

Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo

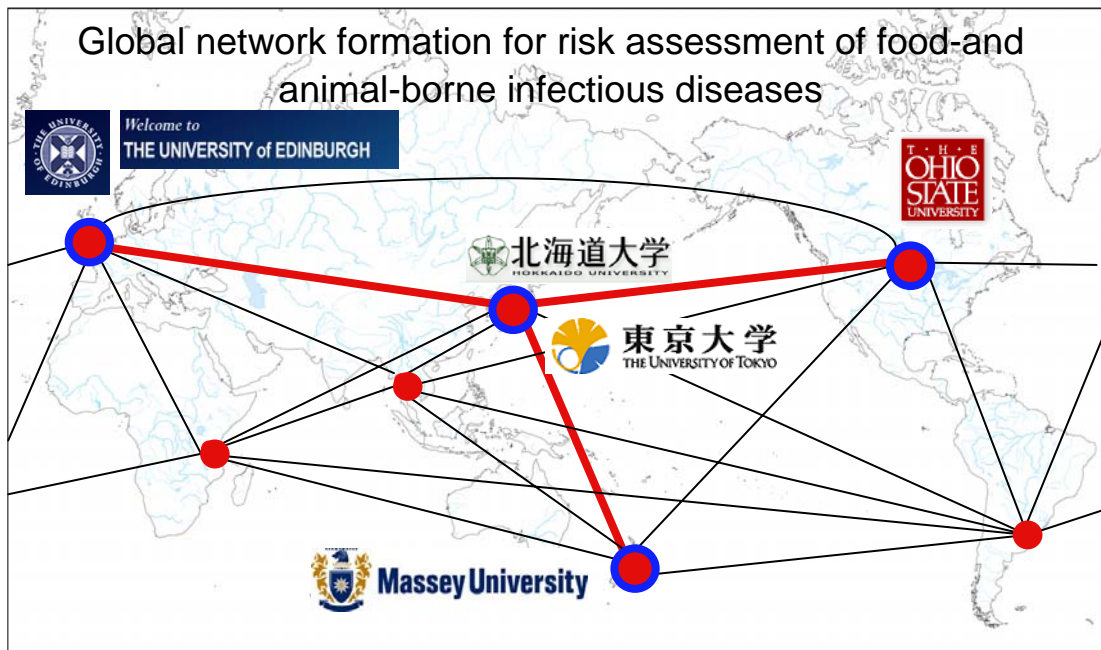
Global training for risk assessment of food-borne infectious diseases in animals and humans

Emerging and reemerging zoonoses such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and highly pathogenic avian influenza are now threatening our life. According to WHO report (2007), in the past on average one disease has been found or appeared annually. In addition, other risks due to infectious diseases including prevalence of drug-resistant bacteria and bioterrorism are growing rapidly. In order to control such diseases, we urgently need experts not only to research on subjects including pathogenicity of infectious agents, identification of infection foci, elucidation on antigenic variation mechanisms, analyses of transmission route, development of preventive and treatment methods, but also carry out risk analysis and management for infectious diseases. In Europe and America, research and educational institutions responsible for training students and scientists on risk analysis/management have been established and play an important role in disease control. For example, organizations in UK led to formulation of policy to control BSE and variant Creutzfeld-Jacob disease. However, Japan lacks such experts or training institutions so far. Since most of zoonoses are derived from wildlife, knowledge on veterinary science is essential for establishing and implementing control measures. Now, the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, and the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo, will launch this program aiming at developing human resource with expertise on risk analysis/management, and strengthening research and education systems for zoonoses, food safety, and policymaking in disease control.

In this program, we shall select graduate students who have interested in the above-mentioned areas and are able to communicate in English, and send them to American and European universities/research institutes for study or research. We shall also send our postdoctoral students and young staff to organizations equipped with bio-safety level 4 (BSL-4) laboratories for 3 months, to develop expertise for research at prospective BSL-4 facility in Japan in future.

Partner Universities/Institutes

1. College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA
2. EpiCentre, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
3. Centre for Infectious Diseases, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
4. School of Veterinary Medicine, Bern University, Bern, Switzerland
5. The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, USA
6. National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada, Winnipeg, Canada



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