

Sixth Board of Councilors Meeting Held at Hiroshima RERF

The sixth meeting of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) Board of Councilors (BOC) took place on June 16–17, 2016, at the Hiroshima Laboratory. The meeting was attended by seven of the eight councilors, as well as directors and auditors. Representatives of the U.S. and Japanese governments and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences also attended as observers. Executive Councilor Dr. Shelley A. Hearne served as the moderator.

In their remarks at the beginning of the meeting, the representatives of the U.S. and Japanese governments stated that RERF's research achievements were global assets and that RERF should continue to serve as a center of excellence (COE) on radiation health effects studies. They also expressed their appreciation to atomic bomb survivors and their children for their dedicated cooperation in the studies.

The meeting's major agenda items and discussions were as follows. Reports on FY2015 activities, settlement of accounts, and audit results were presented and approved. Plans for FY2016 activities were reported, including research projects, training programs, public information programs, and the activities necessary to carry out these projects, as well as budget estimates for all the activities. An explanation of the strategic plan, which

looks into the future of RERF, was presented, and the newly introduced internal audit system was described, followed by active discussions.

Scientific Advisory Committee Co-chair Dr. Shunichi Yamashita reported the 43rd Scientific Advisory Committee's recommendations, made during the March 2–4, 2016, meeting at the Hiroshima Laboratory, when a focused review was made of the Department of Clinical Studies. General recommendations included (1) consideration of a biennial review cycle to reduce meeting preparation work, (2) development of a strategic plan and research clusters to cope with the aging of research scientists and facilities, and (3) increased involvement of the Department of Statistics at the early stage of research proposals. RERF's responses to these recommendations were also discussed at the meeting.

Next, two councilors, two auditors, and two scientific advisors were appointed. Appreciation was expressed to two outgoing councilors for their service.

Finally, it was decided that next year's BOC meeting would be held at RERF's Nagasaki Laboratory, June 15–16, 2017. On June 14, an informal meeting of councilors will take place prior to the BOC meeting, as was the case in 2016.



Participants of Board of Councilors meeting