

February 21, 2020

## **Cancellation of the symposium**

Dear all BDR Symposium and BDR-CuSTOM Joint Symposium participants,

Thank you for your registration to our upcoming symposia. We were very much looking forward to exciting talks and discussions at both the RIKEN BDR Symposium 2020 and the BDR-CuSTOM Joint Symposium. However, given the current situation with COVID-19 in Japan, we regret to inform you that both events will be cancelled.

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare issued a notice of measures to be taken when holding events with a large number of participants to prevent spread of the COVID-19. In response to this notice, RIKEN Headquarters has requested all personnel to consider cancelling or postponing events that have risks for spreading infection.

The BDR director and the symposium organizers are aware of the importance of holding these scientific events, but after much deliberation, to ensure the safety of all participants, especially for those traveling from overseas, we have regretfully decided to cancel both events.

With respect to the BDR-CuSTOM symposium, we are hoping to reschedule this symposium for the upcoming fall and would appreciate it if you could consider scheduling to join us then. We will post updated information on the meeting website shortly.

We are sincerely sorry for the inconveniences caused by this decision, but would appreciate your cooperation and understanding of the current circumstances.

If you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact the symposium secretariat.

Best regards,

Eisuke Nishida (BDR Director) and the Symposium organizers

Symposium Secretariat

bdr-sympo2020@ml.riken.jp