

# History of ABCC-RERF

**August 1945** An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (6 August 1945).

An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki (9 August 1945).

**September** Japanese medical teams and scientists from the United States established the Joint Commission.



Dr. Tsuzuki



Dr. Oughterson



Dr. Warren

1945 Joint Commission established

**March 1947** A portion of the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital was leased to establish the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC).



1947 ABCC established in Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital

**January 1948** The Japanese National Institute of Health (JNIH) of the Ministry of Health and Welfare formally joined the studies of ABCC.

ABCC was relocated to the former Gaisen-kan, Ujina, Hiroshima.

**March** A major genetic study was initiated.



1948 ABCC relocated to Gaisen-kan



1948 Home visit

**July 1948** Nagasaki ABCC was established in Nagasaki Medical University Hospital (Shinkozen Primary School).

**October** A major pediatric program commenced in Nagasaki.



1948 Pediatric examination

**March 1949** A major pediatric program commenced in Hiroshima and Kure.

**July** A groundbreaking ceremony was held and construction of research facilities commenced at the Hijiyama site.



1949 Construction in progress at Hijiyama



1949 IBM verifier

- August 1949** The ABCC Radiation Census started.
- November** Nagasaki ABCC was relocated to Nagasaki Prefectural Kyoiku Kaikan.



1949 Nagasaki ABCC relocated to Nagasaki Prefectural Kyoiku Kaikan

- January 1950** The Leukemia Survey was initiated.
- August** The Adult Medical Survey commenced in Hiroshima and was later extended to Nagasaki.
- October** A national survey of A-bomb survivors was conducted as a supplement to the National Census.
- November** Construction of new facilities at the Hijiyama site was completed and relocation initiated.
- January 1951** A study of children exposed *in utero* commenced.



1950 ABCC relocated to Hijiyama

- January 1952** A pilot study on mortality and cause of death began.

- December 1953** A 10-bed ward was established within ABCC facilities in Hiroshima.

- September 1955** The first annual Buddhist memorial service was held in Hiroshima honoring autopsied survivors at Tokuo Temple, Tera-machi.



1955 First annual Buddhist memorial service

- November 1955** The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (NAS-NRC) Ad Hoc Committee reviewed ABCC research design, resulting in recommendations to conduct the "Unified Study Program" based on a fixed population.  
The first meeting of the Japanese Advisory Council for ABCC was held in Tokyo.

- July 1958** The Adult Health Study commenced.
- August** Written agreement was exchanged with JNIH for conduct of the Life Span Study. The basis of a cooperative US-Japan research system was established.



1958 Written agreement exchanged with JNIH for conduct of the Life Span Study

- June 1966** The first ABCC Open House was held in Nagasaki.

- February 1975** A team dispatched by NAS visited ABCC, resulting in a report of the Committee for Scientific Review of ABCC dated March 26.



**1975 RERF inauguration ceremony in Hiroshima**

- April 1975** RERF inauguration ceremonies were held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first Board of Directors meeting was held in Hiroshima.
- July** The first Scientific Council meeting was held in Hiroshima.
- September** The first meeting of the Hiroshima Local Liaison Council was held.



**1975 First meeting of Hiroshima Local Liaison Council**

- September 1975** The first meeting of the Nagasaki Local Liaison Council was held.
- January 1977** The full-scale Biochemical Genetics Study commenced.



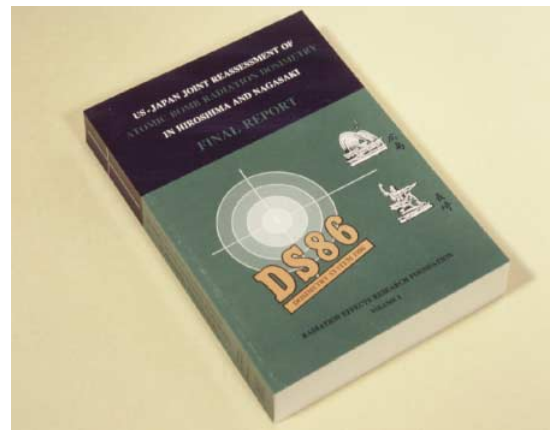
**1985 Agreement reached on exchange of researchers with the Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene, China**

- June 1979** RERF was designated as a WHO Collaborating Center.
- June 1982** The "A-bomb Radiation Dose Appraisal and Review Committee" was inaugurated.
- February 1983** The first US-Japan Joint Workshop for Reassessment of A-bomb Radiation Dosimetry was held in Nagasaki.



**1983 First US-Japan Joint Workshop for Reassessment of A-bomb Radiation Dosimetry**

- April 1985** Agreement was reached on exchange of researchers with the Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene, China.
- August** Major departmental reorganization resulted in creation of the Departments of Clinical Studies, Genetics, Radiobiology, Epidemiology, Statistics, etc.
- July 1987** "US-Japan Joint Reassessment of Atomic Bomb Radiation Dosimetry in Hiroshima and Nagasaki" (DS86 final report) was published by RERF.



- September 1987** The final DS86 report was submitted to the ICRP general meeting.
- August-September 1990** RERF participated in the IAEA Chernobyl health effects study group.
- October** A meeting of the WHO Scientific Advisory Committee on Chernobyl accident was held at RERF.



**August 1995** The first RERF Open House was held in Hiroshima.

**February 1996** The Blue Ribbon Panel held a meeting.



**1996 Blue Ribbon Panel meeting**

**June 1996** The final report of the Blue Ribbon Panel was completed, resulting in recommendations on RERF's future studies.

**June 1997** The commemorative symposium for the 50th anniversary of ABCC-RERF was held in Washington, DC.

**August** The first RERF Open House was held in Nagasaki.

**November** The commemorative ceremony and lectures for the 50th anniversary of ABCC-RERF were held in Hiroshima.

**November 1998** The commemorative ceremony and lectures for the 50th anniversary of the ABCC-RERF Nagasaki Laboratory were held in Nagasaki.



**1997 50th anniversary of ABCC-RERF**

**May 1999** An agreement was reached with the Second Generation A-bomb Victims Liaison Council concerning the health study of A-bomb survivors' children.

**October** RERF participated in a health study of residents living in the vicinity of the Tokai-mura village criticality accident.

**April 2002** RERF researchers were assigned as adjunct professors of Hiroshima University Graduate School.



**1999 Agreement reached with Second Generation A-bomb Victims Liaison Council concerning a health study**

**April 2002** A joint meeting of US-Japan Dosimetry Reassessment Working Groups reached an agreement on a new dosimetry system (DS02) and recommended it as a new system at RERF.



**2002 Joint meeting of US-Japan dosimetry reassessment**

**March 2003** Final approval was obtained for the new dosimetry system DS02.

**April 2005** The first meeting of the Analysis Subcommittee for the Scientific and Ethics Committees for the Health Effects Study of the Children of A-bomb Survivors was held in Hiroshima.

**November** The commemorative ceremonies and lectures for the 30th anniversary of RERF were held on November 8 in Hiroshima and November 11 in Nagasaki.

**December** "Reassessment of the Atomic Bomb Radiation Dosimetry for Hiroshima and Nagasaki—Dosimetry System 2002" (DS02 report) was published by RERF (delivered and distributed in February 2006).

