

International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS)

# IRCMS SEMINAR

**DATE AND TIME** June 11 (Thu), 2015  
16:00-17:00

**PLACE** 1F Conference Room  
Institute of Molecular Embryology and Genetics (IMEG)  
Kumamoto University

## PROGRAM

**16:00-16:05** - *Opening*  
**Toshio SUDA, Director, IRCMS**

**16:05-17:00**

**“Using the avian model for understanding human diseases”**

**Guojun Sheng, Ph.D.**

**Senior Investigator**

**Lab for Early Embryogenesis**

**RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology**

**Abstract:** As sister amniote groups, mammals and birds share many unique features in their development. One of these features is how the mesoderm germ layer is formed. We use the avian model to study two amniote-specific processes during mesoderm formation: the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) process when an epithelial-shaped mesoderm precursor becomes a mesenchymal-shaped mesoderm cell, and the lineage segregation process of extraembryonic-fated mesoderm cells. I will present data from our molecular and cellular analyses of these two processes in the chick. I will also discuss their relevance to our understanding of mesoderm development in humans and of human diseases caused by mis-regulation of EMT and mesoderm lineage specification.

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