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Professor Hirono received his Ph.D. from Kagoshima University in 1993. He was a postdoctoral fellow (Japanese Society for Promotion of Science) at Tokyo University of Fisheries in 1993-1994, and a research fellow at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University in 1998. He served as Assistant Professor at Tokyo University of Fisheries from 1994 - 2002 and as Associate Professor, Tokyo University of Fisheries and Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology from 2002-2009. He has been a Professor at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology since 2009.

He has served as co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Fish and Shellfish Immunology* and serves on the editorial boards of several international journals. He has more than 440 publications in various international journals. His main research area is the characterization of the shrimp immune system, the development of preventive methods against shrimp infectious diseases and the development of fish DNA vaccines. He has had many students from Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, India, South Korea, China and Colombia and has had many international research collaborations.