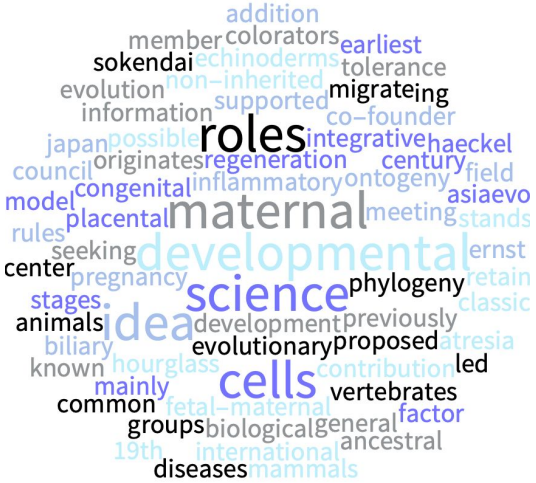
VIRTUAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Naoki Irie

Naoki is a Professor at the Research Center for Integrative Evolutionary Science, SOKENDAI, mainly working in the field of development and evolution. He is also a co-founder of AsiaEvo meeting, and a member of the Science Council of Japan. What are the general rules between ontogeny and phylogeny of animals? International research groups led by him supported that “the developmental hourglass model” stands for vertebrates and echinoderms, rather than the classic idea that the earliest developmental stages retain the most ancestral information (originates from the idea by Ernst Haeckel in the 19th century). He is also seeking for the biological roles of maternal cells which migrate during pregnancy in placental mammals. In addition to previously known roles, such as possible contribution to regeneration and fetal-maternal tolerance, Naoki and his collaborators proposed that maternal cells could be the common factor behind some of the non-inherited, congenital inflammatory diseases, such as biliary atresia.



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