Guest Editor

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Kenji Fukasawa

Kenji Fukasawa earned his BS at the University of Connecticut at Storrs and his PhD at Columbia University at City of New York. He did his postdoctoral work at Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center in Maryland with George Vande Woude. He then joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine where he is currently an associate professor of Cell Biology.

Dr Fukasawa is perhaps best known for his finding that loss of the p53 tumor suppressor protein leads to abnormal amplification of centrosomes and chromosome instability, which was published in the journal *Science* in 1996. He showed that fibroblasts derived from p53-null mice display multiple centrosomes due to uncontrolled duplication, and that the presence of multiple centrosomes affects mitotic fidelity, causing unequal segregation of chromosomes. Since p53 is frequently mutated in cancer cells, this finding has revived a proposition made by Theodor Boveri in 1914, in which the centrosome plays a critical role in carcinogenesis. Dr Fukasawa's finding has made the centrosome a topic of great interest in cancer research, and it has later been found that centrosome abnormality is indeed common in human cancers. He has subsequently published a series of papers on the molecular control of centrosome duplication in higher eukaryotic cells. More recently, he and his colleagues have published in the journal *Cell* a paper describing nucleophosmin, a molecular chaperoning protein with diverse functions, as one of the direct substrates of CDK2/cyclin E to initiate duplication of centrosomes.