

RENKEI, the Japan-UK Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives, would like to invite researchers from all fields to participate in the first RENKEI researcher workshop on the topic of health. The workshop is being organised by Nagoya University, and will be held online on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 June, 9:00 – 11:15 UK time/ 17:00 – 19:15 Japan time. Participants should have interest/expertise in at least one of the workshop subthemes listed below. There is no participation fee. The workshop will take place in English.

Workshop Purpose and Outcomes: RENKEI members selected “health” as one of two priority areas for creating new joint research initiatives between members, based on its designation as a key strategic area of science and technology collaborations between Japan and the UK when the prime ministers of both countries met in September 2017. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel, the first health workshop is being held later than initially planned; however, this unprecedented situation has underlined the need for international research collaboration in areas related to health.

The online workshop will be held on two consecutive days, focusing on three sub-themes of health:

- Patient safety
- Medicine and informatics
- Ageing

As this is the first RENKEI workshop in the area of health, and given the time constraints of an online workshop, the main aims of the workshop will be for RENKEI members to learn more about each other’s research expertise and interests in the areas of health, and to identify potential for collaborative research. In order to encourage the latter aim, three seed funding grants (of around GBP 5,000 each – amount to be confirmed) will be available, one for each sub-theme. Workshop participants are encouraged to develop collaborative research proposals after the workshops and apply for one of these grants. Details of the grants will be explained at the workshop.

Please see the draft workshop programme, attached, for more details.

Background: RENKEI (Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives) is a partnership of 6 Japan and 6 UK research intensive universities, with the British Council acting as its secretariat. The member universities aim to strengthen the knowledge exchange and research collaboration between Japan and the UK. RENKEI provides a unique opportunity to bring together researchers from leading universities in Japan and the UK to tackle key global challenges. RENKEI members have selected “climate change” and “health” as the consortium’s two priority areas.

Workshop Documents:

- **Annex 1:** Draft programme

Registration of workshop participants:

Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/yrztuxdr> by 31 May 2021.

Workshop preparation activities:

- **ACTION 1 (beginning of March 2021)** British Council RENKEI secretariat to disseminate the call for participants to RENKEI coordinators.
- **ACTION 2 (early March 2021)** RENKEI coordinators to promote the call for participants within their institutions for participation by researchers at all levels. Please note the following:
 - ✓ As this workshop will take place online, we are not placing a limit on the number of participating researchers from each RENKEI member institution. Please promote this call widely within your institution.
 - ✓ We encourage participation by researchers from the social sciences and the humanities (related to “health” and the sub-themes above), as well as from the medical and related natural sciences.
 - ✓ We encourage participation by female researchers, and by early career researchers.
 - ✓ Participating researchers are expected to have interest/expertise in at least one of the subthemes listed above.
- **ACTION 3 (deadline 31 March 2021)** RENKEI coordinators should nominate two researchers to each give a short presentation and participate in the panel discussion in one of the presentation sessions, and ask these researchers to register online at <https://tinyurl.com/yrztuxdr> by 31 March 2021. Please note that we are planning to have around six presenters in each session; we may, therefore, be unable to accept some offers to present, or need to ask for additional presenters, depending on the balance between the three sub-themes. Presenters will be asked to read each other’s abstracts and note any questions or comments in advance.
- **ACTION 4 (deadline end April 2021)** The Health Organising Committee will confirm the presenters, and choose one UK and one Japan presenter per session to also act as session Chairs. Chairs will be asked to do the following:
 - Read participants’ abstracts in advance and prepare a few questions to prompt the discussion
 - Facilitate the presentation session
 - Identify possibilities for collaborative research and present these briefly at the end of Day 2 (24 June)
- **ACTION 5 (deadline 31 May 2021)** Workshop participants should register via the dedicated URL.

Workshop Leads: the workshop has been co-developed by the members of the RENKEI Health Organising Committee, together with the British Council, which acts as the secretariat of RENKEI:

Jon Turner	Director, Institute for Academic Development	University of Edinburgh
Spencer Hazel	Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics and Communication	Newcastle University
Atsushi Nakagawa	Director, Institute for Protein Research	Osaka University
Hideki Kasuya	Presidential Advisor (Professor)	Nagoya University
Seiji Sumigama	Designated Associate Professor, Graduate School of Medicine	
Izumi Tabata	Professor, College of Sport and Health Science	Ritsumeikan University