

From 4 to 19 of October Prof. Rihito Watanabe is in Germany. He is a former Humboldt fellow (his host was Prof. ter Meulen) in the field of Experimental Medicine and does his research in the Department of Bioinformatics, Graduate School of Engineering of the Soka University in Tokyo, Japan.. We had a short meeting in the Alumni Office and asked him three questions.

Prof. Watanabe, please describe your research?

I work with the Coronavirus, which is spread around the world. The virus even has two strategies: One is to suppress the immune systems and one is to even use the immune reaction of the body to enter the brain (the virus is using the immune cells as bridge to the brain). How can a virus be so clever? Virus and human beings live together for millions of years in interaction. So the virus learned, for example the coronaviruses try not to kill the total human beings for their progeny.

In the end it is a try and error work and the Glyco science is a new field used in our research.

What do you like about Wuerzburg?

First of all that I can meet here my friends, some of them I already know for a very long time. Like Prof. ter Meulen. I also like the Frankenwein, especially Silvaner and also the dishes. My wife collected so many Franconian 'Rezepte' from our friends and their grandparents. I even produce my own Sauerkraut. My children always order 'Frankenessen' - Sauerbraten mit Sauerkraut for their birthday.

If you compare a city like Tokyo and Wuerzburg – what are main differences?

Anywhere in Tokyo there are so many people from early in the morning till the night. In Wuerzburg, even in the Stadtmitte, you do not see many people after 12 o'clock.