

Toshihide Yamashita is the Osaka University Distinguished Professor and the Head of Department of Molecular Neuroscience and Department of Neuro-Medical Science, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University. He graduated from Osaka University Medical School in 1990 and had a clinical training as a neurosurgeon. After obtaining the Ph.D., he became a researcher. His research has focused on restoration and regeneration of the injured or degenerated central nervous system (CNS). He received Ameritec Prize (USA) in 2005 for his significant contribution in the "demonstration that multiple myelin inhibitors of axonal regeneration mediate their actions by converging on a signaling pathway involving members of the p75 receptor family." The Prize was awarded in recognition of a specific, significant accomplishment in medical research toward functional recovery from spinal cord injury. His goal is to establish the therapeutic strategy to treat patients with CNS diseases, and he is moving toward this goal step by step. The Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS) Prize (2011), Osaka Science Prize (2012) and Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2014) were awarded to him for his discovery of molecular mechanisms regulating the regeneration and plasticity of injured CNS. He is now developing humanized antibody that targets one of the axon growth inhibitors in collaboration with Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, and is carrying out the clinical trial for spinal cord injury.