



OIST Essentials

Administration

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GRUSS

I would like to share with you the news that our Chief Operating Officer, Keisuke Yoshio, intends to return to the mainland early next year and OIST is now seeking his successor. After five years working away from his home, Yoshio is looking forward to rejoining his family in Chiba Prefecture. His deep experience of government and the education sector, and his professional courtesy and consistent good humor, has been greatly appreciated by all who have worked with him. We will miss him, and I know that he will miss us. He has also told me he will miss the view from his apartment, where he has enjoyed an occasional Gin and Tonic while watching the Okinawan sun set over the East China Sea. I appreciate Yoshio's contribution to OIST since joining us in 2018, establishing dedicated senior management for administrative services to ensure research staff can remain focused on their science. This was commended by a senior delegation of scientific leaders and university administrators who undertook an external review of OIST late last year.



I am also pleased to announce that Keita Nagase has agreed to serve as Interim CIO/VPIT while the search for a new CIO continues. Keita will assume these additional responsibilities atop his existing duties as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). Please join me in supporting him during this transition period.

COVID-19 is having a sustained impact on our work and travel plans, both personal and professional. As we continually adjust in steadfast pursuit of research excellence, I am grateful to you all. The success of OIST is built upon your talent, creativity and resilience.



Peter Gruss
President and CEO

The President's Office



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Mon 31

The "PCR Hut" Is Now Open and There Are New Hours for Testing

Starting last Wednesday, September 16, PCR tests are now submitted to the sample drop box located in the parking lot across from the security booth. The sample submission period has also changed to 9-10am. Special thanks to Nobuo Uechi and Hiromitsu Kaneku of the Facility Management Section who built the hut; Kieran Deasy and Makoto Kuroda of the Engineering Support Section who updated the design of the drop box; and Toshinori Tanaka, Nana Arakaki, Hiroyuki Tahara, and Mary Collins who have helped make PCR testing at OIST possible.

Groups Events Categories Are Changing on Oct 1

Groups Events will change on October 1st in order to accommodate more on-campus events and to simplify the event hierarchy in the calendar. Further changes will be made toward the end of 2020 to improve the OIST calendar and the events digest so all OISTers can more easily find out what's going on today, this week, or this month—all across campus or only in the event category of your choice.

[More News](#)

Essential Events



The Neanderthals in Us: How Neanderthal Genes Influence Us Today

Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30am

Zoom

Learn how genes from Neanderthals still influence us from one of the most outstanding leaders in the field of evolutionary genetics. Dr. Pääbo will discuss how



Managing Intercultural Introductions Part 1

Fri., Sept. 25, 11am

Zoom

What kind of questions should I be asking when I meet someone from another culture for the first time? How do I avoid making a bad first impression? Join us to



Mindfulness Practice Group

Fri., Sept. 25, 12:15pm

C210 & Zoom

Mindfulness is being fully engaged and present in each moment of our lives. Please join the Ganjuu Team for 20 minutes of guided mindfulness meditation practice.

Neanderthal gene variants influence fertility, pain sensitivity and severity of SARS-COV-2 infections in people today.

answer these questions in this two-part seminar. Participants will be expected to have an upper-intermediate level of English fluency.

[More Events](#)

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COVID-19 Guidance for Staff and Students

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