Narcolepsy is characterized by chronic sleepiness and cataplexy, episodes of profound muscle weakness that are often triggered by strong, positive emotions. Using orexin knock-out mice as a model of narcolepsy, we examined the brain sites activated during cataplexy induced by chocolate, a highly palatable food. We then investigated whether reversible inhibition of one of the activated areas, the medial prefrontal cortex could prevent chocolate-induced cataplexy and examined the downstream circuits that may mediate this effect.

Speaker: **Dr. Yo Oishi**
International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine, University of Tsukuba

**Date:** Thursday, August 1, 2013  
**Time:** 12:00-13:00  
**Venue:** Room #402, 4F, Health and Medical Science Innovation Laboratory, University of Tsukuba  
**☆ Pizza and refreshments will be served.**