
The JIHS Quarterly



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Opening the Door to Science

NIID Murayama Campus Welcomes the Public

The National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) hosted its annual Murayama Campus Open House on June 27, welcoming approximately 280 visitors despite forecasts of approaching typhoons. The event offered children and families an opportunity to explore infectious disease research through hands-on activities, laboratory demonstrations, microscopy sessions, and educational programs.

The event was attended by Dr. Norihiro Kokudo (JIHS President), Dr. Takaji Wakita (JIHS Vice President), Dr. Hiroshi Yotsuyanagi, and Dr. Tetsuro Matano (NIID Director-General), reflecting JIHS's commitment to science communication and public engagement. The next public open house will be held at the Toyama Campus (East) on October 24, 2026.



Ancient Wisdom, Modern Health

NCGM Medical Examination Center Marks Its 10th Anniversary

The Medical Examination Center at the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 10 with a commemorative lecture by renowned Egyptologist Prof. Sakuji Yoshimura, who spoke on “Medicine and Health Management in Ancient Egypt.” Drawing on decades of archaeological research, he explored how ancient Egyptians approached health and disease, offering a unique perspective on the importance of preventive care.

Since opening in 2016, the Center has promoted early detection and disease prevention through comprehensive health screening services. As it enters its second decade, it remains committed to supporting the health of employees and local communities through regular checkups and preventive care.



A Century of Leadership in Infectious Diseases

Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases Celebrates 100 Years

The Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases marked its 100th anniversary on May 22 with a commemorative ceremony at the Tokyo International Forum attended by approximately 500 representatives from government, academia, medicine, and public health. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan were present at the event, which celebrated a century of contributions to infectious disease research, clinical practice, and public health.

In his remarks, His Majesty the Emperor recognized the Association's contributions to public health, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and expressed hope that continued research and innovation would strengthen preparedness for future infectious disease threats.

The anniversary was followed by a joint scientific meeting of the Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases and the Japanese Society of Chemotherapy, where JIHS physicians and researchers presented their work alongside colleagues from across Japan. The centennial celebration highlighted the enduring importance of scientific collaboration in advancing infectious disease research and strengthening health security.



Beyond the Clinic

Supporting Children's Mental Health Through Outreach and Communication

For nearly 80 years, the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at National Kohnodai Medical Center has supported children facing mental health challenges. Today, its mission extends beyond clinical care to include public outreach, education, and advocacy.

This summer, department specialists contributed to media programs and news coverage on children's mental health, supervised the publication of a children's book promoting emotional well-being, and shared resources to support families during emergencies. Faculty members also contributed to *Japanese Society of Mood Disorders Treatment Guidelines for Depression*, developed the multidisciplinary MENTOR collaboration manual, and received the PCN Reports Reviewer Award 2025.

Through clinical care, research, and public engagement, the department continues to support children and families with both scientific expertise and compassion.

Strengthening Research Partnerships in Southeast Asia

JIHS Opens Liaison Office at Hanoi Medical University

JIHS has expanded its international research network with the opening of a liaison office at Hanoi Medical University in Vietnam, the fifth site established under the ARO Alliance for Southeast and East Asia (ARISE). The new office will support collaborative clinical research and strengthen regional partnerships.

On May 25, Dr. Norihiro Kokudo and Dr. Wataru Sugiura of JIHS attended the inauguration ceremony at Hanoi Medical University. Congratulatory remarks were delivered by Masafumi Saito of the Japanese Embassy, and Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huu Tu, Rector of Hanoi Medical University, joined President Kokudo in officially opening the office. Building on a growing partnership that includes joint research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adenovirus infections, and enterovirus epidemiology, JIHS seeks to further advance multinational clinical research and strengthen regional preparedness for emerging infectious disease threats across Asia.



Raising the Global Profile of Health Research

Global Health & Medicine Achieves Significant Impact Factor Growth

Global Health & Medicine (GHM), the international peer-reviewed journal published by JIHS, achieved a major milestone in 2026, with its Journal Impact Factor rising from 1.4 to 2.3. The journal's CiteScore also increased to 2.2, reflecting its growing international visibility and influence.



Launched in 2019 and published by JIHS since 2025, GHM serves as an international platform for research in clinical medicine, public health, global health, and health emergency management. More than 400 articles have been published to date, with content indexed in major databases including Web of Science, PubMed/PMC, and Scopus.

The latest citation metrics underscore the journal's expanding global reach and JIHS's growing role in disseminating health research to the international community.

A New Role in Regional Health Security

Strengthening Health Security Across the Asia-Pacific

JHIS contributed to discussions on regional health emergency preparedness at the Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework (APHSAF) meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on June 11. Organized with support from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, the meeting brought together governments and public health organizations to strengthen preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks and other health emergencies.



Discussions focused on workforce development, operational readiness, and multisource surveillance, with participants emphasizing the importance of stronger coordination across institutions, data systems, and sectors. JHIS and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare shared Japan's experience in surveillance and health crisis preparedness.

The meeting highlighted the growing importance of regional collaboration and reinforced JHIS's role in advancing health security across the Asia-Pacific region.

Developing the Next Generation of Health Crisis Leaders

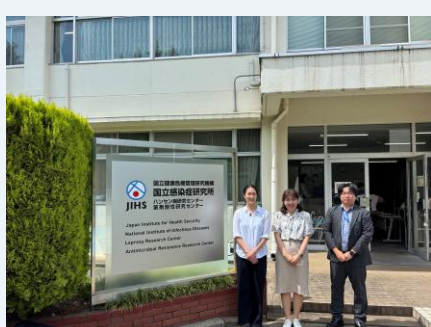
Preparing the Next Generation of Health Crisis Leaders



The Infectious Disease Crisis Leadership Program (IDCL), supported by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and implemented by JHIS, is designed to develop future leaders in infectious disease emergency preparedness and response. The year-long program brings together professionals from public health, healthcare, epidemiology, and clinical medicine to strengthen leadership skills and practical expertise for health crisis management.



This year's trainees participated in a range of hands-on learning experiences, including visits to key public health institutions, training in biosafety and surveillance, workshops on infectious disease investigations, and multidisciplinary tabletop exercises. Through these activities, participants gained practical insights into preparedness, response coordination, and public health decision-making.



By investing in the development of future leaders, JHIS is helping strengthen Japan's capacity to respond effectively to emerging infectious disease threats and other public health emergencies.

Building a Unified Organization

JIHS President Meets with Early-Career Researchers and Staff

As JIHS continues to integrate its diverse research and public health functions, fostering connections across generations and disciplines remains a priority. To support this goal, President Kokudo held a series of informal discussions with early-career researchers, students, and staff in January, February, and May.

Participants exchanged views on research environments, career development, and the future of JIHS, highlighting the importance of open dialogue between leadership and staff. The meetings also helped strengthen networks among young researchers and laid the groundwork for future collaboration across the organization.



Exploring the Future of Nursing

Webinar Examines Global and Japanese Perspectives from State of the World's Nursing 2025

On May 31, JIHS's Bureau of Global Health Cooperation hosted a webinar to introduce the Japanese translation of the World Health Organization's State of the World's Nursing 2025 report. Organized in collaboration with three WHO Collaborating Centres in Japan and the Sasakawa Health Foundation, the event brought together experts from government, academia, and the nursing profession to discuss the future of nursing in Japan and around the world.

Speakers addressed workforce challenges, professional leadership, and policy priorities, while nursing leaders shared perspectives on the skills needed to meet evolving health demands. Discussions highlighted the critical role of nursing in strengthening health systems and advancing universal health coverage.

By linking global evidence with Japan's experience, the webinar provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the future of the nursing profession and the changing landscape of healthcare.



A Welcome Visit

Two familiar visitors brought smiles to young patients this summer. Happy and Mirai, therapy dogs that have visited the pediatric ward since 2025, returned on June 12 and July 3 to spend time with children and their families.

Through gentle interactions, playful tricks, and walks around the ward, the dogs helped children relax, build confidence, and enjoy a break from hospital routines. Even children meeting a dog for the first time soon felt comfortable enough to pet them and offer treats.

More than a popular attraction, the therapy dog program provides emotional support and creates positive experiences for children during their hospital stay. Three additional visits are planned later this year, and patients, families, and staff are already looking forward to their return.



A New Garden Takes Root Tottori Flower Garden Opens

A new Tottori Flower Garden opened at the NCGM on May 21, featuring flowers and plants from Tottori Prefecture. Supported by Shinji Hirai, Governor of Tottori Prefecture and a JIHS Board member, the garden is intended to provide a welcoming and enjoyable environment for patients, visitors, and staff.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Norihiro Kokudo thanked the volunteers who helped create and maintain the garden and expressed his hope that it will flourish for years to come.

