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## Vitae

### **Koichi Tanaka**

Born 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1959 in Toyama Prefecture, Japan.

Degree in Engineering from Tohoku University. Joined the Central Research Laboratory of Shimadzu Corporation in Kyoto in April 1983 as an R&D Engineer. His first role was to develop new ionisation methods for mass spectrometers. Koichi's seminal paper was presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan-China Joint Symposium on Mass Spectrometry (1) in 1987, and followed by full publication in 1988 (2). In these publications, Koichi described for the first time the detection high molecular weight ions of proteins by MALDI time-of-flight mass spectrometry.

Koichi was seconded to Kratos (Manchester, UK), a wholly owned subsidiary of Shimadzu for 12 months in 1992, to assist with the development of MALDI mass spectrometry as a commercial product.

After a period back in Japan developing new applications for MALDI MS, Koichi returned to Manchester for a second spell in April 1997, joining Shimadzu Research Laboratories which was set up for blue sky fundamental research. From this work, a new revolutionary version of the MALDI MS was developed, which used an innovative hybrid design employing a quadrupole ion trap (QIT) before time-of-flight (TOF) separation of the ions. Koichi then rejoined Kratos from December 1999 in order to progress production of the commercial instrument.

Koichi returned to Japan in May 2002 to continue refining his instrument developments for Shimadzu Corporation.

MALDI mass spectrometry is now established as a powerful tool in the post-genomics era, being applied to proteomics and SNPs analysis (population genomics) by academic and biotech companies alike.

- (1) Proceedings of the Second Japan-China Joint Symposium on Mass Spectrometry, Matsuda H., Liang, X-T., eds.; Bando Press, Osaka, pp185-188 (1987)  
(2) Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry **2**, 151 – 153 (1988), Koichi Tanaka, Hiroaki Waki, Yutaka Ido, Satoshi Akita, Yoshikazu Yoshida and Tamio Yoshida

MALDI MS – matrix assisted laser desorption ionisation mass spectrometry

QIT - quadrupole ion trap

TOF - time-of-flight

SNP – single nucleotide polymorphisms