We would like to introduce one of the courses in HBP, International Discussion on Human Biology, in this Newsletter. The classes of International Discussion on Human Biology are conducted by the University of Tsukuba and other universities within and outside Japan using teleconferencing systems. For every class, the participating universities take turns and prepare tasks/activities consisting of academic staff’s lectures, students’ group journal presentations, and discussions. They are all done in English, of course. During this academic year, we are connected to National Taiwan University and Kyoto University, and learn Molecular Biology (1st Trimester) and Cancer Biology (2nd and 3rd Trimesters) together.

Before presentations, we always try to prepare ourselves thoroughly so that all the participants in the other sites can understand well. Giving a presentation could make us tense but certainly provides us a good opportunity to get ready for future academic conferences. We are often inspired by presentations and active discussions brought by students in the other sites. We believe that the courses offered in HBP, such as this course, will give you the opportunity to feel the ‘globalization’ of learning environment.

Business Leaders’ Seminar is being held in HBP aiming to lead students to a wide range of career paths open for industry, government, and academia. On October 12, we invited Mr. Luis Carbonell, the CEO of MagArray Inc, to the seminar as a guest speaker. He delivered a lecture titled ‘How Internship Influence Your Future Career’ for us.

Mr. Carbonell told us what should be done during our internships based on his experiences as an intern and a company worker. I found the following points especially interesting. Is the job I want now really suitable for me? Do I really want to do it? What really makes me reluctant to do this particular job? I learned from his talk that it is important to consider these points before I go through my internship experience. It seems that western-style internships have not prevailed in Japan. I’m now keen to understand my values and seek workplaces where I can be offered internship programs.

MagArray Inc.

MagArray is a medical device company in San Francisco that has developed a revolutionary magnetic nanoparticle-based technology for the detection of proteins and other biomarkers.