

The 82nd iCeMS SEMINAR

CeMI Seminar Series 24

Mon 20 June 2011
10:00-11:00

Scientists Watching Action Movies: Real-Time Single Molecule Fluorescence Imaging of Natural and Engineered Nucleic Acid Nanomachines

Lecturer: **Prof. Nils G. Walter, Ph.D.**

Department of Chemistry
Single Molecule Analysis Group
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Venue: Roof Terrace, 5th Floor of the East Bldg.
Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, Kyoto University

Nature and Nanotechnology likewise employ nanoscale machines that self-assemble into structures of complex architecture and functionality. Fluorescence microscopy offers a non-invasive tool to probe and ultimately dissect and control these nano-assemblies in real-time. In particular, single molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) allows one to measure distances at the 2-8 nm scale, whereas complementary super-resolution localization techniques based on Gaussian fitting of imaged point spread functions (PSFs) easily measure distances in the 10 nm and longer range. Prof. Walter will describe how he and his colleagues have used smFRET to dissect the complex conformational dynamics of a pre-mRNA as it is processed by the cellular spliceosome machinery on the way towards becoming a messenger RNA (mRNA) ready for gene expression; and how they have utilized super-resolution fluorescence microscopy to monitor the walk of molecular spider nanorobots on tracks defined by programmable DNA scaffolds called origami.

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Hosted by: iCeMS (Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences), Kyoto University
Co-hosted by: Center for Frontier Medicine, Global COE Program, Kyoto University

