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結核菌を電子顕微鏡による観察で可視化して、想定される現象がどこで起きているのか、どのような分子、構造が関与しているのか、菌体による違いはないかどうかを研究しています。

最近、同一の遺伝子構成を持つクローン抗酸菌細胞でも表現型に差が生じるというデータが報告されています。一卵性双生児でも指紋が異なることから考えると当然のことですが、それを裏付けるには形態学的観察が必須です。光学顕微鏡で形態的概要はわかりますが、より詳細な観察をするには電子顕微鏡観察が必要です。できるだけ生きた状態に近い標本を作製して電子顕微鏡を用いて高倍率で観察することで、これまでわかつていなかった現象を定性的、定量的に研究していきたいと考えています。

最新の論文では、生きた状態に近い形態を保持できる急速凍結・凍結置換法で調製した結核菌をエポキシ樹脂に包埋し、その超薄連続切片を透過型電子顕微鏡観察した詳細データを報告しました。

また、結核菌塗抹検査に携わる技師さんのトレーニング用に、培養細胞、ポリアクリルアミドと液体培養してフォルマリン固定した結核菌を使って人工痰を開発しました。この人工痰を使って陽性度を調節したパネルテストスライドを作製しています。

結核菌の電子顕微鏡写真の掲載をご希望のマスコミ、出版関係の方、人工痰、パネルテストスライドを使ってみたい方はご連絡下さい。（E-mail: hyamada@jata.or.jp）

原著論文等

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