

Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for Offspring Study

**Waka Ohishi, Chief
Department of Clinical Studies, Hiroshima**

The fifth meeting of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors was held in the Hiroshima Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) Auditorium on May 14, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the Longitudinal Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors and report on the preliminary data of the study.

The initial Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors (the so-called "first cycle," which had a cross-sectional design) was conducted during 2002–2006 to study associations between parental exposure and prevalence of multifactorial diseases (hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes mellitus, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, and stroke) in the offspring of atomic bomb survivors. Prevalence was analyzed for all diseases and for each of the diseases independently. In neither case was evidence obtained showing an increased risk associated with parental exposure. This study of prevalence, however, may have had a participation bias (by which study results become non-representative because disproportionate participation in the study of subjects possessing certain traits affects the outcome) in the health examinations, and the average age of the participants was relatively young, at about 49 years. For these and other reasons, it was recommended that a long-term study be conducted. As recommended, the Longitudinal Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors (the so-called "second cycle") was initiated on November 24, 2010, with approxi-

mately 12,000 study participants.

The meeting began with RERF Vice Chairman Roy E. Shore's opening remarks, which were followed by RERF Chief Scientist Kazunori Kodama's introduction of the committee members. Subsequently, Committee Chairman Tadao Shima, Consultant, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, addressed the audience. Dr. Waka Ohishi, Chief, Department of Clinical Studies, reported on the progress made over the four years since initiation of the second cycle. She noted that during this period about 10,000 participants underwent health examinations, nearly meeting the targeted 80% participation rate and keeping the study moving steadily forward toward the third cycle. Dr. Ohishi added that approximately 99% of the participants had consented to the storage and use of their blood and urine samples for non-genome/gene analysis, 97% to the storage and use of these samples for genome/gene analysis, and 99.7% to continued participation in the clinical study, indications of the participants' high level of understanding and cooperation.

Dr. Yoshimi Tatsukawa, Associate Senior Scientist, Division of Health Examinations, Department of Clinical Studies, next presented preliminary calculations of participant data from the first three years of the second cycle of the Longitudinal Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors. Attendees engaged in an active question-and-answer session, moderated by Committee Vice Chairman Hiraku Takebe, Fellow, Kinki University Atomic Energy Research Institute, about the



Fifth meeting of Scientific and Ethics Committee for Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors held at Hiroshima RERF

prevalence and incidence of multifactorial diseases, comparisons of lifestyles and disease prevalences between those who participated in the second cycle and those who did not based on information obtained in the first cycle, and plans for future statistical analyses based on the results of these comparisons. The committee eagerly provided valuable comments. The latest participation data indicate that the vast majority of those eligible for the second cycle of the study would have undergone health examinations by the end of October 2015. It was explained that the full-scale calculations include participants projected to undergo

examinations within that timeframe and that statistical plans for upcoming analyses will be further scrutinized. Dr. Shimao wrapped up the meeting with a summary, and Dr. Kodama provided closing remarks, expressing his appreciation to the committee members.

We will continue to advocate the significance of the study to obtain understanding and cooperation from as many study participants as possible. We will also further improve our health examination program to allow earlier disease detection and better treatment and care for the health of the participants.

Members of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors

Dr. Tadao Shimao (Chairman), Consultant, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association

Dr. Hiraku Takebe (Vice-Chairman), Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

Dr. Hirotosugu Ueshima, Special Contract Professor, Center for Epidemiologic Research in Asia, Shiga University of Medical Science

Dr. Takashi Kawamoto, Professor, Division of Philosophy and Religion, College of Liberal Arts, International Christian University

Mr. Shinsuke Kimura, Attorney, Kimura Shinsuke Law Office

Dr. Hideo Sasaki, Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, Yasuda Women's University

Dr. Steve Wing, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina

Dr. Kazuo Tajima, Advisor to Director of Mie University Hospital

Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Professor Emeritus, Nagasaki University

Dr. Taisei Nomura, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University

Dr. Norihiko Hayakawa, Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University

Dr. Yoshimitsu Fukushima, Professor and Head, Department of Medical Genetics, Shinshu University School of Medicine

Dr. Katsumi Furitsu, Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics, Hyogo College of Medicine

Dr. Eiji Maruyama, Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kobe University

RERF

Dr. Toshiteru Okubo, Chairman

Dr. Roy E. Shore, Vice Chairman

Mr. Takanobu Teramoto, Executive Director

Dr. Robert L. Ullrich, Associate Chief of Research

Dr. Kazunori Kodama, Chief Scientist

Mr. Eiji Akimoto, Chief of Secretariat

Mr. Douglas C. Solvie, Associate Chief of Secretariat

Members, Working Group for the Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors

Research Scientists, Department of Clinical Studies