

ARISE & DIT

Asian clinical trial platform

NEWSLETTER

Foreword from Dr. Daisuke Tokita

Secretary General of ARISE and Director of the Department of International Trials

From Building Networks to Generating Evidence

Over the past year, ARISE has reached an important milestone.

Since its establishment, ARISE has focused on building a strong and trusted network across Southeast and East Asia. Thanks to the dedication of our member institutions and partners, we have now entered a new phase—moving from network building to conducting multinational clinical research together.

One of our most significant achievements has been the successful setup of the ABLe Study (ARISE ESBL Observational Study) across all participating overseas sites. Through this initiative, ARISE is creating a platform for sharing clinical data and analyzing pathogens across multiple countries. This platform will strengthen our preparedness for future public health emergencies by enabling rapid information sharing and supporting the development of new diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Preparations are also progressing for the EPIDEA Study, a multinational surveillance study

of adenoviruses and enteroviruses involving five ASEAN countries. In Vietnam, the HIPOCAMP study, developed in collaboration with Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, is expected to begin soon. Beyond



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Asia, our collaborations are expanding in Africa, where we are supporting clinical research on mpox vaccines and the development of rapid diagnostic technologies.

The coming year will be an exciting one for both ARISE and the DIT, with multiple clinical research projects and clinical trials moving forward simultaneously.

Together with the members of the DIT, our colleagues across JIHS, our collaborators, and all members of ARISE, I look forward to making this a year of growth, achievement, and meaningful impact.

ARISE Today for a Healthier Tomorrow.

Editorial

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ABLE Study Launched to Address Drug-Resistant Bloodstream Infections in Asia



The ABLe study was officially launched on April 22, 2026, at a kickoff meeting hosted by JIHS. This major initiative unites ARISE network sites across Southeast and East Asia to study bloodstream infections caused by third-generation cephalosporin-resistant (3GCR) *E. coli* and *Klebsiella*.

Sponsored by JIHS and funded by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), ABLe is an international observational study integrating clinical data with whole-genome sequencing to better understand resistance patterns and patient outcomes. The study will

enroll up to 3,000 patients through June 2027, capturing mortality, treatment practices, and antimicrobial use.

Standardized protocols for enrollment, isolate handling, and data collection have been implemented across sites, supported by coordinated governance and quality assurance. Training and ethics processes are underway.

The ABLe study is now officially open, marking a critical step toward strengthening regional responses to antimicrobial resistance.

JIHS Collaborating Office at Hanoi Medical University (HMU): A new milestone in collaboration between the two institutions

On May 25, 2026, the JIHS, led by Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, President and Dr. Wataru Sugiura, Director-General of Center for Clinical Sciences (CCS) and Advisor to the President, attended the Opening Ceremony of the JIHS Collaborating Office at



1. Dr. Kokudo Norihiro, President of JIHS, presents a JIHS token to Prof. Nguyen Huu Tu, Rector of HMU (Photo credit: HMU)
2. Group photograph of JIHS delegation and HMU members, together with representatives from the Embassy of Japan in Vietnam and IUHW (Photo credit: HMU)

HMU, Vietnam. Representatives from the Embassy of Japan in Vietnam and the International University of Health and Welfare (IUHW) also attended this event.

During the ceremony, Dr. Kokudo and Prof. Nguyen Huu Tu, Rector of the HMU officially announced the opening of the JIHS Collaborating

Office, followed by the unveiling of the office name plate. Dr. Kokudo expressed his expectation that the Collaborating Office will serve as a platform to promoting international clinical research and trials between two countries and in the region, and will contribute to address the emerging infectious diseases through the ARISE network.

Building an Integrated Infectious Disease R&D Ecosystem in Asia: at CRM Trial CONNECT 2026

On May 8, 2026, ARISE held its first standalone session at CRM Trial CONNECT 2026, hosted by Clinical Research Malaysia (CRM) in Kuala Lumpur. The session, titled “Rethinking Infectious Disease R&D for Global Health Security,” convened academic and industry leaders to explore a collaborative path forward for Asia.

Co-chaired by Dr. Daisuke Tokita and Dr. Sifa Marie Joelle Muchanga (JIHS), the session opened with an overview of the regional infectious disease R&D ecosystem and joined by speakers from Japan and Southeast Asia countries: Prof. Yoke Fun Chan (University of Malaya), Prof. Jarir At Thobari (Universitas Gadjah Mada), and Mr. Shigeru Nakaji

(Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association).

The panel discussion highlighted the fragmentation of the infectious disease R&D ecosystem and emphasized the practical role of regional networks, such as ARISE, in strengthening the ecosystem through trust-building, information sharing, and standardization, thereby enabling stakeholders to function more effectively as a unified team.



Co-chairs and speakers from the ARISE panel session at the CRM Trial Connect, from the right: Prof. Jarir from UGM, Dr. Chan from UMMC, Mr. Nakaji from JPMA, and Dr. Tokita and Dr. Sifa from JIHS

Expanding collaboration for mpox IVD Development

Dr. Tokita, together with Dr. Sifa and Ms. Marlinang, visited Ghana and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These visits were related to the clinical research project on In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) development for mpox, a collaboration between NIPRO Corporation, Tohoku Bio Array (TBA), PATH, and National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB). The visiting team included collaborators from NIPRO (Researchers Mr. Mitsuhiro Morita and Mr. Naofumi Yoshida) and TBA (CEO Dr. Mitsuo Kawase).

On April 19-21, the team visited Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana to

explore potential collaboration in the future including in mpox IVD development. This is a major research institute focusing on infectious diseases under the University of Ghana built with the support of JICA.

In the DRC, the team conducted mpox IVD training and testing together with PATH and INRB. During the visit, the team had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Dieudonne Mwamba Kazadi, the Director of National Institute for Public Health (INSP), and Prof. Christian Ngandu, the Coordinator of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center. The team also visited the mpox clinic in Kinshasa and Provincial Laboratory in Mbandaka.



1. From left to right: Mr. Frank Acheampong (JETRO Accra), Mr. Morita (NIPRO), Ms. Marlinang (JIHS), Mr. Yoshida (NIPRO), Dr. Kawase (TBA), Dr. Sifa (JIHS), Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu (Director of NMIMR), Dr. Joseph Humphrey Kofi Bonney (Head of the Department of Virology, NMIMR), Dr. Tokita (JIHS), Mr. Tsubasa Nakagawa (Director General of JETRO Accra)
2. Prof. Jean Jacques Muyembe Tanfum, Director General of INRB (fifth from left), and all project members (INRB, JIHS, NIPRO, PATH, and TBA)
3. Dr. Tokita presented JIHS token to Dr. Mwamba, Director of INSP



ARISE Forum for Clinical Trials of the Next Pandemic

The ARISE Forum on Clinical Trials for the Next Pandemic, co-hosted by the IUHW and HMU, was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from February 2-3, 2026. With over 80 experts and researchers from research institutions in Japan and Vietnam participating, the ARISE Forum provided an active platform for sharing experiences and developing strategies related to the conduct of clinical trials

during the pandemic. The Forum emphasized the vital role of the ARISE network in promoting multi-country research and trials collaboration, contributing to regional pandemic preparedness.

It concluded that a sustainable and resilient pandemic clinical trial ecosystem is vital to ensure rapid and effective responses to future public health emergencies.



Participants attending the ARISE Forum in Hanoi on February 2 – 3, 2026

Events

Double Recognition at the JIHS GLOBAL HEALTH AWARDS

On March 18, the **JIHS GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD** ceremony was held. This award is to recognize members who have outstanding contributions to *Global Health and Medical Strategy 2020* and to further promote the JIHS's global health initiatives.

This year, the JIHS GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD was presented for the **"Planning and Implementation of the LC16m8 Mpox Vaccine Clinical Trial in Colombia (JIHS-Colombia Mpox Clinical Trial Team)"** project led by DIT. The award recipients were Dr. Ujiie, Dr. Mine, Dr. Aina, Dr. Ueno, Dr. Mendoza, Mr. Tomotsugu, Mr. Ichikawa, Ms. Hamana, Ms. Sakaguchi, Dr. Uemura, Dr. Ohashi, and Dr. Wada.

In addition, the **JIHS GLOBAL HEALTH YOUNG ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD** was presented for **"Development and Performance Evaluation of an Iso-PAS Diagnostic Reagent for Mpox Detection (Iso-PAS Mpox)"**, and Ms. Marlinang Diarta Siburian received the award.



1. Ms. Marlinang received the award from the President of JIHS, Dr. Norihiro Kokudo
2. A group photo of all the awardees with the Board of Leaders of JIHS

Announcements

Five years of Trust and Collaboration: the 5th ARISE Annual Meeting in Yogyakarta

We are delighted to announce that ARISE members will convene for their 5th Annual Meeting at **Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, on October 2–3, 2026**.

Marking a significant milestone, this year's gathering celebrates five years of trust, partnership, and collective progress across the ARISE network.

The meeting will center on the theme: **"Building equitable, rapid, and sustainable clinical research**

preparedness in the ARISE network – Moving from intention to action."

This theme reflects ARISE's commitment to translating shared goals into concrete, impactful actions—ensuring that clinical research systems are not only resilient and inclusive, but also capable of responding swiftly to emerging global health challenges.

More information will be available soon on our website.

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