TOMO DACHI

Meet the Participants of the Sixth TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program
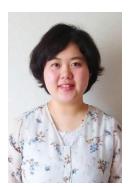
*Japanese alphabetical order

Name: Ryo Asahi
Affiliation: Nagaoka Sutoku University
Hometown: Sanjo, Niigata

My motivation for joining this program is twofold. Firstly, I want to work as an international disaster nurse in the future. If medical care can be provided instantly in emergencies where medical care is required such as natural disasters, wars, and major accidents, preventable deaths can be minimized. Secondly, I believe that this program is the best opportunity to learn about disaster nursing outside of school. I was looking for other training programs and workshops, but the recruitment processes were cancelled due to COVID-19. I developed a strong will and intention to participate in this program because disaster nursing is central to my career goals. I would like to actively speak up, work cooperatively with others, and do my best in this program.

Name: Chikage Kida
Affiliation: St.Luke's International University Graduate School
Hometown: Ota, Tokyo

Growing up listening to my family's disaster-related experiences, I became interested in disasters and disaster medicine from an early age. When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, I felt powerless because there was nothing I could do but watch in front of the TV, and I decided that I want to contribute to the recovery efforts. Following my graduation from university, I worked as a nurse at a critical care center and dealt with tasks related to COVID-19. From this experience I came to believe that various types of responses are required such as providing care for medical staff who work in harsh conditions alongside fear of infection, developing methods that ensure that appropriate medical care is provided in the midst of chaotic situations, and establishing systems that allow different institutions and people in different medical fields to collaborate effectively. These kinds of responses also become necessary in the events of other disasters. I applied to this program because it is essential to learn about on-going issues in relation to various disasters, the needs of people in active workplaces and disaster medical care initiatives both in Japan and overseas in order to be able to cope with

the situation with a broad perspective. I would like to utilize this program to further my understanding of disaster nursing while working hard with the other participants. I would also like to utilize the knowledge and experience I will gain from this program to give back to those around me in order to interest them regarding disaster nursing and contemplate the future of the field.

Name: Mayu Kumamoto
Affiliation: Saga University
Hometown: Karatsu, Saga

Listening to my father's stories of volunteering in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, I feared that our daily lives could change in an instant, which piqued my interest in disaster nursing. I knew that I wanted to become a medical professional who can contribute to people's safety as well as their physical and mental well-being during disasters where the situation changes rapidly. Due to various disasters in recent years including the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe that the demand for disaster nursing is high. I hope to develop the ability to respond to various situations throughout the program. In addition, I would like to study disasters and disaster medicine in the United States, discover the differences and similarities in the field of disaster nursing between the U.S. and Japan, and consider the aspects that should be incorporated into disaster medicine and nursing in the future. I will do my best to contribute to the future of disaster medical care and disaster nursing.

Name: Ayako Kumoi
Affiliation: The Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing
Hometown: Miyoshi, Hiroshima

I became interested in disaster nursing because of the harmful events surrounding heavy rainfall in western Japan. While watching an area I was very familiar with become damaged but not being able to help left me feeling extremely frustrated. At the same time, learning about the relief efforts through the news left a deep impression on me which made me want to help the victims in some way. As I pursued my dream to become a nurse, I became involved in disaster medicine. I realized that I wanted to become a nurse who could provide emotional support to the victims. I applied for the program because I believe that I can learn a lot about a wide

range of topics such as how disaster medicine is being handled during the pandemic and how disaster medicine is handled in the United States. I want to work with a group of people gathered from around the nation who have similar dreams in order to get myself closer to my own.

Name: Ayano Sakurai
Affiliation: Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Hometown: Hino, Tokyo

I applied for the program because I am excited about the opportunity to learn about disaster medicine in the United States and disaster response efforts in Japan. At a study session, I learned about evacuation centers overseas that are different from the ones I think of in Japan. I realized that it is necessary to become flexible and integrate ideas from overseas into current practices in order to improve disaster medicine in Japan. I believe that gaining a wide range of knowledge in Japan and overseas during the program will give me an opportunity to think about what we should do as nurses to elevate the standard of disaster medicine in Japan. I am eager to hear opinions from the other students in regard to disaster nursing and broaden my perspective throughout the program. I would like to further develop my understanding and thoughts on disaster nursing and medicine by sharing new perspectives and knowledge I gain during the program and by listening to the experiences of mentors and instructors.

Name: Misa Negishi
Affiliation: St. Luke's International University
Hometown: Joetsu, Niigata

I have experienced various disasters and accidents, including the Chuetsu Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake; I have also encountered terrorism and robbery while living overseas. I remember the fear and anxiety that I experienced thinking that my everyday life would collapse in an instant. However, the compassion and kindness of people following a disaster gave me hope and courage to live. With that in mind, I want to help people acquire hope to live and maintain their health, and in the future, I want to work on health issues from the perspective of disaster nursing. This program will offer an opportunity to learn more about disaster nursing from world-class professionals and receive tips and feedback necessary to achieve my goals. Because my university does not provide opportunities to learn about disaster

nursing to students until their senior year, this program will be the first step on my journey in the field of disaster nursing. I would like to help one another in the community of other participants throughout the program, learn how to take on leadership roles as a nurse, and learn how to implement high-quality basic life support in order to be fully prepared for future job opportunities. In addition, I will continue to study independently in order to apply what I have learned in my life as a future disaster nurse.

Name: Shuri Fujiwara
Affiliation: Takarazuka University
Hometown: Shiogama, Miyagi

When I was in fifth grade, I was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in Miyagi. From regret of being powerless at that time, I have avoided facing disasters. However, that experience is also the reason why I want to become a nurse. The experience enabled me to understand the ephemeral nature of life and the importance of words. As a result of pursuing that goal and being thanked by patients along the way, I became aware of the joy one can get out of helping others. I applied for this program because I wanted to face my own experience and use that firsthand experience to support the people who are facing difficulties. I would like to become a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) in the future. In order to achieve that goal, there are many things I must learn, including how a disaster site operates, what one can do as a medical professional, and what sort of activities DMAT and Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Teams (DPAT) from rural areas engage in particularly when they have a limited number of people and supplies at their disposal. I am excited for the opportunity to learn from people who have experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and the opportunity to learn about the medical disaster system in the United States. I would like to keep an open mind and proactively absorb the factors from the entire experience by communicating with nursing students from all over Japan.

Name: Momo Yoshimi
Affiliation: Chiba University Graduate School
Hometown: Arakawa, Tokyo

I applied for this program because I thought that I could participate in workshops, engage in discussions with other students who are interested in disaster nursing, and take advantage of the opportunity to learn about

disaster nursing from scratch again, this time with the help of a myriad of different perspectives. I believe studying independently is not enough and that interacting with others helps to make the learning experience more impactful. I would like to deepen my understanding of disaster nursing by listening to the experiences of others when they have provided support to the affected areas. These are experiences that would have been unavailable to me in a classroom setting; I would like to utilize the knowledge and experiences I would gain by applying them to nursing research. It is such a valuable experience to be able to learn about disaster medicine in the United States and exchange opinions with local medical staff, particularly because the COVID-19 pandemic has made studying abroad extremely difficult. I believe that this opportunity is necessary in order to develop an international perspective on the topic of disaster nursing.