

Joint International Symposium

# The East-West Divide in COVID-19 Mortality -Lessons for Future Pandemics-

**FEB.24  
(SAT)  
2024**  
**13:00-17:30 (JST)**

**Venue:**

**ONSITE** Sendai International Center  
Exhibition Building  
Meeting room 1 & 2

**ONLINE** Zoom

**Registration: By FEB. 20 (TUE)**

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COVID-19 has been causing a devastating impact worldwide. However, the mortality rates were significantly different between countries. Generally, the mortality rates were lower in Asian countries than in the United States and European high-income countries. Various factors might be involved in such differences between Eastern and Western countries, but the exact reason is still unknown. It is critical to understand these factors to prepare for future pandemics. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Tohoku University organize a joint symposium on COVID-19 to discuss COVID-19 responses in Eastern and Western countries from different perspectives.

## Keynote speakers



### Prof. Dean T Jamison

Dean T Jamison is a professor, now emeritus, in the Institute for Global Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. He received a PhD in economics from Harvard University under the supervision of Nobel laureate Kenneth Arrow and has spent his career in academia and at the World Bank. He is a member of the Academy of Medicine of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.



### Prof. Julian Tang

After training in Medicine and Zoology at Cambridge and completing a Zoology PhD in biological fluid dynamics in Aberdeen, Dr Tang finished his medical training in Sheffield before completing specialist clinical virology training at University College London in 2005. As a Consultant Virologist and Honorary Associate Professor, he researches respiratory viruses: how they spread and cause disease, and how to control them, particularly focusing on aerosol and airborne transmission. For over 20 years, he has worked with international networks of virologists, physicians, epidemiologists and engineers in this field, including, most recently, acting as an ad-hoc expert advisor to the WHO.

## Speakers



### Prof. Hitoshi Oshitani

Professor, Department of Virology, Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University



### Prof. Hiroo Sato

Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University



### Dr. Akihiko Nishi

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health/Sakigake Fellow



## Program

### Keynote Lectures

**Chair: Hitoshi Oshitani** (Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University)

13:00-13:45 **"East and West divide in COVID-19 response"**

Prof. Dean Jamison (Emeritus Professor in the Institute for Global Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco)

13:45-14:30 **"COVID-19 pandemic response in the United Kingdom and Asian Countries"**

Prof. Julian Tang (Professor of Respiratory Sciences, University of Leicester)

### Lectures

**Chair: Ken Osaka** (Professor, Graduate School of Dentistry, Tohoku University)

14:30-15:00 **"Cultural Aspects of COVID-19 Response in Japan"**

Prof. Hiroo Sato (Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University)

15:00-15:10 *Coffee Break*

15:10-15:40 **"Factors for low mortality impact of COVID-19 in Japan and Asia"**

Prof. Hitoshi Oshitani (Professor, Department of Virology, Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University)

15:40-16:00 **"Prosocial Behavior in the COVID-19 Pandemic"**

Dr. Akihiko Nishi (Associate professor, Department of Epidemiology, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health/Sakigake Fellow)

16:00-17:15 **Panel Discussion: Preparing for future pandemics.**

**Facilitator: Emerald O'Brien** (TUPReP)

**Panelists:** Prof. Dean Jamison, Prof. Julian Tang, Prof. Hiroo Sato, Prof. Hitoshi Oshitani, Dr. Akihiko Nishi, Dr. Shuhei Nomura (Keio University/Sakigake Fellow)  
Dr. Akira Endo (National University of Singapore • Nagasaki University/Sakigake Fellow)  
Dr. Daisuke Yoneoka (National Institute of Infectious Disease • Tokyo University/Sakigake Fellow)

17:15-17:25 Conclusion

17:25-17:30 Closing

<sup>1</sup> JST PRESTO (Sakigake) is a program of the Japan Science and Technology Agency to support research of young investigator. Social and technological framework for pandemic resilience is one of areas of JST PRESTO.

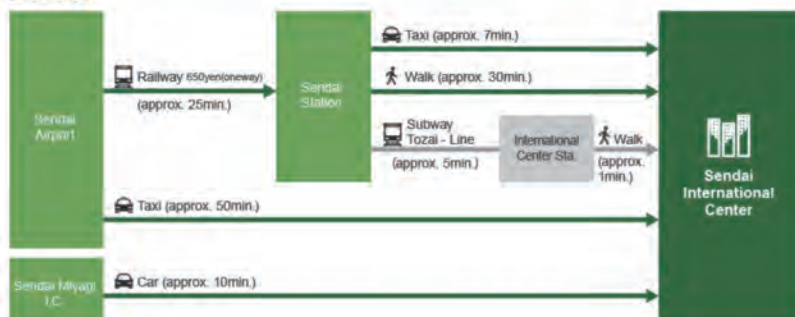
<sup>2</sup> TUPReP (Tohoku University Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Global Preparedness and Local Resilience to Next Pandemics) is one of research projects under SOKAP (Sustainability Open-Knowledge-Action Program), which is a multidisciplinary research project of Tohoku University

## Onsite Venue

### Sendai International Center, Exhibition Building, Meeting room 1 & 2

<http://www.aobayama.jp/english/access/>

#### Access



#### Exhibition Building

