

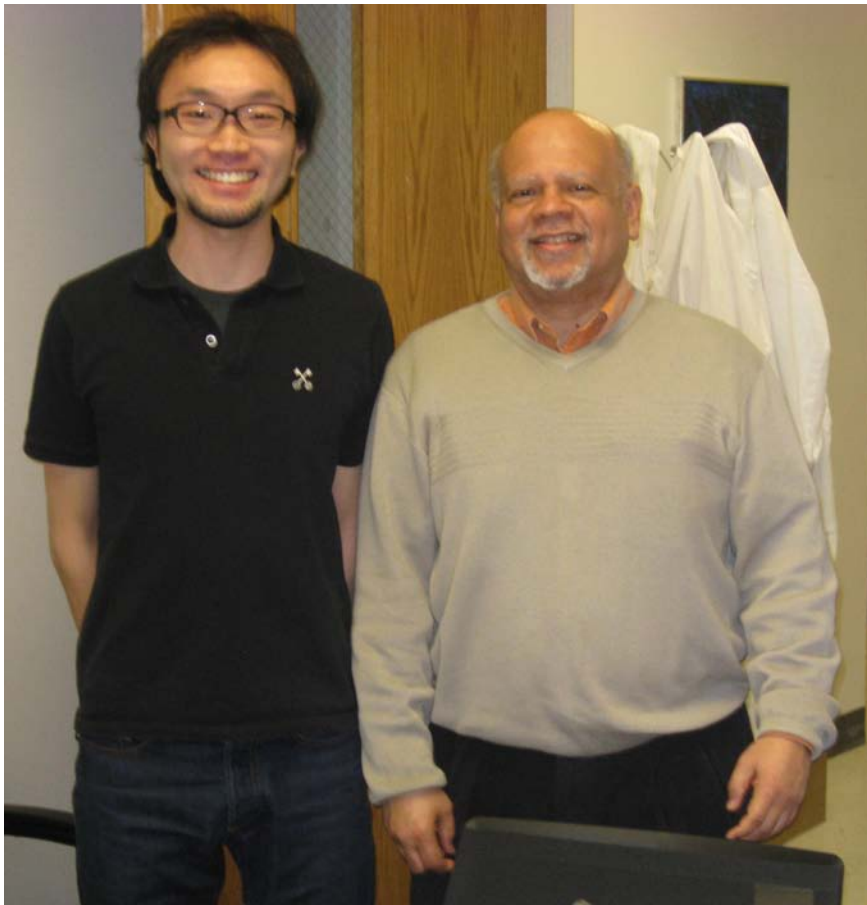
## University of Michigan

### My accomplishment & Ongoing study

Masanori Iwasaki

From Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 through Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, I was a visiting scholar at University of Michigan (UofM) to study about fundamental concept of epidemiology and the relationship between oral health and systemic health under George W. Taylor, DMD, MPH, DrPH. This is the second visit to UofM.

Dr. Taylor is Professor at the UofM in the School of Dentistry and the School of Public Health. He received his DMD degree from Harvard School of Dental Medicine and his MPH and DrPH from the UofM School of Public Health. His research focuses on the relationships between oral and systemic health, particularly periodontal infection and diabetes. His team's investigations use epidemiological and intervention study designs, as well as secondary data analysis of complex survey data, to investigate the bi-directional relationships between periodontal infection and glycemic control and complications of diabetes. His team also conducts health services research to study the relationship between dental care service utilization and medical care costs for insured individuals who have diabetes and other systemic diseases. His research is funded by the NIH/NIDCR, foundations, and industry. Dr. Taylor is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association.



At U of M, I've been learning about the relationship between systemic health and oral health. As you know, oral diseases and conditions, especially periodontal diseases, are associated with other health problems such as diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes, respiratory infections, osteoporosis, HIV infection, and so on.

I have studied mainly about the relationship between periodontal disease and kidney disease. Investigating whether periodontal disease is considered as risk factor for kidney disease is important to create new strategies to prevent the development or progression of kidney disease. I found that severe periodontal disease was significantly associated with greater cumulative incidence of decreased kidney function. Early detection of kidney disease may not only delay some of the complications but also prevent cardiovascular and all-cause mortality. My study results suggest that periodontal therapy may be considered to

be evaluated as a contributor to the prevention of kidney disease occurrence or progression.

I had wonderful experiences during this second visit. I hope the relationship between Niigata University and UofM will grow in the future. I am looking forward to continuing our work together with Dr. Taylor and his team.

