

Comments from Award Recipient

I'm so proud to receive the Young Researcher Paper Award from *Sensors and Materials*, an authoritative journal on sensors and materials. I would like to thank two researchers who contributed equally to this study, Prof. Hasebe (Tokai University Hachioji Hospital) and Mr. Maegawa (Keio University), and to express my gratitude to other collaboration researchers, Prof. Suzuki (Keio University), Prof. Hotta (Keio University), Dr. Matsumoto (Tokai University Hachioji Hospital), Dr. Mine (Tokai University Hachioji Hospital), Dr. Hayashi (Tokai University Hachioji Hospital), and Mr. Bito (Keio University).

Hydrogen-free amorphous carbon (H-free a-C), the main target of this study, is very attractive as a coating material because of its outstanding mechanical properties. Now, the material is starting to be applied to medical devices in addition to frictional parts. However, inability to prove its biocompatibility for clinical tests and its poor adhesion to existing materials, such as PTFE, make its use in medical applications difficult. I'm convinced that this study will accelerate the medical application of H-free a-C. On the basis of this study, we are working on the next study, involving clinical tests, as a pioneer group in coating medical devices with the material.

Yuya Yamato