

Fifth Board of Councilors Meeting Held in U.S. Capital, Washington, D.C.

The fifth meeting of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) Board of Councilors (BOC) took place on June 18–19 (June 18–20, Japan time) at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by seven councilors, as well as RERF directors and auditors. Representatives of the U.S. and Japanese governments and NAS also attended as observers. Executive Councilor Hiroo Dohy served as the moderator. In their remarks at the beginning of the meeting, the government representatives stated that RERF's research findings serve as the basis for radiation protection standards worldwide as well as for atomic bomb survivors' relief policies in Japan, and have thus gained the trust of the international community. They also expressed their appreciation to atomic bomb survivors for their dedicated cooperation in the studies.

The meeting's major agenda items and discussions are summarized below: the FY2014 activities, settlement of accounts, and audit results were reported and approved as proposed. Regarding the FY2015 activity plans, as in the previous year, reports were made on research projects related to the health of A-bomb survivors and their children; research to review individual radiation doses and elucidate radiation's effects on risk estimates; projects to release research results to the public and to collaborate with other scientific organizations; training programs for Japanese and overseas specialists; public information programs; activities necessary to carry out these projects; and budget estimates for all activities. A description of FY2014 activities and FY2015 activity plans for the Epidemiological Study of Health Effects in Fukushima Emergency



Scene inside fifth Board of Councilors meeting

Workers, initiated in FY2014, was also presented.

Scientific Advisor Anatoly Dritschilo reported on the 42nd Scientific Advisory Committee's recommendations made at the meeting held earlier in the year at the Hiroshima Laboratory March 2–4, 2015, which included a focused review of the activities of the Departments of Genetics and Radiobiology/Molecular Epidemiology. General recommendations included the committee's hope for long-term results from the merger of the basic research departments, advice to RERF to explore the possibility of gaining access to advanced technology through collaboration with external researchers, and emphasis that RERF forge collaborative relationships with bioinformatics experts outside of RERF.

Next, two councilors, three directors, two scientific advisors, and two local advisors were appointed. Dr. Ohtsura Niwa, Specially Appointed Professor at Fukushima Medical University, and Dr. Robert L. Ullrich, RERF Associate Chief of Research, who were appointed as directors by decision of the BOC, were designated as Chairman



Participants of RERF fifth Board of Councilors meeting

(representative director) and Vice Chairman (Chief of Research), respectively, at an ad hoc Board of Directors meeting convened after the BOC meeting.

Finally, it was decided that next year's BOC

meeting would be held at the RERF Hiroshima Laboratory June 16–17, 2016. On June 15, an informal meeting of councilors will take place prior to the BOC meeting, as was the case this year.