

## **Prof. Eric J. Hall's visit to Nagasaki**

Keiji Suzuki, Department of Molecular Medicine

This April, between 1st and 10th, we had a visitor from Columbia University, New York, USA. His name is Prof. Eric J. Hall, and he was invited to Nagasaki University by the distinguished scientists-inviting program, which is the part of Nagasaki Global COE program.

Prof. Eric J. Hall graduated from Oxford University in 1962 and obtained his Ph.D degree in the field of radiation biology. Soon after his graduation, Prof. Hall moved to USA and he was the first director of Center of Radiological Research, Columbia University. Since then he is working at Columbia University, and have done thousands of outstanding works in radiation biology as well as radiation oncology. His contribution to the field is not only by his research but also by his world-famous textbook entitled "Radiobiology for the Radiologists". The 6th edition was published recently, has been translated into several languages including Japanese, and is used for educating medical students in several countries. Thus, he has been honored by the doses of associations, universities, organizations, and the societies.

This time, we were fortunate enough to have a chance to invite Prof. Hall to Nagasaki University. During his visit, we had planned two lectures, one was on Monday, and the other was on Tuesday. Monday's lecture was held in Ryojun Hall, which is newly established in the medical school campus in celebration of its 150th anniversary of Nagasaki University School of Medicine. The title of his talk was "Some characteristics of Biological Damage induced by ionizing radiations", and it will be viewed on the web site of Nagasaki University GCOE. The lecture on Tuesday was particularly for the Ph.D. students who are interested in basic radiation life sciences. It was about the history of how radiation was discovered. Also, the history of medical radiation usage, which was started as a tool of diagnosis, was introduced. During and after the lecture, there were a couple of questions and discussions. All the attendees were very much appreciated his excellent talk and deeply influenced by his way of doing the science. Thus, needless to say, the purpose of this invitation of Prof. Hall was completely fulfilled with great success.



Photo : Prof. Hall is giving his lecture (April 8th, 2009)