



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

Mansfield-PhRMA Research Scholars Program 2023 Participant Biographies



Dr. Asumi Iesato is a clinical research fellow at the NEXT-Ganken program in the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research (JFCR). After graduating from Shinshu University School of Medicine, she worked as a breast and endocrine surgeon for 10 years. From the time she was a graduate student through her postdoctoral fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, her main research interest was aggressive thyroid cancer. After returning to Japan, she worked at the Breast Center, Cancer Institute Hospital for the JFCR and then started reverse TR research. Her major research topics are thyroid cancer and breast cancer. Her goals are to improve the anaplastic thyroid cancer prognosis by more than one year and to develop targeted therapies for breast cancer with lymphatic invasion. Her long-term goal is to create a system that acts as a bridge between the hospital and the lab to rapidly provide basic research results to the bedside .



Dr. Mitsuho Imai is a Medical Oncologist at the National Cancer Center Hospital East. She concurrently works in the Department of Drug Development Promotion, TR Support Office, International Research Promotion Office, and Department of Genetic Medicine. As a core member of the SCRUM-Japan project based on genome screening, she is engaged in clinical research, in silico analysis such as AI/machine learning (ML) and Wet analysis as TR research, and practice of hereditary tumors. After specialized training in gastrointestinal oncology at Tokyo Metropolitan Komagome Hospital, she received her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo. From 2015 to 2018, as a Ph.D. at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), she worked as a Ph.D. researcher to analyze cancer mechanisms, such as the metastatic mechanism of TNBC and the relationship between ncRNA and epigenetics in urogenital cancer, while also being involved in the establishment of a system for cancer genomic medicine.



Dr. Tomoya Kurokawa is an ENT physician and has been an Assistant professor at the Clinical Research Center of Chiba University Hospital. His main responsibilities include seeing ENT patients and supporting other researchers to make study protocols and regulatory strategies. As for his research, he is currently conducting a phase 1 clinical trial for head and neck cancer patients using iPSC-NKT cells. Additionally, he has been researching Real world database analysis and decentralized clinical trials.

After he received an M.D. from Chiba University in 2011, he worked at Chiba Medical Center and Chiba University Hospital as Junior Resident Doctor (2011-2013) and at Metropolitan Komagome Hospital as ENT Senior Resident Doctor (2013-2016). He also served as Clinical Reviewer at Anti-cancer Review Division and other offices at PMDA (2016-2018) before he received Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Medicine, Chiba University, in 2020.



Dr. Mamoru Ogawa is an Ophthalmologist at the Department of Ophthalmology, Keio University School of Medicine, where he also served as a Project Assistant Professor in 2021. Prior to the current position, he served as Research Fellow PD (2022) at JSPS, Research Fellow (2020), Junior Research Associate (2016), Student Trainee (2015) at the Laboratory for Metabolomics of RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences (IMS).

He is currently interested in microbiome and lipid metabolism in the eye. It aims to find new bioactive lipid metabolites in the eye, understand molecular mechanisms of eye diseases, and the development of therapeutic drug discovery using a mass spectrometer (MS). He received his M.D. from Nippon Medical School in 2011 and a Ph.D. from the Department of Ophthalmology of Keio

University School of Medicine in 2021.



Dr. Yukinori Ozaki is currently engaged in medical treatment, education, and research specializing in the field of breast cancer. He graduated from Keio University in 2008, worked at Kameda Medical Center from 2010 to 2014, at Toranomon Hospital from 2014 to 2020, and from 2020 at the Cancer Institute Hospital of Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research in Tokyo, which treats the largest number of breast cancer patients in Japan. He is affiliated with the Department of Breast Medical Oncology and the Department of Advanced Medical Development as a head physician.

He is interested in clinical trials for breast cancer, especially leading translational research for investigator-initiated clinical trials and immunotherapy. He collaborates with domestic and international clinical trial groups to conduct clinical trials to advance breast cancer care.



Dr. Tatsunori Shimoi is currently a medical oncologist specialist, 17 years after graduation, and is involved in the treatment of a wide range of cancer types, including breast cancer, gynecologic cancer, urologic cancer, and rare cancers. He generally recommends appropriate treatments for patients and administers anticancer drugs. Additionally, he is interested in developing and implementing valuable healthcare policies and addressing social issues such as drug lag and drug loss in Japan. His previous experience in healthcare administration as a medical officer at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and his daily involvement in drug price standard formulation as a member of the Drug Pricing Organization has motivated him to propose healthcare insurance administration improvements for the future.



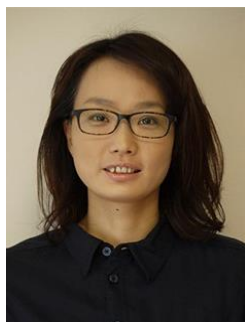
Dr. Hiroya Tamai is currently working at the clinical and translational research center at Keio university hospital, participating in a new program to learn about clinical research from the viewpoint of ARO from April 2023. From 2016, he worked as a rheumatologist at Keio University and engaged in clinical practice of connective tissue disease and clinical research about rheumatoid arthritis and adult Still's disease to obtain better prognosis. Aiming for better treatment in rheumatoid arthritis, he has been working on a phase IV randomized controlled trial on rheumatoid arthritis since 2017, which showed the possibility of reducing the dose of a key drug in 2023. His experience in this prospective intervention clinical trial has led him to his current position since April 2023 to learn more about clinical research.



Dr. Nami Yamashita is currently working as a breast surgeon and as a research scientist at the Cancer Institute Hospital of the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research. Prior to present position, she worked at the Department of Surgery and Science, Kyushu University, and started her research career to elucidate the molecular background of Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), the most challenging subtype of breast cancer that lacks specific treatment targets and is classified into recalcitrant cancer. From 2019-2022 she also engaged in research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Kufe Lab), focusing on molecular mechanisms of Mucin1 and the stemness of TNBC.

During her research experience, she realized the importance of sustainable networking with people from different industries or laboratories for translational research and drug discovery. She and other board-certified breast oncologists are working together as “BC Tube,” a general incorporated association, to provide the public with correct information about breast cancer and to promote breast awareness.

Observers from AMED, PMDA, and METI



Dr. Juyoung Park is a Deputy Manager at the Department of International Strategy in Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Prior to her current position, she worked as Chief Researcher at Astellas Research Technologies Co. Ltd. in Japan from 2009 to 2018, and as Chief Researcher at the Department of Biotechnology, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) from 2002 to 2008. She received a Bachelor's and Master's in Natural Sciences from Pusan National University, Korea, in 1995 and in 1998 respectively, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences, Department of Global Agricultural Sciences, at The University of Tokyo in 2002, where she was also a research student from 1998 to 1999. She is currently interested in solving neglected infectious diseases. She is working at AMED in cooperation with related ministries and agencies to solve global problems that are difficult for one country or region to solve alone and require joint efforts by the international community. Her main responsibility is to support International Collaborative research on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases occurring in developing countries.



Dr. Masaki Kasai is Deputy Review Director of the Office of Pharmacovigilance II in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA). He joined PMDA in 2011 and has been mainly engaged in product reviews of regenerative medical products (cellular and tissue-based products and gene therapy products) for over 10 years. Currently, he is involved in post-marketing safety monitoring of regenerative medical products and vaccine products from 2022. He has several years of international experience at the International Pharmaceutical Regulators Programme (IPRP), which facilitates the implementation of ICH and other internationally harmonized technical guidelines for pharmaceuticals. He has experience engaging in global discussions at the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) COVID-19 vaccines. He graduated from Gifu Pharmaceutical University with a Doctor of Pharmacy in 2011. The research topic of his studies was the development of treatments for spinal cord injury and the elucidation of the healing mechanisms.



Mr. Takeya Sho has been the Deputy Director of the Bio-Industry Division at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) since July 2021, engaging in the implementation of Japan's industrial policies to promote the Japanese bio-industry, especially pharmaceutical startups and strengthening the vaccine manufacturing base against COVID-19. Before he took up this position, he was the Deputy Director of the Americas Division from April 2019. He was involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Trade Agreement between Japan and the United States of America and in the launch of Japan-US cooperation in the Biden administration. Prior to this position, he was a junior staff member of the Nuclear Facilities Development and Nuclear Fuel Cycle Industry Division at the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE) from 2017 to 2019. Mr. Takeya Sho holds a Master of Engineering (Biotechnology) from the Tokyo Institute of Technology.