

Dr. Higuchi received his Ph.D. in 1997 from Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, where he specialized in nuclear medicine and neuroimaging approaches to dementia. In 1999, he joined the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as a postdoctoral scholar, and conducted studies on neuropathology of dementias and transgenic models of neurodegenerative tauopathies. From 2003, he served as a staff scientist at Laboratory for Proteolytic Neuroscience, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, and was there engaged in biochemical, histochemical and neuroimaging studies on rodent models of Alzheimer's disease. He joined NIRS in 2005 and was then appointed as Team Leader for the Molecular Neurobiology Team. His research currently centers on in-vivo imaging of genetically engineered animals modeling neuropsychiatric conditions toward establishment of diagnostic and therapeutic means for these disorders on the basis of their molecular pathogenesis. The work by him and his colleagues on visualization of amyloid pathology in a transgenic model of Alzheimer's disease by high-resolution positron emission tomography was selected as the "Best Paper" for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Award (Alzheimer's Association International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease 2008).