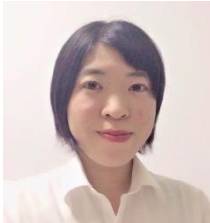


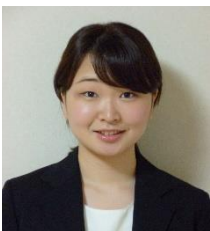


The 4th TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program Participants
(Japanese syllabary order)



Name : Yumi Gima
School : Sendai Medical Center
Hometown : Rifu, Miyagi Prefecture

I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake during my first year of middle school. At the time, there was no water in the area where I lived, and when I saw seniors volunteering to collect water, I became inspired to volunteer and help others. However, I could not take any real action at the time. As someone who has always wanted to become a nurse, I became interested in disaster nursing due to my experience during the earthquake, which is why I applied to this program. In recent years, a variety of disasters have taken place in Japan due to extreme weather. During the study tour in the United States, I would like to learn disaster response measures not only for earthquakes, but also for hurricanes and other disasters that cannot be easily studied in Japan. In the future, I would like to become a member of DMAT (the disaster medical assistance team), and be able to take positive action in times of disasters.



Name : Runa Komato
School : Sendai Medical Center
Hometown : Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture

I became interested in disaster nursing because I felt so powerless during the Great East Japan Earthquake. As much as I wanted to help, I was only in sixth grade at the time, so all I could do was watch. From then on, I've wanted to learn about disaster response techniques and skills. When a disaster takes place, many people of different religions and who speak different languages are affected. By training in a multi-ethnic nation like the United States, I would like to learn how to conduct disaster nursing in different cultures. I have two goals for my participation in this program: to always take action with purpose, and to share the memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake with more people. By participating in this program, I would like to keep the lessons of the earthquake alive, and also learn to support people.



Name : Ayaka Sasaki
School : Japanese Red Cross Ishinomaki Hospital
Hometown : Rifu, Miyagi Prefecture

I had just graduated from high school when I experienced the earthquake. I helped hold volunteer and disaster countermeasure workshops in coastal areas, and also helped to communicate the necessity of disaster measures and the current situation of Japan with overseas communities. I heard about the program from a senior at my school who participated in the program in previous year. Since then, I've thought about disaster prevention from different perspectives, and the importance of disaster countermeasures. I also want to expand my own network, deepen my understanding about nursing, and participate in my school's disaster countermeasure committee. Through this program, I would like to look at the current state of disaster nursing through my own eyes, and learn about the difference between nursing in the United States and in Japan, and how I can apply my experience in Japan. Using the knowledge gained through this program, I hope to learn about and follow international standards as a nurse.



Name : Yukiyo Toyokawa

School : Tohoku University

Hometown : Misawa, Aomori Prefecture

There are still many challenges that remain in Tohoku to this day, such as the health problems associated with living in temporary housing. I want to participate in this program in order to solve such health problems and to deepen my understanding about disaster nursing. Fortunately, my relatives and I did not suffer much damage from the earthquake, so I think I can bring a very different perspective to this program than the other participants. There are three main things I would like to learn through the program: a nurse's role and responsibilities during a disaster; how to approach different regional medical issues; and how to treat the physical, mental, and social problems of victims. I would like to expand my knowledge in areas I am less familiar with, such as the current state of the affected areas and the current state of disaster nursing in the United States.



Name : Shiori Hikichi

School : Iwate Prefectural University

Hometown : Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture

I became interested in disaster nursing after my own experience during the Great East Japan Earthquake and by participating in various activities that were organized by my university and other organizations. My grandmother and relatives suffered greatly from the accident at the nuclear plant in Fukushima, however I was not able to do anything to help them and felt powerless. Upon starting university, I began to participate in various activities to learn more about the affected areas in Fukushima, and I now work with a volunteer group at a temporary housing unit in one of the disaster areas. By participating in the program, I hope to expand my knowledge on disaster nursing, and apply it to future activities. During the study tour in the United States, I would like to learn about disaster response from the acute period to the recovery period; how residents, local government, and municipality are engaged; and about mental health during disasters. I would like to learn as much as possible, while also considering what I want to do in the future, as well as what I am capable of doing.



Name : Hikaru Matsuno

School : Kameda College of Health Sciences

Hometown : Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture

After experiencing the earthquake, I became interested in DMAT, which is very active in responding to accidents and disasters. After enrolling in a university affiliated with a trauma hospital, I heard about a nurse who was dispatched as a DMAT in Sendai. This made me realize that there was still a lot for me to learn. Currently, I attend university in Chiba Prefecture, and I still feel the lack of understanding and awareness about disasters possessed by those who live in unaffected areas. Therefore, I want to participate in this program in order to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible. Although this program will end in one year, it is only the beginning of my journey as a nurse. I would like to absorb as much information about disaster nursing as possible, so that in the future, I can feel a true connection to Tohoku and nursing in Japan.



Name : Aya Matsunoshita

School : Miyagi University

Hometown : Natori, Miyagi Prefecture

I would like to participate in this program because I would like to learn about disaster nursing by visiting the actual areas, facilities, and organizations that specialize in disaster nursing. During the study tour in the United States, I will learn about how staff members work together on a daily basis, and I will listen to their thoughts on disaster nursing. By listening to them, I would like to deepen my understanding of disaster nursing, and I hope to continue this growth into the future. At the same time, I would like to share my thoughts and the knowledge I've gained through the program with others, to help more people become interested in disaster nursing. Because this program presents a valuable opportunity to learn about disaster nursing, I would like to engage myself fully in order to learn as much as I possibly can in a limited amount of time.