Receiving the Journal of Radiation Research Award at ICRR 2015

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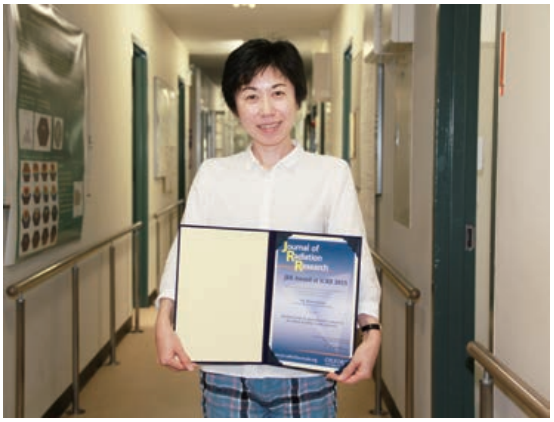
At the 15th International Congress of Radiation Research (ICRR), held in Kyoto, Japan, May 25–29, 2015, I was happy to receive the Journal of Radiation Research Award for my presentation titled "Radiation risks of upper digestive cancers in the cohort of atomic-bomb survivors."

In my presentation, I discussed the findings of a study on radiation effects in upper gastrointestinal cancers (of the mouth, esophagus, and stomach) in a series of collaborative studies that the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) conducts with the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) based on cancer incidence data through 2009.

In these ongoing cancer incidence studies, non-radiation factors for cancer, such as smoking and drinking, are adjusted for using lifestyle data obtained through mail surveys and other sources. Oral and esophageal cancers are known to be strongly associated with smoking and drinking. Although findings on an association between smoking and drinking and stomach cancer are inconsistent, many studies have found some kind of relationship. Stomach cancer is the most common type of cancer in the RERF Life Span Study (LSS) cohort, accounting for about one-quarter of all cancers observed. This prevalence enables detailed analyses of dose-response relationships and effect modifiers, making the stomach an interesting site for study.

I reported at the meeting that the study showed upper gastrointestinal cancers to be related to smoking and drinking but with no confounding between radiation and these lifestyle factors. I also reported that, for esophageal cancer, a model that included the time since exposure as an effect modifier provided a better fit than a model that included attained age and age at exposure as effect modifiers. I have since conducted more analyses and am writing a manuscript explaining my findings.



Dr. Ritsu Sakata, Associate Senior Scientist, Epidemiology Dept., displays Journal of Radiation Research Award

I believe that the award reflects international recognition of RERF's epidemiological research on radiation health effects. Credit must go to the senior researchers who guided me, my colleagues who advised me, and collaborative investigators at the NCI who assisted me. I look forward to your continued guidance and encouragement.