

—Foreword—

## Review Series: Animal Bioresource in Japan The Aim and the Scope

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From the April issue of 'Experimental Animals, 2009', a Review Series will be launched. The aim of this review series is to promote Life Sciences by introducing the current status and activities of core facilities of the National BioResource Project (NBRP) and other projects to researchers, in the field of laboratory animal science, not only in Japan but also in the world. NBRP is funded by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, and was started in 2001 (Project Promoting Committee Chairpersons: Dr. Kazuo Moriwaki of RIKEN BioResource Center until 2007, and Dr. Yuji Kohara of the National Institute of Genetics, Japan from 2007). There are at least 10 animal bioresources including the mouse, rat, monkey etc. in the project. In animal species selected for this review series, some resources such as the mouse and rat are commonly and widely used in the field of laboratory animal science. On the other hand, the silkworm, *Drosophila*, and other resources are not used so commonly in the field at present, although all of them have prominent potential to contribute to the advancement of Life Sciences as laboratory animals in the future. Reviews of the information on related database and technical platforms are also included in this review series.

For contributions to this review series, we ask contributors to include the following information: general information of the species as laboratory animals, specific characters and the usages of their representative strains, how to obtain the resources, and specific remarks. We do hope that our readers will enjoy articles in this review series and can find useful information which can be applied to their own research activities.