms. After moving to Osaka, Dr. Murata has extended his research target to lipid molecules consisting membrane. In close collaboration with Prof. J. Peter Slotte, Åbo academia University, he made prominent contribution in elucidating the mechanism of lipid-raft formation, which is the platform of signal transduction across cell membranes.

His research has provided an opportunity for new developments in bioorganic chemistry by expanding the scope of compounds whose structures can be determined and by extending the concept of structural analysis to molecular assemblies. These research results have had an impact on a wide range of natural products chemistry, chemical biology and biophysics fields. Over 250 scientific papers have been cited more than 16,000 times, which is a prominent achievement in the field.

Dr. Murata has received multiple research awards and honors, including: The Royal Society of Chemistry, Fellow, 2014; The CSJ Award for Creative Work from the Chemical Society of Japan in 2006; Young Scientist Award from Japan Society for Bioscience and Biotechnology and Agrochemistry in 1991.

Dr. Murata lives in Mino, Osaka. He is married to Yoshiko Murata.