

At the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Radiation Effects Research Foundation continues studies of the atomic bomb survivors and their children

A commentary by RERF Chairman Dr. Ohtsura Niwa and Dr. Jonathan M. Samet, a member of RERF's Board of Councilors, was recently published.

The commentary touches on the long history of research carried out at ABCC/RERF since 1947 from the perspective of the 75th anniversaries (observed in 2020) of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively.

The publication lauds the dedication of A-bomb survivors for their prolonged cooperation in ABCC/RERF research projects initiated after the bombings, which has resulted in the longest epidemiological studies in the world. It also touches on the fundamental importance of the A-bomb survivor children's participation in RERF research for understanding of possible heritable effects from radiation.

The commentary discusses RERF's strategic plan, which provides a direction for future research, including continuation of current research; analysis of biospecimens from affected populations using advanced technologies such as whole-genome testing; compilation and digitization of all data at RERF; and public outreach to survivors, their children, and people throughout the world explaining RERF's research results, related information, and significance of the organization's science.

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RERF's objective with this brief outline is to succinctly explain our research for the lay public. Much of the technical content of the original paper has been omitted. For further details about the study, please refer to the full paper published by the journal.