On Dec. 3rd, 2016 (Sat), the 23rd Pfizer Health Research Forum was held in Tokyo and Prof. Egawa of Disaster Medical Science Division, IRIDeS was awarded the research grant. This Forum has unique aspect and is accepting not only the research by the grant awardee, but from general researchers for 23 years.

Prof. Egawa was awarded by the “Epidemiological analysis of medical needs in evacuation shelters and field hospitals in Minamisanriku Town after Great East Japan Earthquake” as one of the 39 awardees out of 160 applies. The grant has following three categories, international collaboration, domestic collaboration (no age restriction), and domestic collaboration (under 39 years old). Researches aiming the system improvement to provide the high standard medical and nursing care for the improvement of people’s quality of life. The methodology should be analysis and holistic approach of social system and its related factors to achieve more effective and efficient system.

The forum is mainly by the awardees of grant two years ago and general applicants about broad topics from medical, pharmaceutical, public health, nursing, economics and educational researchers. Especially, the discussion was focusing on the paradigm shift of these research areas to adapt the up-coming super-aging society in Japan where there will be more than 7 million people older than 65 years old in 2025 while general population is decreasing. Disaster medical researches including mental health of DMAT members, and cold chain of supply to assure quality of medical resources were also presented. Medical needs in disaster and J-SPEED system in the rapid assessment of evacuation shelters were awarded grants suggesting that disaster medicine is recognized as the social system that requires multisectoral cooperation and coordination to protect the health of affected people and responders.

Pfizer Corporation is one of the top leading pharmacies and supporting this Health Research Foundation as Corporate Social Responsibility. This Forum is also supported by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. Dr. Rhozo Nagai, chairman of selection committee presented the aim of this Health Research Forum and also indicated how to write a good grant application. IRIDeS should be a good applicant for the promotion of health aspect of Sendai Framework.

Awarding ceremony after the Forum

Concept of Health Research

Reported by Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)