

**The Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (JARM)  
Annual Report (2023 Winter)**

**Reports of the Participants in the Traveling Fellowship program supported by the  
Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (JARM)**

**Japanese Physicians supported by the Traveling Fellowship program (2023)**

**1) Asako Kaneoka, Speech therapist, Ph.D.**

The University of Tokyo Hospital, Rehabilitation Center, Tokyo, Japan

**Conference:**

The 3rd World Dysphagia Summit/ The 31st Annual Meeting of Dysphagia Research Society

**Presentation Title:**

Longitudinal analyses of dysphagia and factors related to postoperative pneumonia in patients undergoing esophagectomy for esophageal cancer

**Visited Institute:**

Stanford University Voice and Swallowing Center

**Report:**

Here, I express my sincere gratitude for the financial support provided for my international research trip to attend the 3rd World Dysphagia Summit (WDS) and the 31st Annual Meeting of Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) held in San Francisco from March 13 to 17, 2023.

I had the opportunity to attend these conferences and learn about the latest trends in the field of swallowing evaluation and therapeutic intervention for dysphagia. As there is little information on pediatric dysphagia in Japan, attending the WDS was especially valuable. The conference provided me with a platform to interact with experts from various countries and exchange information. I was also able to introduce to the participants the creative activities of "Snack TSUROMI," a community of parents of children with dysphagia, during a session for people with dysphagia at the WDS.

I presented an oral presentation at the DRS on the MBSImPTM (Modified Barium Swallow Study Impairment Profile) analysis of swallowing functions pre- and postoperative esophageal cancer. The study revealed that aspiration and pharyngeal residue occurred temporarily at 2 weeks postoperatively, but improved at 3 months postoperatively, while hyolaryngeal elevation restriction and vocal fold immobility worsened postoperatively. Furthermore, postoperative aspiration pneumonia was associated with pharyngeal residue. The lively discussion that followed the presentation gave me valuable feedback and insights.

In addition to attending the conferences, I had the opportunity to interact with the staff of the Voice and Swallowing Center at Stanford University about rehabilitative intervention for dysphagia related

**The Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (JARM)  
Annual Report (2023 Winter)**

to esophageal cancer and head and neck cancer. The discussions helped me determine the direction of my next research project.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support of the Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine, which has enabled me to further my research and contribute to the field of dysphagia.

**2) Runa Minami, M.D., Ph.D.**

Misugikai Otokoyama Hospital, Kyoto, Japan

**Conference:**

World Congress On Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis And Musculoskeletal Diseases(WCO-IOF-ESCEO)

**Presentation Title:**

①Methods And Relevancy In Measuring The Bone Mineral Density Of The Fractured Or Deformed Hip: Comparison With The Fresh Isolated Femoral Head

②Bone Mineral Density At The Fracture Side Discriminates Trochanteric Fractures From Cervical Fractures

③Hip Osteoarthritis And Proximal Femoral Fracture; Analysis Of Bone Mineral Density On The Fresh Isolated Femoral Head

**Report:**

The 23rd Edition of the WORLD CONGRESS ON OSTEOPOROSIS, OSTEOARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES (WCO-IOF-ESCEO) took place in Barcelona on May 4-7, 2023. I decided to participate on-site because I had three poster presentations which only held on-site, despite COVID-19. Before the shadow of COVID-19, the return ticket for EUROPE cost around a hundred thousand yen. But now the fuel surcharge exceeds the amount! I was so surprised. The route also avoided Russia, passing partly through Alaska and via the Arctic on the way there and through Turkey and northern India on the way back.

More than 7,600 people attended the congress, about half of whom were on-site participants. More than 1,200 poster presentations were registered, but there were a few posters that were not displayed, perhaps due to COVID-19. There were almost no presentations from Japan, but I saw many presentations from the Asian region mainly Taiwan and Korea. I was standing in front of my posters at the one-hour poster viewing session, but only a few audiences visited. We, similar presenters, introduced our research to each other. The symposium and lecture rooms were crowded. Especially the small room for the lecture on medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw was packed. Since the field of osteonecrosis of the jaw is one that has been controversial between societies, many physicians

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may want to confirm the standpoint of the societies when they are treating patients. Of course, since it was the Osteoporosis Society, the benefits outweighed the risks and the treatment was recommended. It was on my way back to Japan. I tried to take the airport bus from Placa Catalunya at 6 a.m. but it was closed because of the Barcelona Marathon. I spoke to a man who was carrying the barricade, but he didn't speak English. I repeated Aerobus! He told me the bus would start from Placa Espana. I shared a cab with a Finnish woman who was also hanging around the square, and we went to Placa Espana. I chatted with her and told her that I was also transferring to Helsinki by Finnair. We boarded the plane, and to my surprise, the woman was seated next to me. We checked in online in advance and our seats were settled the day before. It's a strange thing, isn't it?

**A Foreign Physician supported by the Traveling Fellowship program**

**Irma Ruslina Defi, M.D., Ph.D.**

Hasan Sadikin General Hospital – Faculty of Medicine Padjadjaran University Bandung,  
West Java, Indonesia

**Visited Institute:**

- ① National Centre of Geriatric and Gerontology (NCGG)
- ② Fujita University Hospital (FUH)

**Report:**

Spending three weeks in the Rehabilitation Centers in Japan was a great honor for me. During my visit, I had the chance to observe the rehabilitation process at two facilities, namely the National Center of Geriatric and Gerontology (NCGG) in Obu City from March 6 to March 24, 2023, and the Fujita University Hospital (FUH) in Toyoake City, from March 27 to March 31, 2023.

My experience there was enlightening, motivating, and educational. By observing the rehabilitation process at NCGG, I identified several areas where we could improve our practices in Bandung, Indonesia. These areas include the use of multidisciplinary dysphagia, outstanding outpatient rehabilitation facilities, and a 50-bed inpatient rehabilitation ward (kaifukuki) for sub-acute phase patients. Under the supervision of several expert professionals, including Prof. Izumi Kondo, Prof. Kagaya, Dr. Inagaki, Dr. Holly, Dr. Ozaki, Dr. Maeshima, Dr. Osawa, Dr. Kamizato, Dr. Otaka, and Dr. Nakarai, I had the opportunity to learn about advanced medical rehabilitation services and cutting-edge technology. The experience was not only educational but also provided me with a glimpse into the discipline, culture, and commitment of the rehabilitation team. I also got hands-on experience with advanced robotic equipment like WeWALK, virtual reality for balance and gait training, and home

**The Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (JARM)  
Annual Report (2023 Winter)**

robot, which was an incredible learning experience for me. The staff, including doctors, nurses, OTs, PTs, STs, and even the secretaries, were extremely helpful throughout my stay in NCGG.

At FUH, I gained valuable experience with impressive outpatient rehabilitation facilities, including easily accessible gait labs and lateral exoskeletons. I also learned about the integration of the role of rehabilitation engineer in the evaluation and creation of needs-based technology, particularly for the aging population at home. I am very grateful to the doctors at FUH, including Professor Otaka, Professor Saitoh, Dr. Shibata, Dr. Maeda, Dr. Wada, and Dr. Hirano, for their time, expertise, and dedication to their patients. They were very accommodating and generous with their knowledge and experience, and I hope to return for a longer period in the future.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the JARM for providing me with this incredible educational opportunity. One proposed idea for the upcoming step is to engage in collaborative research and jointly release publications with our institution in Bandung, Indonesia.