The 1st Meeting of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F1 Offspring of A-bomb Survivors

Date: July 7, 2010 (Wednesday)
Place: Auditorium, Radiation Effects Research Foundation
5-2, Hijiyama Park, Minami-ku, Hiroshima City, 732-0815
Phone: 082 (261) 3131        Fax: 082 (263) 7279

Schedule

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<td>Greeting from Chairman</td>
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<td>14:10 ~ 15:00</td>
<td>Objectives/outline of F1 Clinical Study</td>
<td>Hiroshima Clinical Studies Department Chief Fujiwara and Senior Scientist Oishi</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>Questions and answers (scientific)</td>
<td>Chairman Shimao</td>
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<td>16:10 ~ 16:50</td>
<td>Questions and answers (ethical)</td>
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<td>Summary</td>
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Chairman
Tadao Shimao, Consultant, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association

Vice Chairman
Hiraku Takebe, Fellow, Kinki University Atomic Energy Research Institute

Committee Members
Hirotsugu Ueshima, Special Contract Professor, Lifestyle-Related Disease Prevention Center, Shiga University of Medical Science (absent)
Takashi Kawamoto, Professor, Graduate School of Education, Tokyo University
Shinsuke Kimura, Attorney, Kimura Shinsuke Law Office (absent)
Steve Wing, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina
Kazuo Tajima, Director, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute
Masao Tomonaga, Director, Japanese Red Cross, Nagasaki Genbaku Hospital
Hiroo Dohy, Director, Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital and Atomic-Bomb Survivors Hospital
Ohtsura Niwa, Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University
Taisei Nomura, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University (absent)
Norihiko Hayakawa, Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University
Katsumi Furitsu, Visiting Lecturer, Hyogo College of Medicine
Eiji Maruyama, Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kobe University
Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors

Radiation Effects Research Foundation

To study genetic effects of radiation on A-bomb survivors’ children, follow-up studies continue to be conducted for understanding of that population’s mortality and cancer incidence. However, the research on prevalences of adult-onset multifactorial diseases conducted for seven years starting in 2000 was the first to focus on health examinations. This study was planned based on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel (1996) that reviewed how RERF studies should proceed in the future. Thereafter, questionnaire surveys and health examinations were conducted from 2000 through 2006 to investigate whether there exists any relationship between prevalences of adult-onset multifactorial diseases (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hypercholesterolemia, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, and stroke) and parental radiation exposure. Since the study was the first project involving direct contact with A-bomb survivors’ children, it was considered that this undertaking would arouse considerable interest among that group. With this in mind, before initiating the study, RERF and A-bomb-survivor children’s organizations discussed procedures for implementation of the study and reached an agreement in May 1999.

For the conduct of this study, starting in its planning stage, committees of outside experts were established to investigate the scientific and ethical appropriateness of the study plans as well as the transparency of the research.

Of the 24,673 A-bomb survivor children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki we asked to participate in the study, 11,951 individuals ultimately participated in the project. Study results were released as a final report on the Health Effects Study of the Children of A-bomb Survivors. The report’s conclusion can be summarized as follows: “In analysis of the data from the current study, when multifactorial diseases in children were combined, no evidence suggesting increased risk associated with parental radiation exposure was observed.” However, the report also states that in the future, as the study population ages, the cohort might begin to exhibit health effects, and due to progress in gene analysis technologies, introduction of new perspectives might be necessary and proposes that the study be continued.

The Report of the Senior Review Panel on Future Planning for Radiation Effects Research Foundation, a document submitted in June 2008 by the U.S.-Japan third-party committee for discussing RERF’s future vision, also indicated that continuation of the study would be indispensable.

After the above-mentioned stages, the current Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors has been planned as the health-examination-based follow-up research of A-bomb survivors’ children. The research protocol will be finalized after discussions by the Scientific and Ethics Committee for the Clinical Study of the F₁ Offspring of A-bomb Survivors.