

Greeting

Our COE Program designated "International Consortium for Medical Care of Hibakusha and Radiation Life Science" was launched in October, 2004. The following three core subjects were originally established: (1) promoting epidemiological and molecular studies on the late effects of the atomic bomb irradiation in Nagasaki, especially multiple cancers and leukemia-related disorders; (2) extending international medical aid to radiation victims, due to the accident at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, in the former Soviet Union countries, including Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, and those in Kazakhstan due to open-air atomic bomb experiments in Semipalatinsk area, and establishing a good system for molecular epidemiological researches; and (3) combining the above-mentioned clinical and molecular studies with basic researches of radiation biology *in vitro* or *in vivo* (animals).

Seven major research projects were planned and more than 50 young investigators including more than 10 COE scientists from abroad have joined in this program. After two years of intensive work

on these subjects some important new findings are now emerging. These findings will be presented by young scientists together with invited young speakers from other institutes in Japan as well as from abroad. In addition to the above three core subjects, recent development in the field of regenerative medicine will also be focused in this symposium.

The members of the organizing committee are all young investigators, including graduate students. Training of such young investigators by exposing them to real international scientific communications, especially by using English as official language, is the main purpose of this symposium and is also an important aim of our COE program. I would like to ask all participants for kindly providing a highest degree of communication to those young investigators.

I sincerely hope that all participants, especially those from abroad, would enjoy Japanese beauty of early spring in famous port city Nagasaki.

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