

**e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)  
Joint Research Project in the field of “Health Research”  
on the topic of “Infectious Diseases, Cancer”.**

It is our great pleasure to announce the selected projects of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)\*<sup>1</sup> 7th Call for Proposals in the field of “Health Research” on the topic of “Infectious Diseases, Cancer.”

A total of 25 proposals was submitted in response to the 7th joint call for proposals. After careful consideration based on the peer review results by the 10 funding organizations from 9 countries participating in the call\*<sup>2</sup>, the following 4 collaborative projects were selected for support with the approval of the e-ASIA JRP Board. Support to the projects will continue for three years.

**“Development of new diagnostic tools for detecting malaria parasites resistant to drugs used in Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy”**

to be conducted jointly by:

Japan: Shiroh Iwanaga, Professor, Environmental Parasitology, Tokyo Medical and Dental University

Thailand: Chairat Uthaipibull, Principal Researcher, Medical Molecular Biology Research Unit, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC)

Indonesia: Din Syafruddin, Professor, Malaria and Vector Resistance Laboratory, Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology

This cooperative research project aims to identify new genetic markers associated with resistance to drugs used in Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT), and to develop new diagnostic tools to detect those identified biomarkers in ACT-resistant malaria parasites.

**“Construction of liver fluke biliary cancer PDX library aiming at development of personalized medicine”**

to be conducted jointly by:

Thailand: Siwanon Jirawatnotai, Instructor, Department of Pharmacology, Mahidol University

Japan: Seiji Okada, Professor, Division of Hematopoiesis, Kumamoto University

USA: Piotr Sicinski, Professor, Cancer Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

This cooperative research aims to make possible personalized treatment for inflammation/infection-related cholangiocarcinoma (CCA). By combining strengths of systems pharmacology, patient-derived xenograft animal models, and advanced molecular technology, our team will deliver novel treatment strategies for CCA subtypes.

**“Investigating the sylvatic transmission and reservoir potential of Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses of long-tailed macaques proximal to human populations of Thailand and Cambodia”**

to be conducted jointly by:

Thailand: Kobborn Boonnak, Asst. Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

USA: Rebecca C. Christofferson, Asst. Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University

Cambodia: Leang Rithea, Head, National Dengue Control Program, National Center for Parasitology, Entomology, and Malaria Control

This cooperative research project aims to determine the role of non-human primates in the transmission cycle of Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses in Southeast Asia through evaluation of the seroprevalence of monkeys and close proximal human population(s), as well as infection rates in peri-urban and urban mosquitoes.

**“Randomised trial of an intervention to increase tuberculosis notifications by private practitioners in Indonesia, plus sequencing and susceptibility sub studies”**

to be conducted jointly by:

New Zealand: Philip Hill, Professor, Centre for International Health, University of Otago

Indonesia: Bacht Alisjahbana, Doctor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Padjadjaran

USA: Megan Murray, Professor, School of Public Health, Harvard University

This cooperative research project aims to conduct a randomised trial of a tailored intervention package to increase notifications of tuberculosis by private practitioners in Bandung, Indonesia. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from notified TB cases will be sequenced to facilitate social network analyses and drug susceptibility testing.

On behalf of the e-ASIA JRP, we would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to the project teams, and look forward to the significant impact their results will bring to public and global health in the future.

\*1 The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)

Through the acceleration of science and technology research exchange and collaboration in the East Asian region, the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP) aims to strengthen research and development capabilities towards resolution of shared challenges across the region, including those associated with materials,

alternative energy, agriculture, health research, disaster risk reduction and management, advanced interdisciplinary research towards innovation, and environment. As part of that objective, the e-ASIA JRP is intended to support collaborative research implemented among 3 or more of its member countries. Through the implementation of joint research among participating countries in agreed fields of research, it is the goal of the e-ASIA JRP to contribute to economic and human resource development, as well as the resolution of various challenges in the region.

e-ASIA JRP's homepage: <http://www.the-easia.org/jrp/>

\*2 The list of organizations participating in the 7<sup>th</sup> joint call for proposals in the field of "Health":

- Ministry of Health (MOH), Cambodia  
URL: <http://www.moh.gov.kh/>
- Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEKDIKTI), Indonesia  
URL: <https://ristekdikti.go.id/>
- Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), Japan  
URL: <http://www.amed.go.jp/en/>
- Ministry of Education (MOE)  
URL: <http://www.moe.gov.mm/en/>
- Health Research Council (HRC), New Zealand  
URL: <http://www.hrc.govt.nz/>
- Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD), Philippines  
URL: <http://www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph/>
- Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), Russia  
URL: <http://www.rfbr.ru/rffi/eng/>
- National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand  
URL: <https://www.nstda.or.th/en/index.php>
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), USA  
URL: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>
- National Cancer Institute (NCI), USA  
URL: <http://www.cancer.gov/>

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