

## Monthly report

January 2017

Motonari Hamanaka

Happy new year to all. I hope this year will be fruitful.

I felt uncomfortable at the beginning of this year because I have stayed abroad for the first time. How to spend at the beginning of the year is totally different between Japanese and British. As you know, we have *Oshogatsu* or *Sanganichi* at the beginning of the year in Japan and we spend relaxed time with our family. This is a unique tradition for Japanese and I love this custom. On the other hand, British people do not have such a culture and generally soon start working. My lab members were working even from the first day. Honestly, I did not want to do anything at the beginning of the year, but I went to the lab. British people place emphasis on the Christmas rather than Oshogatsu, so I really felt a huge gap between different cultures. Even though it has already passed about 4 months since I came here, I still cannot be used to cultural differences like this. You can find a number of good points of Japan which you cannot find in Japan, if you live abroad. However, I think I should have gone back to Japan in *Oshogatsu*.