
The JIHS Quarterly



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JIHS Marks Its First Anniversary and Reviews Progress

The Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) marked its first anniversary on April 1, followed by a commemorative forum held on April 7 to review its activities and share its vision for the future.



The event opened with remarks by Dr. Manabu Sumi, Director of the Infectious Disease Control Division at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, who highlighted JIHS’s steady progress as a scientific foundation supporting infectious disease control and expressed expectations for further development.

In his keynote address, Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, President of JIHS, reviewed achievements from the first year and emphasized that “the true capabilities of JIHS will be tested from its second year onward.”

Dr. Yuichi Koido, Director-General of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) Secretariat, outlined extensive training and deployment activities, noting that integration into JIHS had expanded opportunities and strengthened the program.

Professor Ken Maeda, Director of the Department of Veterinary Science at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, described ongoing efforts related to severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS), which reached a record number of cases in Japan in 2025, and emphasized the importance of a One Health approach.

Dr. Katsue Watanabe, Director of the Department of Clinical Study Promotion, discussed first-in-human (FIH) trials and the need for coordinated, institute-wide efforts to sustain clinical research under national programs.

The forum concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Takaji Wakita, Vice President of JIHS, and drew broad participation from media representatives both on-site and online.

JIHS Welcomes 261 New Employees and Launches New Fiscal Year

JIHS welcomed 261 new employees on April 1 at the start of the new fiscal year.

During orientation, President Kokudo met directly with new nursing staff and greeted all recruits via a video message, emphasizing their role as “new members of the organization.”



The program also introduced the historical foundations of JIHS, including its predecessor institutions—the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM)—and their links to Shibasaburo Kitasato and Mori Ogai, both associated with the Robert Koch Institute.

Looking ahead, leadership stressed that strengthening mutual understanding and advancing organizational reform will be critical as JIHS moves into its second year.

National College of Nursing Celebrates 25th Anniversary With Imperial Attendance

The National College of Nursing held its entrance ceremony and 25th anniversary celebration on April 9.

Her Imperial Highness Crown Princess Akishino attended the ceremony and delivered remarks encouraging students and faculty.

In his address, President Kokudo highlighted the college’s role since its founding in 2001 in training nursing professionals who support Japan’s policy-based healthcare system, noting its contributions to infectious disease response, disaster preparedness, and international cooperation.

A congratulatory message from Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Kamiya underscored the institution’s achievements in producing 2,136 graduates and its expected role in addressing future healthcare challenges.

The ceremony welcomed 120 new students and reaffirmed the institution’s commitment to educating the next generation of nursing professionals.

Clinical Training Completed at Kohnodai Medical Center

At the Kohnodai Medical Center, 10 medical residents presented the results of their clinical training and received completion certificates.

The program included research presentations and case reports, demonstrating the outcomes of their training.

International Workshop on Antimicrobial R&D Highlights Global Collaboration

On March 4–5, the AMR Clinical Reference Center at JIHS co-hosted an international workshop with the Sir Howard Dalton Centre, University of Warwick and the ARISE network.

The workshop brought together experts from academia, government, international organizations, and industry to discuss the future of antimicrobial research and development in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Norio Ohmagari, Director of the Center, Dr. Manabu Sumi of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Professor Chris Dowson of HDC, University of Warwick, all of whom emphasized the importance of international collaboration.

A video message from Professor Dame Sally Davies, the U.K. Special Envoy on AMR, and a keynote lecture by Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki, former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and member of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, further reinforced the global urgency of the issue.

As part of the LEAD Fellowship, Dr. Alicia Demirjian of the U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Dr. Nobuaki Matsunaga of JIHS presented analyses of policy challenges and opportunities for international cooperation in antimicrobial development.

Participants agreed that stagnation in antibiotic development poses a serious global public health risk and that building a new international R&D ecosystem is essential.



FDA Approves Japan-Origin HIV Drug

On April 21, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a novel HIV-1 treatment developed in Japan.

The drug incorporates Islatravir, a compound designed and developed by a research group led by Dr. Hiroaki Mitsuya and subsequently licensed to Merck.

Dr. Mitsuya stated that the therapy represents a new treatment option with an innovative mechanism of action for people living with HIV.

The achievement has attracted wide media attention, including coverage on national television.

JIHS and Institut Pasteur du Japon Sign Comprehensive Research Agreement

A comprehensive research agreement between JIHS and the Institut Pasteur du Japon (IPJ) was signed on April 1 at the residence of the French Ambassador to Japan.



The signing was conducted by Dr. Norihiro Kokudo of JIHS and Professor Anavaj Sakuntabhai of IPJ, with Mr. Jean-Luc Moullet of CNRS, the National Centre for Scientific Research, and Ambassador Hiroshi Kawamura in attendance as witnesses.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Adeline Lassaux of the French Embassy, Dr. Osamu Kunii of the GHIT Fund, Professor Fumihiko Matsuda (Kyoto University), Dr. Lisa Kitasato (Kitasato University), and Professor Kiyohiko Igarashi (University of Tokyo).

The agreement aligns with the Japan–France Joint Statement on Global Health, reinforcing bilateral cooperation in health security.

JIHS and Africa CDC Advance Cooperation on Health Security

JIHS and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaboration on public health and health emergency preparedness and response.



The agreement focuses on surveillance, early warning systems, laboratory capacity, coordinated emergency response, and workforce development.

Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC, emphasized the importance of strong partnerships in addressing transboundary health threats, while JIHS's President Kokudo highlighted JIHS's role in integrating research, clinical expertise, and international cooperation.

The partnership will be operationalized through a joint action plan defining priority areas and implementation mechanisms.

JIHS and Germany's NUM Sign MOU and Hold Joint Symposium

On April 15, JIHS signed a memorandum of understanding with Germany's Network of University Medicine (NUM) at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.



NUM, established in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, connects 37 institutions across Germany to coordinate clinical research.

A joint symposium held alongside the signing was moderated by Teiji Takei of JIHS and Ralf Heyder, Head of the NUM Coordination Office.

Presentations were delivered on key themes including viral hemorrhagic fevers, antimicrobial resistance, surveillance of severe acute respiratory infections, and the use of research repositories.

The agreement outlines cooperation in governance, research infrastructure, multi-center clinical studies, methodological development, and personnel exchange, laying the groundwork for future joint research.

GHM High Citation Award 2025 Recognizes Influential Publications

The GHM High Citation Award 2025 recognizes papers published in Global Health & Medicine that achieved particularly high citation counts.

Awarded studies addressed topics such as COVID-19 policy classification in Japan, fertility trends in Asia-Pacific regions, amebiasis, and dementia policy in a super-aged society.

Joint Graduate Program Launched to Develop Global Health Leaders

On May 12, JIHS, the University of Tsukuba, and the National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition established a collaborative graduate program.

The program enables students to receive academic training while working directly with researchers and practitioners from participating institutions.

It aims to develop professionals capable of leading infectious disease control efforts at the global level.

Galactic Health and Medicine Research Meeting Expands Interdisciplinary Dialogue

A meeting of the Galactic Health and Medicine Research Network was held at the JIHS Murayama Campus, bringing together 12 participants from JIHS, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the NEC Group's Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies.

The initiative, launched in spring 2025, aims to advance research on infection control in space, microbial behavior in microgravity, satellite data applications, and planetary protection.

At this meeting, participants exchanged views on microbial research in space environments and shared detailed information on the operation of biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) facilities., diagnostics, and clinical practice.

Presentations were given by Hideki Ebihara, Director of the Department of Virology I, and Toshihiko Harada of the Safety Management Research Center at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, who explained the operational framework of the BSL-4 facility and its role in diagnostics and treatment for high-risk pathogens.



A site-based briefing within the facility prompted active discussion on containment design concepts and differences from JAXA's planetary sample handling systems. Participants from outside JIHS commented on the value of hearing directly from operational experts.

JHHS emphasized its commitment to building cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration frameworks to advance research, diagnostics, and clinical practice.

Special Exhibition Highlights History of Nursing Education

The National College of Nursing Library is hosting a special exhibition through August 10, 2026.

The exhibition features rare books from early nursing education institutions, including materials from the postwar period, as well as donations from the CARE program.

The display illustrates how nursing education in Japan evolved into a specialized and autonomous field.



New Health Checkup Center Opens

A new health checkup center will open on July 1, offering comprehensive screening services including chest CT and tumor markers.