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News

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Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors Held at Hiroshima RERF

Waka Ohishi, Chief, Department of Clinical Studies, Hiroshima

The seventh meeting of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors was held at the Hiroshima Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. The meeting's objective was to report and discuss the progress being made on the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors (F1 Clinical Study) and the results of that study's preliminary analyses.

The F1 Clinical Study (first round of examinations), conducted from 2002 to 2006, investigated the relationship between parental exposure and prevalence of multifactorial disease (hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes mellitus, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, and stroke) among the offspring of A-bomb survivors. The results indicated no evidence for increased risk of multifactorial diseases from parental radiation exposure. However, the study's continuation was recommended, due to the possibility of a participation bias in the prevalence study, and because the average age of participants was young, at approximately 49 years, among other reasons. Accordingly, the Longitudinal Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors (second round of examinations) was initiated in November 2010, with approximately 12,000 study participants.

The meeting began with opening remarks from Dr. Ohtsura Niwa, RERF Chairman, followed by Dr. Kazunori Kodama, Chief Scientist, who introduced the committee members. After Dr. Hirotsugu Ueshima, Committee Vice Chairman (who served as Acting Chairman of the meeting), addressed the audience, Dr. Waka Ohishi, Chief of the Department of Clinical Studies, reported on the steady progress that the studies have made: 1) 10,426 people participated in the second round of examinations, which mostly met the target of an 80% participation rate; and 2) The current participation rate for the third round of examinations, which began in November 2014, is 73.3%. Moreover,

participants continue to grant consent for storage/use of their blood and urine samples in future research at high rates (approximately 99% for non-gene analyses, and 97% for gene analyses).

Next, Dr. Yoshimi Tatsukawa, Associate Chief, Department of Clinical Studies, reported the results of preliminary analyses of the first- and second-round examinations on the following: 1) the relationship between prevalence of multifactorial disease (hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia, and diabetes mellitus) and parental exposure, and 2) the relationship between parental exposure and incidence of multifactorial disease (those mentioned above).

Dr. Ueshima moderated as participants engaged in an active question-and-answer session, and with that, we received invaluable comments from the committee members on how to proceed with the study and on points warranting consideration in the ongoing analyses. Dr. Ueshima wrapped up the meeting, which ended with Dr. Robert L. Ullrich's closing remarks and words of appreciation to the committee members.

We will continue to work to sustain the F1 Clinical Study's high participation rate and consent rate into the future. We will also further improve this study's health examination program to contribute to early detection/treatment of disease and improvement of health management among the study participants.

Members of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors:
Chairman:
Tadao Shimao, Consultant, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association
Vice Chairman:
Hirotsugu Ueshima, Special Contract Professor, Center for Epidemiologic Research in Asia, Shiga University of Medical Science
Committee Members:
Takashi Kawamoto, Professor, College of Liberal Arts, International Christian University
Shinsuke Kimura, Attorney, Kimura Shinsuke Law Office
Hideo Sasaki, Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, Yasuda Women's University

Kazuo Tajima, Visiting Professor, Mie University; Director, Sensin Social Welfare Corporation & Misugi Clinic; Honorary Director, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute

Masao Tomonaga, Professor Emeritus, Nagasaki University

Taisei Nomura, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University; Project Leader, Laboratory of Animal Models for Human Diseases, National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition

Norihiko Hayakawa, Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University

Yoshimitsu Fukushima, Professor, Shinshu University School of Medicine

Katsumi Furitsu, Researcher, Laboratory of Animal Models for Human Diseases, National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition

Eiji Maruyama, Project Professor, Graduate School of Health Management, Keio University

David B. Richardson, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina

RERF:

Ohtsura Niwa , Chairman

Robert L. Ullrich, Vice Chairman/Executive Director

Akira Hashizume, Executive Director

Eric J. Grant, Associate Chief of Research

Kazunori Kodama, Chief Scientist

Douglas C. Solvie, Chief of Secretariat

Others:

Members of the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors Project Group and research scientists with the Department of Clinical Studies

Committee proceedings

Vice Chairman Ueshima (Acting Chairman) moderating the committee