

We interviewed Mr. Koga, the new Director of JSR Bioscience and informatics R&D center (JSR BiRD).



The newly appointed Center Director, Mr. Hirohisa KOGA

JSR Bioscience and informatics R&D center (JSR BiRD) opened at King SkyFront Kawasaki City in July 2021. JSR BiRD is working to create value for the future as the R&D center playing a key role from life science research and open innovation of JSR group. We interviewed the new Director Mr. Koga who was appointed in this April, about the operations and objectives of JSR BiRD and his visions for the future.

About JSR BiRD

JSR has three main businesses: Digital Solutions, Life Sciences, and Plastics. JSR BiRD was established with the goal of promoting new businesses and research. We are conducting research related to medicine and healthcare in the microbiome field, which is related to our "life sciences" business, as well as developing substances that can be used in DDS (drug delivery systems). The center currently has 60-70 employees, including full-time and part-time staff.

Activities at King SkyFront

JSR BiRD promotes open innovation. In fact, while conducting joint research with several companies, these companies have moved into our center and use the lab together. We utilize and provide our center as a place where people can interact closely and ask questions when they are not sure of something. Also, it is possible for tenant companies to use this center to organize and participate in events. I believe that this initiative to attract start-ups to move into the same building on the premise of joint research is one of the most cutting-edge efforts of its kind in the world.

About Mr. Koga, Director

I joined JSR from another company. Previously, I began my career as a researcher, then progressed into strategic planning and business development roles. With this experience, I am now in charge of promoting the social implementation and commercialization of research at JSR BiRD.

Future ambitions

JSR has a corporate mission of "MATERIALS INNOVATION," and we want to contribute to society through manufacturing and services. At JSR BiRD, I believe that our most important mission is to "transform technology into value that will be recognized by the world," and I would like to work toward that goal.



The exterior of JSR BiRD

New company logo.

Knowledge Palette Inc. is a life science and healthcare startup company that continues to grow through R&D and collaboration. The core competence is large-scale transcriptome analysis technology that provides the world's most accurate and rapid profiling of big cellular data, and cell control technology that uses that information. We would like to introduce our new logo that visually expresses our thoughts behind the corporate identity "KP WAY". The arrows in the logo represent the initials "K" and "P" of Knowledge Palette, as well as the control of cells by human hands, the creation of innovative technologies, and their continued expansion. The colors also have meaning. The blue of the sea and sky expresses the depth of the member's thoughts, and the navy blue is their thoughts that get deeper, while the green conveys the earth and nature. Finally, by using a color that is close to the blue of the previous logo for the central circle (seed), it communicates the company's continuity since its founding and that it will continue to grow without straying from its core.



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Hot Topics

Visit of Dr. Masahito MORIYAMA, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to King SkyFront

Dr. Masahito MORIYAMA, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology visited King SkyFront. Innovation of NanoMedicine, one of the sites visited is the open innovation facility where human resources, intellectual properties and outcome of diverse companies and universities accumulate. He was briefed on active research activities and vigorous incubation business which support social implementation of research result. He also interacted with iCONM researchers and group photo was taken in the end of the event with flags of countries of each researcher. After lab tour and interaction with researchers, Dr. MORIYAMA said that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology anticipated and would like to support the future development which will broaden the base of Japan's research infrastructure and raise its peak to the higher level, so that it will result in cutting-edge research and technology which could be achieved only in Japan.

(photo by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

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" The social gathering of King SkyFront Network Council" for building face to face relationships

On May 21st, the King SkyFront Network Council held its 2024 Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting had a lively discussion on the business report for fiscal year 2023 and the outlook business plan for fiscal year 2024 with a new organization presented to fulfil the overall goals of King SkyFront. After the Annual General Meeting, the customary social gathering of King SkyFront Network Council" for enhancing face to face relationships was held. When the Annual General Meeting ended, people from the institutions located at King SkyFront gathered and a total number of more than one hundred people had a convivial networking opportunity over refreshments. The people who usually communicate online or email were able to make an even stronger bonding with this face to face gathering. The King SkyFront recognizes the critical importance of "Building face to face relationships" with such activities.

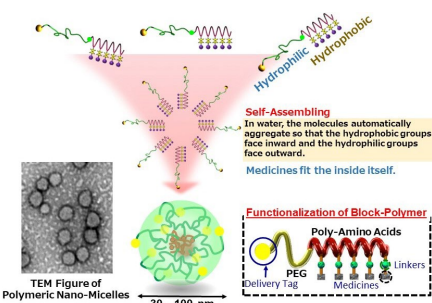
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Stealth Essential for Nanomedicines



Nanomedicine is a pharmaceutical therapy that improves efficacy and safety with smaller doses by loading less bioavailable drugs, such as those that are poorly absorbed from the site of administration, poorly integrated into the sick tissues, easily metabolized, easily broken, or easily excreted, onto a carrier such as a polymeric nano-micelle. However, the carrier itself must be stable in vivo. In the SF movie "Fantastic Voyage", medical doctors who have been minimized to the micron level perform a treatment from inside his body, but one of the doctors loses his life due to an immune attack. Polyethylene glycol (PEG), the outer shell (hydrophilic side) of the nanomachines created by iCONM, is a typical example of a stealthy material that the immune system does not recognize as foreign and maintains stability in vivo. Nanomedicine needs something skilled in the art of stealth. Other than PEG, poly(2-oxazolines) (POxs) are now attracting attention as stealthy polymers that can be chemically modified at various sites with less restriction on synthetic conditions. Recently, a simple and rapid synthesis of a highly diverse library of POxs was reported by Dr. Joachim Van Guyse (Assistant Professor, Leiden University, Netherlands) and his colleagues. This work was done during his postdoctoral fellowship at iCONM, and many iCONM researchers are listed as authors of the paper.



J. Van Guyse et al., Angewandte Chemie, e202404972

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