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HUMAN GENOME

The Human Genome: From Decoding To Application And Human Understanding, *by* Yoshiyuki Sakaki (text in Japanese). Paperback, 173 x 105 mm.
Iwanami Shoten Publishers, 2-5-5 Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 101-8002; Publication Date May 2001; 210 pages: ISBN 4-00-430728-7: Price, Yen 700

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Yoshiyuki Sakaki

Born in Aichi Prefecture in 1942,



Yoshiyuki Sakaki earned his Ph.D. in science from the University of Tokyo School of Science, Faculty of Science. He served at Kyushu University as a professor before returning to his alma mater as a professor of genomic science at the Institute of Medical Science. Sakaki is currently project director at the Genomic Sciences Center at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research. Major books by Sakaki include Human Genes - Goals of the Human Genome Project (Iwanami Shoten, Iwanami Library of Science Series) and Vector DNAs - Introduction to Genetic Engineering(Kodansha).

The human genome, the entire picture of human genetic data, has finally been decoded as the result of an international effort. This achievement promises enormous new possibilities in the field of molecular biology, which has already enjoyed a number of significant discoveries over the past 50 years. The decoded genetic data will change science and business in the 21st century and will become essential knowledge for everyone living in this age. How did researchers decode the genome? How far has research advanced to this point? A leading genomic researcher in Japan answers these questions, and carefully explains the procedures for analyzing protein structure and its functions, for developing new drugs through the use of genomic information, and advances in non-human genomic research.

The author focuses particularly on chromosome number 21, the complete decoding of which was directed by the Japanese team. This chromosome's major characteristics include: 28.5 million fully connected bases-the longest such arrangement identified to this point; a "genetic desert" with extremely few genes; and genes that cause Alzheimer's disease, acute myelocytic leukemia, and hereditary hearing problems.

The Contents of the book are as follows:

Chapter 1: Developments Prior to the Human Genome Project
Chapter 2: Hereditary Transmission, Genes and Genomes
Chapter 3: The Human Genome Project and Its Launch
Chapter 4: Chromosome Number 21 and Its Complete Decoding
Chapter 5: The Emerging Picture of Human Genomes
Chapter 6: Illness and Genomic Analysis
Chapter 7: Studies of Genetic Functions

Chapter 8: Problems Remaining in the Genomic Age

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