**Special Symposium co-hosted by JAIH, AMED and GACD**

* Title： Implementation Research on Chronic Diseases in LMICs
* Date & Time: 11:00 -12:30, July 7th, 2018
* Venue: 33rd Japan International Health (JAIH) Society of East regional meeting
* Chair： Hidechika Akashi (Director, Department of Global Network and Partnership, Bureau of International Health Cooperation, National Center for Global Health and Medicine; Program Officer, Research Program on the Challenges of Global Health Issues, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development)
* Speakers：
* Brian Oldenburg (Chair of Non-Communicable Disease Control and Head of WHO Collaborating Centre on Implementation Research for Prevention & Control of NCDs)
* Vilma Irazola, (Director, Department of Chronic Diseases, South American Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular Health, Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy, Argentina)
* Gary Parker (Research Coordinator, GACD International Secretariat)
* Yoko Izumi (Senior Director, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development)
* Yoshiharu Kim (Director, Department of Behavioral Medicine, National Institute of Mental Health, National Center for Neurology and Psychiatry; Center Director, National Information Center of Stress and Disaster Mental Health, National Institute of Mental Health, National Center for Neurology and Psychiatry)
* Overview：

Reflecting population aging throughout the world, the global burden of non-communicable diseases constitutes a major public health challenge, which undermines social and economic development. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), as well as in high-income countries, chronic diseases including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes are responsible for onset of disabilities, and are responsible for a considerable part of mortality. There is a growing concern that chronic diseases are risk factors for dementia.

In collaboration with the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) (※1), Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) promotes global health research toward achieving SDGs through Research Program on the Challenges of Global Health Issues (※2). This session will provide a broad overview of the roles of AMED and GACD in relation to implementation research, as well as discussion on challenges and future prospects of implementation research on chronic diseases in LMIC.

※1 GACD (Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases)

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) is a collection of the world's largest public health research funding agencies. The GACD funds joint research programmes into lifestyle-related or chronic diseases (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, certain cancers, lung diseases and mental health). The alliance coordinates and supports research activities that address the prevention and treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases, on a global scale. These conditions account for 60 percent of deaths globally. The GACD's multi-country, multi-disciplinary research focuses in particular on the needs of low- and middle-income countries, where 80% of deaths from chronic diseases occur. The alliance also focuses on research with vulnerable populations of more developed countries. The GACD is the first collaboration of major research funding agencies to specifically address chronic non-communicable diseases. Together, the members of the alliance represent over 80% of public health research funding worldwide. The GACD is now made up of fourteen public health research funders from around the world. AMED became the member of GACD in June 2016. Dr. Makoto Suematsu, AMED president, is a GACD Board member.

GACD joint calls:

Since its formation in 2007, GACD has implemented five joint calls for implementation science research proposals on diseases within its strategic focus areas. GACD joint research calls to date:

* 1st joint call: Hypertension (2010)
* 2nd joint call: Type 2 Diabetes (2013)
* 3rd joint call: Chronic lung diseases (2014/15)
* 4th joint call: Mental health (2017)
* 5th joint call: Scale-up of hypertension and diabetes (2018)

AMED has participated in the 4th and 5th joint calls.

※2 AMED’s Research Program on the Challenges of Global Health Issues

This program promotes research related to global public health issues (infectious disease control, maternal and child health, universal health coverage, aging populations, lifestyle-related diseases, etc.) in areas such as disease etiology, disease prevention, and standardizing methods of diagnosis and treatment. It aims to contribute to global health by taking advantage of advanced science and technology, and knowledge and experiences which have been accumulated in our country. The program also aims to enhance the global cooperation in health research. Achievements and findings of this program are expected to be instrumental for international organizations in developing global policies and principles. AMED’s membership in GACD is based on this program and enables AMED to participate in collaborative, world-class research in implementation science.