

## Outline of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute (JRCCN-DMRI)

### Purpose of Establishment

To contribute to the prevention and alleviation of the suffering of disaster victims by improving the quality and quantity of relief activities and expanding the scope of activities in Japan through research and educational activities related to disaster relief, and to disseminate and apply the knowledge gained through various activities to benefit society, with a focus on the relief activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS).

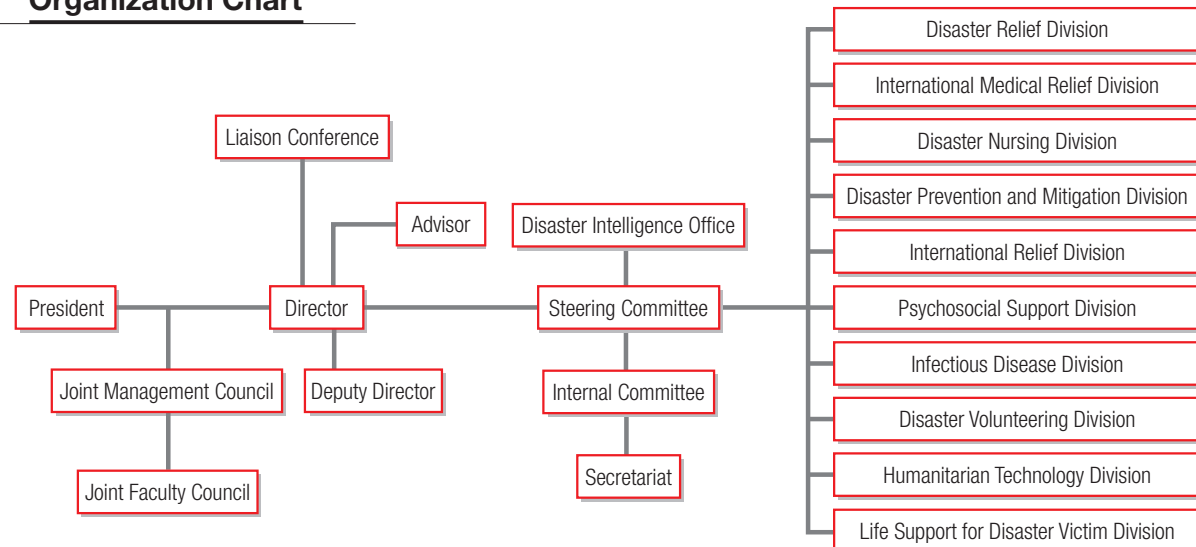
### Objectives

- 1 Compile the disaster relief knowledge accumulated by the JRCS and develop it into a practical framework.
- 2 Conduct research on emerging knowledge and technologies and contribute to the advancement of disaster relief in Japan and the International Red Cross by incorporating insights gained into the activities of the JRCS.
- 3 Proactively share research findings at major related academic conferences and actively contribute to the operational management of such conferences.

### Main Areas of Activity

- 1 Research and study activities related to disaster relief  
**Examples of the key areas of focus are as follows:**
  - ▶ Disaster medicine, disaster nursing, international medical relief, psychosocial support, disaster logistics, relief supplies, support for reconstructing disaster victims' livelihoods, disaster prevention and mitigation, and lifestyle support for the elderly
- 2 Proactive dissemination of disaster-related research and educational results
- 3 Disaster-related educational activities
- 4 Execution of duties commissioned by the JRCS Headquarters (Disaster Management and Social Welfare Department, Operations Sector, Japanese Red Cross Society, etc.)
- 5 Proactive participation in presenting research results at major academic disaster-related conferences and the operational management of these conferences from a leading position

### Organization Chart



## TOP MESSAGE

### Aiming to Advance Disaster Relief Through Research and Study of JRCS Knowledge and New Technologies

**Hiroki Tomita**  
Director  
(Chairman, Japanese Red Cross  
Academy)



Disaster relief is one of the most important activities for the Japanese Red Cross Society ("JRCS"), as explicitly stated in the Law Governing the Japanese Red Cross Society, which was enacted in the post-war period (1952), as "to give relief to those who suffer from sickness, injuries and other harms in case of emergency and also at the time of prevalence of communicable diseases." In recent years, the activities of JRCS staff have been remarkable, as evidenced by their extensive relief efforts in response to the unusually high frequency of natural disasters and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Disaster relief in Japan has advanced rapidly in recent years, with organizations and groups from various fields beyond medical care, now participating in and working together to support the livelihoods of disaster victims. These evolve significantly, reflecting not only a national trend but also a global movement.

In these ongoing changes in disaster relief, in order for the JRCS to maintain its contribution to disaster relief activities both in Japan and internationally from now on, it is essential that we analyze and consolidate the knowledge gained through many years of experience in an academic manner and making it accessible to society, as well as conduct research and studies to actively utilize emerging knowledge and technologies.

In light of these developments, the DMRI was established as an affiliated institution of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing in cooperation with the Japanese Red Cross Academy Headquarters and JRCS Headquarters. We are committed to ensuring that the DMRI's activities enable the JRCS to continue providing critical support to all disaster victims and affected areas, solidifying its role as a pivotal force in disaster relief.

### The Hub for Practice, Research, and Education in Red Cross Disaster Relief: A Living Organism That Protects People's Lives, Dignity and Livelihoods!

**Masumi Imura**  
Deputy Director  
(Professor, Graduate School of Nursing  
International Health Care and Midwifery,  
Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing)



The Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute (JRCCN-DMRI), an academia of the JRCS, was established in 2021 as an organization that protects people's lives, dignity, and livelihoods, which are the essence of the Red Cross. The DMRI has inherited the DNA of the active Red Cross organism from the establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863, through the birth of the Philanthropic Society (renamed the Japanese Red Cross Society in 1887) in 1877, to the present day. In response to the diverse and increasingly complex nature of disasters, we organized a multi-professional, collaborative team that provides multifaceted, multilayered support centered on the people affected, and are actively

working across divisional boundaries.

We serve as a collaborative platform for research and development, building on the extensive experience of the JRCS in Japan, a country prone to natural disasters, and its activities both in Japan and overseas, as well as for the development of the next generation.

We aim to provide assistance that leaves no one behind, covering the entire disaster cycle from the hyperacute phase to the recovery phase and supporting all generations from newborns to older adults, including those requiring special consideration during disasters.

We also welcome collaboration with individuals and organizations who share our aspirations and seek to contribute to our mission.

### Onko Chishin and Fueki Ryuko: Respecting History and Creating New Knowledge

**Yoshikazu Maruyama**  
Deputy Director  
Director of Disaster Intelligence Office  
(Professor, Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing)



The Japanese concept of "Onko Chishin" is translated as "to study the past to understand the new." The Disaster Intelligence Office translates it as "respecting history while creating new knowledge." Similarly, the concept of "Fueki Ryuko," which means "continuity and change," also emphasizes the importance of tradition but also expresses a spirit of innovation that incorporates new things.

In 2015, the International Committee of the Red Cross passed a resolution on "Preserving the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement." The mission of the DMRI is to preserve the

150-year history of the JRCS and to propose, implement, and evaluate new approaches to relief for the next era.

The DMRI comprises ten divisions, each of which conducts its research. The Disaster Intelligence Office was established in April 2022 to promote cooperation and collaboration in disaster relief activities both within and outside the DMRI, both domestically and overseas, and both within and outside the Red Cross.

Our team at the Disaster Intelligence Office will endeavor with the spirit of *Onko Chishin* and *Fueki Ryuko*.

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## About the Divisions of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute (JRCCN-DMRI)



The Research Institute has 10 divisions related to disaster relief and conducts research activities to solve various issues. We share research results by writing for related magazines, publishing theses, presenting at academic conferences, etc.

We also communicate the latest information to share research results of each division on the website and at annual seminars.

To enable each division's research to contribute to the development of various disaster management related fields, we will continue to collaborate with administrations and other organizations.

### Disaster Relief Division

**Contribute to development of disaster relief by conducting research and education on medical relief.**

We conduct research and education on medical relief activities in Japan ranging from disaster sites to disaster management headquarters, including preparation and structuring during normal times, to contribute to improving the Japanese Red Cross Society's disaster relief team and developing disaster relief in Japan.

#### Minoru Nakano

Division Director  
(President, Japanese Red Cross  
Maebashi Hospital)



As a JRCS staff member, I have participated in many rescue operations and have been involved in the Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team training program since its inception as an instructor and as a founding member of the JRCS Medical Response Unit training program and the JRCS Disaster Medical Coordination training program. All researchers in this division have extensive experience and expertise in medical responses, research, and training, and I have the utmost confidence in their abilities.

### International Medical Relief Division

**Contribute to the future by leveraging the knowledge and experience in overseas medical support that the Japanese Red Cross has accumulated over the years.**

We conduct useful research for future humanitarian support activities together with other divisions and International Medical Relief Base Hospitals, leveraging the knowledge and experience in overseas medical support we have gained over the years, starting with the Congo Crisis in 1960.

#### Masaharu Nakade

Division Director  
(Former General Manager,  
International Medical Relief Department,  
Japanese Red Cross Osaka Hospital)



Disaster medicine differs substantially from standard hospital care. While most people recognize the need for it, there are almost no private-sector organizations with budgets to undertake dedicated research in this area. Therefore, the importance of establishing the DMRI cannot be overlooked. As we progress, we will remain mindful that the research we undertake and disseminate will be subject to evaluation.

### Disaster Nursing Division

**Conduct research on health and life of disaster victims and contribute to disaster relief and disaster mitigation.**

Disasters are happening worldwide, aggravating people's living environment and damaging their health. We carry out research and education on post-disaster relief and recovery support, as well as on reducing the impacts of disasters on life and health, to promote disaster relief and disaster mitigation.

#### Mie Naiki

Division Director  
(Professor, International/Disaster Nursing,  
Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing)



Based on my experience with the JRCS's international and domestic relief activities, I am currently involved in research and education in disaster nursing. I hope to conduct research on the JRCS disaster relief activities and connect the findings to relevant theories, support systems, and disaster mitigation. I aim to reduce the impact of disasters on public health by exploring preparedness systems that can be implemented during times of peace.

### International Relief Division

**Enhance the capacity to respond to disasters and crises from Japan to the world, and from the world to Japan.**

The Red Cross responds to disasters and crises across the globe. We conduct research to enhance such capacity in Japan and communicate it to the world, and to apply such capacity developed around the world in Japan.

#### Nobuaki Sato

Division Director  
(Director General, Disaster Management and  
Social Welfare Department, Operations Sector,  
Japanese Red Cross Society)



The increasing severity of disasters caused by climate change and the emergence of novel global communicable diseases are rapidly narrowing the divide between responses in Japan and the rest of the world, which had previously been discussed separately. By leveraging not only the International Red Cross network but also the expertise of many people in Japan and overseas, we aim to achieve various breakthroughs.

### Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division

**Pursue practical disaster prevention and mitigation that improve self-help and mutual assistance capacity.**

We take a bird's-eye view of the overall disaster management cycle. Our research focuses on the development of practical tools, etc., that are lacking in current disaster prevention and mitigation efforts. Our research results are primarily aimed at spreading awareness among the general public.

#### Naoki Shiratsuchi

Division Director  
(Director General, Human Resources  
Department, Administration Sector,  
Japanese Red Cross Society)



From my domestic and overseas experiences over the past 20 years, I have realized that improving the capacity for self-help and mutual aid is essential for enhancing disaster prevention. Additionally, given the limitations of addressing issues solely from disaster prevention perspective, it is vital to collaborate and cooperate across a wide range of fields during peacetime. I strive to ensure that research in the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division contributes to resolving a wide range of societal problems, including disaster prevention.

### Psychosocial Support Division

**Contribute to development and innovation of psychosocial support in case of disasters.**

To provide support that considers not only physical health but also psychological and social well-being in case of disasters, we conduct research that integrates theories and practical knowledge at disaster sites requiring support, and aggregate and communicate those knowledge.

#### Reo Morimitsu

Division Director  
(Manager, Clinical Psychology Section,  
Japanese Red Cross Suwa Hospital)



Regardless of the nature of the disaster, local people live and work in the affected area. By continuing to disseminate knowledge about the human-centered psychological and social aspects in crisis situations such as disasters, we hope to help embed in society the idea that "individual dignity and well-being must be protected, especially in times of emergency" and to contribute to the development of people-centered disaster relief.

### Infectious Disease Division

**Conduct research on measures against infectious diseases in case of disasters and contribute to developing a safe environment in disaster-stricken areas.**

Generally, disasters aggravate poor hygienic conditions, and infectious diseases are more likely to occur. Infectious diseases do not always break out after disasters, but measures against infectious diseases are always necessary. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become particularly important to take effective measures.

#### Nobuhiro Komiya

Division Director  
(Director, Department of Infectious Disease  
Medicine, Japanese Red Cross  
Wakayama Medical Center)



Although I am a medical doctor specializing in infectious diseases, I have been involved in disaster responses both within Japan and internationally. Infectious disease countermeasures encompass not only medicine but also a variety of other fields. I would like to collaborate across divisions to conduct cross-sectional activities.

### Humanitarian Technology Division

**Co-create and communicate "humanitarian technology" that protects lives and dignity and reduces suffering in case of disasters.**

We serve as a center for the research and development of humanitarian technology that helps protect lives and dignity and reduces the suffering of disaster victims. With experts in various fields, we co-create technologies and methods to protect lives in case of disasters and share them widely to build a disaster-resilient society.

#### Yasuhiro Soshino

Division Director  
(Manager, Rescue Section,  
International Medical Relief Department,  
Japanese Red Cross Kumamoto Hospital)



The primary objective of disaster relief is to prevent the loss of human lives. To achieve this, technologies from a wide range of fields must be integrated throughout the disaster management cycle. In addition to providing medical aid, we must support evacuation, improve living conditions, build communities for better recovery, and provide disaster prevention education. Our division's key concept is "using technologies that are useful in times of disaster in everyday life," and we are working to develop practical technologies and promote them on a global scale.

### Disaster Volunteering Division

**Support volunteer activities that protect human lives, health, and dignity.**

We aggregate the roles and know-how of the Red Cross Volunteers who have long contributed to disaster victim support activities in disaster scenarios that are becoming increasingly frequent, widespread, and severe. We also visualize them for extensive use and conduct research on development of know-how and necessary support for their activities.

#### Hajime Yasue

Division Director  
(Director General, Partnership Promotion  
Department, Operations Sector,  
Japanese Red Cross Society)



The concept of disaster volunteers is changing and we must redefine it as a modern concept. I believe that the Red Cross Volunteer Corps and other volunteers can help disaster victims regain the strength to rebuild their communities by providing support in a collaborative and complementary manner, taking advantage of their individual characteristics and working closely with each victim. As the Red Cross, we will strive to make a contribution.

### Life Support for Disaster Victim Division

**Implement measures for evacuation life that protect people's dignity.**

To break away from the current situation in which the evacuation experience damages health and causes disaster-related deaths, we aim at implementing systems and procedures that improve the evacuation life from the acute to the chronic phase, in cooperation with various organizations and other divisions of the research institute.

#### Shinsaku Ueda

Division Director  
(Counsellor, Medical Business  
Promotion Headquarters,  
Japanese Red Cross Society)



Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, conditions in evacuation centers have gradually improved. However, in reality, living conditions in evacuation centres vary from disaster to disaster. One reason is absence of standard response mechanism applicable to all disasters. The JRCS, which has a nationwide network and human and material resources, will work to standardize a mechanism that protects human dignity, even in times of disaster, through peacetime preparedness and human resource development.