

A Message from the NIH Japanese Scientists Association

To scientists and students affected by the earthquake in Japan:

We are very concerned about the unprecedented devastation in Japan caused by the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent instability of the nuclear reactors, and we realize there is a long road to recovery ahead. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to those victims who lost family members and friends in the disaster.

We, as scientists abroad, are deeply troubled by the news that many universities and research institutes in the Tohoku and Kanto areas suffered severe damage to their equipment, research facilities and hospitals, and that many scientists and students could not recover their valuable research materials and data.

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) community has expressed its heartfelt concern and strong desire to help the victims, as Dr. Michael Gottesman (NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research) detailed in his e-mail below. We have organized a group called the NIH Japanese Scientists Association (NJSA), which consists primarily of senior Japanese scientists at NIH/FDA, to promote the NIH relief initiative to support the affected scientists and students under the leadership of Dr. Gottesman.

The NJSA will work closely with Dr. Gottesman's office and other affiliated offices to promote the quick and effective recovery of your research endeavors. The NIH plans to support the affected scientists and students in a number of possible ways, including providing temporary NIH lab space, samples and equipment. As a first step to meeting your needs, we urgently need to gather information from you regarding: 1) Which institutions were affected and how severe the damage was; 2) How many scientists and students are in need of help; and 3) What the most urgent needs are for you personally.

Based on your feedback, the NJSA will coordinate with the appropriate officials and offices to serve you as best as we can and implement this relief effort as soon as possible.

Here are just a few examples of the different ways in which NIH might be able to help. Additional requests and ideas are very much appreciated.

1. Provide positions/lab accommodations for those who wish to come to NIH to work (for either a short or a long stay, in order to continue urgent ongoing experiments).
2. Supply necessary research materials and laboratory animals.
3. Supply other necessary equipment.

Please send your needs, questions and comments by e-mail to: NIHJASA@gmail.com.

We are certain that you are preoccupied with rebuilding things in both your life and your work environment, and we wish you the best of luck. We genuinely hope that the situation in Japan will improve soon and that you will be able to resume your research activities as quickly as possible.

NIH Japanese Scientists Association (NJSA)

Message from Dr. Gottesman

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 12:53 PM

To: *****

The NIH community has watched in horror as the natural catastrophe in Japan has unfolded. Many of us have scientific colleagues, students, friends, and family in areas of Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Our hearts go out to them.

Many of you have asked me whether there is anything we can do to help. Plans are underway to provide temporary scientific homes at NIH for Japanese colleagues and fellows who may have lost research facilities in Japan. Also, the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) has established a fund to help earthquake victims in Japan. Voluntary contributions may be sent to FAES, NIH Building 60, Suite 230 (One Cloister Court, Bethesda, MD 20814) and designated for the "Japanese Earthquake Fund."

Sincerely,
Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.
Deputy Director for Intramural Research