



A researcher shows equipment for genome-editing research in a lab that opened Wednesday at Osaka University in Suita, Osaka Prefecture. | KYODO

Osaka University opens genome-editing research center

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OSAKA – Osaka University opened a research center for genome-editing technologies on Wednesday.

It is the first university in Japan to set up a permanent research facility for such technologies.

Genome editing involves technologies to insert and delete or replace DNA at a specific site in the genome of an organism or cell.

Genome-editing technologies alter genes with greater accuracy than existing genetic-modification technologies and are coming into wider use.

With 10 researchers, the Osaka University center will study efficient genome editing and analysis, and edit genes in rats and mice. It will also hold seminars for researchers from both Japan and abroad.

The center plans to cryopreserve genome-edited cells and fertile eggs of rats and mice, while setting up a bank of edited cells.

Yukio Kawahara, head of the center, said at an opening ceremony, “Genome editing is one of the few fields in which Japan can compete with other countries.

“We want to make the center a global hub for genome-editing technologies, keeping in mind the possibility of applying them to medical care,” he said.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/12/14/national/science-health/osaka-university-opens-genome-editing-research-center/>