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Dr. Ro Osawa is a Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Bioresource Science, and the Director of Research Center for Food Safety and Security, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University. At same time, he is also holding a Professorship for Division of Bacteriology, Graduate School of Medicine/ School of Medicine at the Kobe University. He has had an extensive career in Bacteriology, studying on a wide range of bacteria from pathogenic ones (e.g. *E. coli* O157, *Vibrio cholerae*, *V. parahaemolyticus*, *Streptococcus suis*, *S. gallolyticus*) to probiotic ones (e.g. lactobacilli and bifidobacteria), a corresponding range of hosts from koala to human, and again a corresponding range of professional careers from a research director of a zoo to a chief investigator for a Japanese human health laboratory. Dr. Osawa obtained his veterinary degree (BV.M) from Hokkaido University, Japan and a Ph.D in the field of veterinary medicine from University of Queensland, Australia, and another Ph.D in the field of agricultural science from Tohoku University, Japan. His extensive career and research experience in the field of Bacteriology make him well qualified to discuss not only development of technologies to ensure “traceability” of pathogenic bacterial endangering safety of foods and agricultural products in the course of “from stable to table” but also development of safe and effective probiotics to promote health of both human and animals. To reflect his international scientific recognition in the areas of both pathogenic and probiotic bacteriology, he has been invited as an invited speakers for The 8th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Pacific Rim in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2003, The 13th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Pacific Rim in Kolkata, India, 2009, and the 9th international Mammalogical Congress in Sapporo, Japan, 2005. He is currently a Unit leader for Innovative BioProduction KOBE supported by Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology, MEXT, Japan, developing novel probiotics and synbiotics.

Selected papers published over past 5 years

- 1) Le, H. T. T., Nishibori, T., Nishitani, Y., Nomoto, R., and Osawa, R. (2013) Reappraisal of the taxonomy of *Streptococcus suis* serotypes 20, 22, 26, and 33 based on DNA-DNA homology and *sodA* and *recN* phylogeny. *Veterinary Microbiology*, 162 (2-4): 842-849
- 2) Hayashi, T., Ueda, S., Tsuruta, H., Kuwahara, H., and Osawa, R. (2012) Complexing of green tea catechins with food constituents and degradation of the complexes by *Lactobacillus plantarum*. *Bioscience of Microbiota, Food and Health*, 31(2):27-36
- 3) Le, H.T.T., Sugiyama, N., Duangsonk, K., Tharavichitkul, P., and Osawa, R. 2012) Phenotypic and PCR-based identification of bacterial strains isolated from patients with suspected *Streptococcus suis* infection in northern Thailand. *Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases* 65(2):171-174
- 4) Iguchi, A., Shirai, H., Seto, K., Ooka, T., Ogura, Y., Hayashi, T., Osawa, K., and Osawa, R. (2011). Wide distribution of O157-antigen biosynthesis gene clusters in *Escherichia coli*. *PLoS ONE* 6(9): e23250.
- 5) Teh, C. S., Thong, K. L., Osawa, R., and Chua, K. H. (2011) Comparative PCR-based fingerprinting of Malaysian *Vibrio cholerae*. *Journal of General and Applied Microbiology*, 57(1): 19-26.
- 6) Nishibori, T., Cores de Vries, G., Rahardjo, D., Bagus Wasito, E., Ismoedijanta, D., Kinoshita, S., Hayashi, Y., Hotta, H., Kawabata, M., Shirakawa, T., Iijima, Y., and Osawa, R. (2011) Phenotypic and genotypic characterization of *Vibrio cholerae* clinically isolated in Surabaya, Indonesia. *Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases* ,64(1): 7-12.
- 7) Iguchi, A., Umekawa, N., Maegawa, T., Tsuruta, H., Odamaki, T., Xiao, J-Z., and Osawa (2011) Polymorphism and distribution of putative cell-surface adhesin-encoding ORFs among human fecal isolates of *Bifidobacterium longum* subsp. *longum*. *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek Journal of Microbiology*, 99 (3): 457-471.
- 8) Kijima, A., Umekawa, N., Yoshida, M., and Osawa, R. (2010) Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis analysis and aerobic and microaerophilic survival of *Bifidobacterium longum* subsp. *longum* isolated from feces of human mother-infant pairs. *Journal of Intestinal Microbiology*, 24 (4): 293-302 (in Japanese).
- 9) Tokunaga, A., Yamaguchi, H., Morita, M., Arakawa, E., Izumiya, H., Watanabe, H., and Osawa, R. (2010) Novel PCR-based genotyping method, using genomic variability between repetitive sequences of toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 El Tor and O139. *Molecular and Cellular Probes*, 24(2): 99-103.
- 10) Yanagi, D., Cores de Vries, G., Rahardjo, D., Alimsardjono, L., Bagus Wasito, E., Ismoedijanta, D., Kinoshita, S., ; Hayashi, Y., Hotta, H., Osawa, R., Kawabata, M., and Shirakawa T. (2009) Emergence of fluoroquinolone-resistant strains of *Salmonella enterica* in Surabaya, Indonesia. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, 64 (4): 422-426.
- 11) Yasui, K., Tabata, M., Yamada, S., Abe, T., Ikemura, T., Osawa, R., and Suzuki, T. (2009) Intra-species diversity between seven *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* strains identified by genome-wide tiling array analysis. *Bioscience Biotechnology and Biochemistry*, 73 (6): 1422-1424.
- 12) Takisawa, R., Nishitani, Y., Mizuno, M., and Osawa, R. (2009) Anti-inflammatory effect of *Bifidobacterium longum* on macrophage-like cells via epithelial cell Caco-2. *Bioscience and Microflora*, 28(2): 45-48.
- 13) Tokunaga, A., Osawa, R., Iyoda, S., Terajima, J., and Watanabe, H. (2009) Development of multiplex PCR method for a primary screening of enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* O157 and O26 in food samples. *Japanese Journal of Food Microbiology*, 26 (1): 7-15.