

Ritsumeikan University (Functions to be Enhanced: 1. Boost academic excellence in areas of the University's strength, 2. Generate innovation that can help resolve global issues and advance societal reform)

Collaborators: National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), Shiga University of Medical Science, Juntendo University, Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences

Participators: The University of Tokyo, Shiga University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology (NCGG)

Summary

University Vision

Resonance with diverse actors on next-generation social issues and realization of a next-generation research-intensive university that takes on the challenge of creating social value through research

Realization of an equitable society where everyone is respected and approved by others and they can pursue and realize their desired wellbeing

Research Strategy

- Creation of new research value that leads to solutions to global issues and their implementation in society  
 - Fostering innovative and emergent human resources to embed the value of research in society

Function 1: Creation of the body sphere research area

With our strength in sports health science as the core, the University will invite top domestic and international researchers to form an international research center for the body sphere through interdisciplinary fusion, thereby driving research on wellbeing in a society in multi-layered environments.

Development of research/innovation human resources
 

- Establishment of a degree program in the body sphere
- International network-based training system
- Mastering diversity leadership through inclusive education
- Fostering PhD entrepreneurial human resources

Function 2: Enhancement of innovation/social implementation capabilities

Strengthening large-scale corporate joint research and social implementation capabilities through ELSI-compatible data platforms, campus demonstration experiments, proprietary investment funds, etc.

Reform and financial strategy for R&D management
 

- Fostering technical personnel and highly specialized URAs
- Multi-track HR management reform
- DX and faculty effort reforms to create research time
- Realization of fund circulation through investment funds, etc.

Aiming to resolve problems in the impending society in multi-layered environments through "Body Sphere research" that elucidates wellbeing based on the interaction between human relationships, the real world, and the virtual world, with a focus on the body.

Challenge for Humanity

Rapid transformation from living in the real world, which has been adapting and evolving for 200,000 years, to a society in multi-layered environments with highly integrated virtual worlds

The transition to a society in multi-layered environments has affected, in various ways, people's physical, mental, and social health, including relative decline in bodily functions, attenuation of interpersonal communication, and anxiety stemming from the increased complexity of society.

Hunter-gatherer society  
 Small group/mobile type

Agro-pastoral society  
 Medium group/settlement type

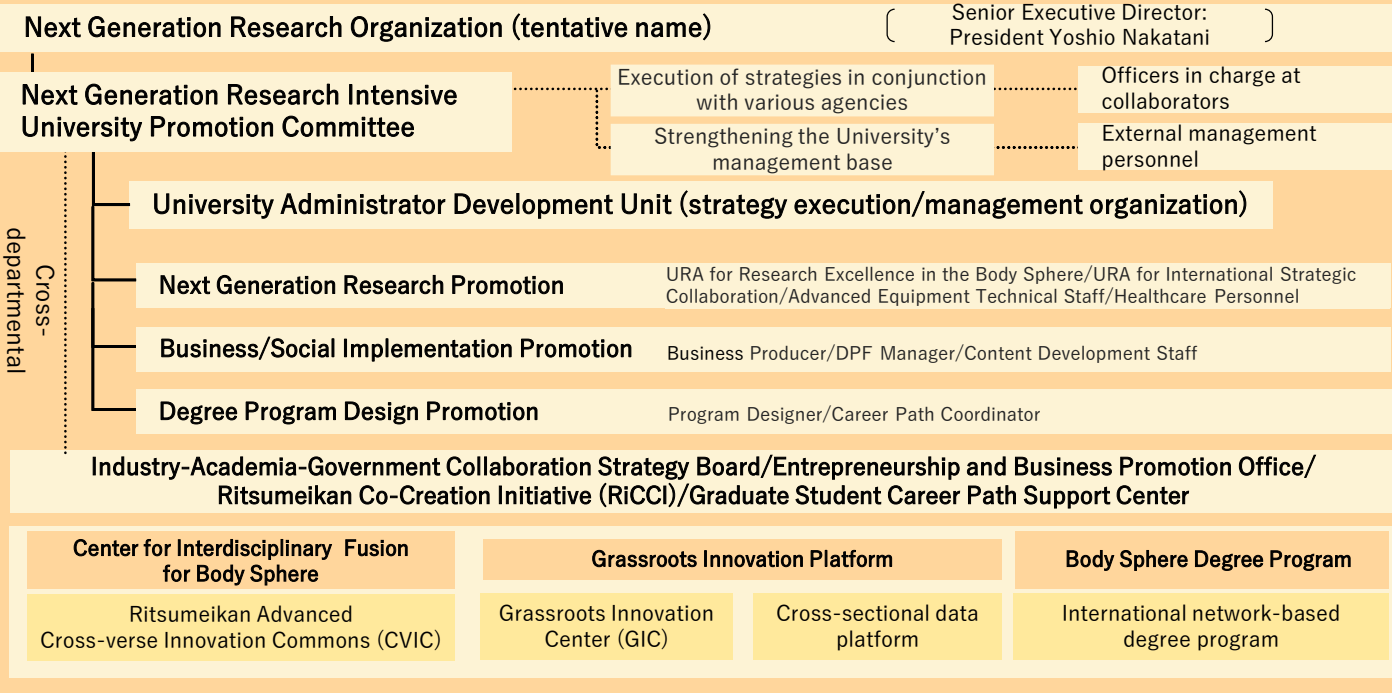
Industrialized society  
 Large group/cross-border type

Information society  
 Individual dispersion/non-boundary type

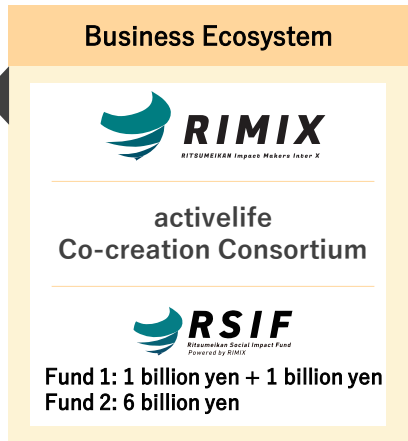
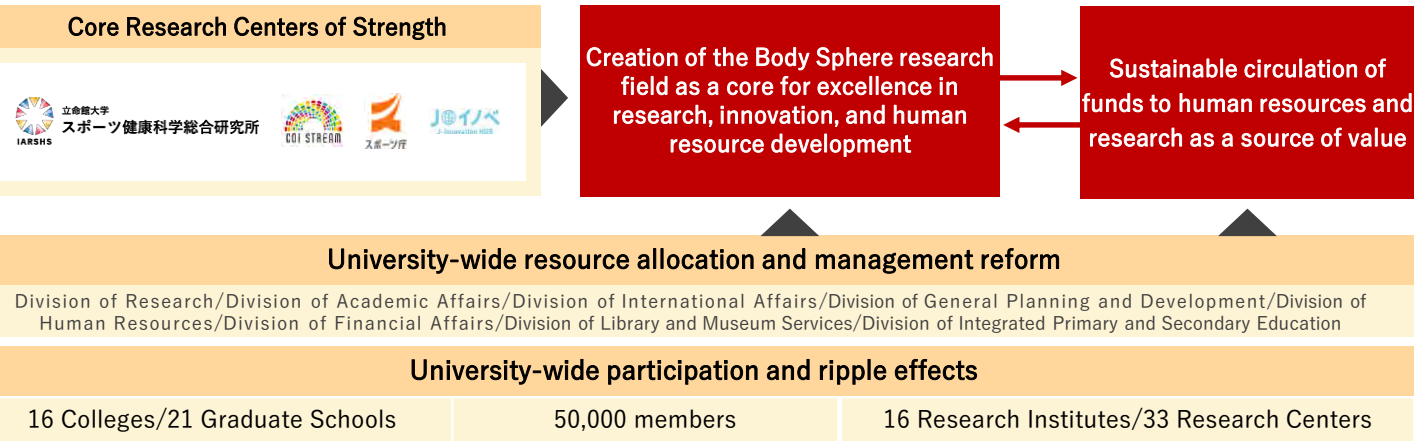
Society in multi-layered environments  
 Individual symbiosis/inter-boundary type  
 An era in which the scope of human life and activity expands from the real world to the virtual world, and people build relationships and engage in social life in an unprecedented multi-layered environments



Board of Trustees/Executive Board of Trustees



Bringing together world-class top researchers in the body sphere



Timeline

		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029~	Ten years' time	
Strategy 1 Creation of the Body Sphere Research Area	(1) Implementing interdisciplinary fusion research strategy	Selecting PI/recruiting researchers	Accelerating the execution and outcome creation of interdisciplinary research projects on the body sphere					
		Coordinating cross-appointments, etc., with collaborators	Establishing the Next Generation Research Organization (tentative name) and starting its operation as a special zone			Preparing for the establishment of/operating an international conference		
	(2) Developing research schemes to enhance interdisciplinary fusion of body sphere research	Introducing research equipment		Operating the unrivalled joint-use center for wearable MEG, cross-verse arena, etc.				
		Defining joint-use operation system of equipment	Executing joint-use research projects/creating joint research results					
		Preparing for/establishing joint clinic	Establishing joint clinic/building a system that enables secure acquisition of biometric data					
	(3) Expanding international network	Negotiating the invitation of/accepting overseas researchers	Accelerating the participation of invited researchers in projects/outcome creation					
		Recruiting international URAs	Establishing organizational collaboration with overseas universities/creating a joint development system of doctoral/early-career researchers through international intellectual circulation					
	Strategy 2 Enhancement of Innovation/Social Implementation Capabilities	(1) Establishing a Grassroots Innovation Platform	Recruiting a business manager	Developing/operating campus demonstration fields and establishing a collaboration system for demonstration fields owned by collaborators				
			Establishing/starting the operation of corporate labs	Allowing private use of shared equipment/corporate-occupied labs				
Developing VR/MR content			Conducting sales activities to increase the number of the activelife Co-creation Consortium companies		Developmentally integrating them into the International Consortium for Body Sphere Research			
Establishing a scheme for collaboration with GIC and other organizations			Enhancing GAP Fund Acceleration functions					
			Strengthening collaboration with domestic and international startup communities					
(2) Establishing a cross-sectional data platform and promoting collaborative research through data utilization		Recruiting data management specialists	Developing open and closed strategies with collaborators		Promoting data collaboration research with private companies through the utilization of open data			
			Launching data management and personal information protection consulting services					
		Constructing a data sharing system	Connecting cohort data			Engaging in efforts toward international standardization		
Realization of a next-generation research-intensive university that generates social symbiotic values by creating a world-leading center for interdisciplinary research and human resource development that drives research and social implementation								

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Strategy 3	Development of Research/Innovation Human Resources	(1) Fostering PhD entrepreneurial human resources with a focus on the body sphere degree program	Designing a program/coordinating internally	Submitting application to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Admitting doctoral candidates/launching the degree program		Realization of a next-generation research-intensive university that generates social symbiotic values by creating a world-leading center for interdisciplinary research and human resource development that drives research and social implementation
			Coordinating a joint program with collaborators	Formulating/operating a joint doctoral/early-career researcher development program			
			Negotiating with overseas research institutions				
			Developing a DE&I education program	Starting program provision			
			Planning/implementing future human resource development programs that aspire to innovation creation, utilizing an integrated elementary, junior high, and senior high school education system				
Strategy 4	(1) Organizing specialized human resources and reforming a human resources system	Organizing UA units/recruiting specialized personnel	Establishing/operating URA skill standards unique to body sphere research				
		Realizing a joint development system with collaborators	Launching staff personnel duplication	Securing/fostering a stable supply of specialized personnel		Expanding to a university-wide system	
	(2) Promoting DX for research time generation and reforming faculty effort	Evaluating for effort creation and designing/renewing a system for classroom teaching			Evaluating operation status and improving the system		
		Coordinating/implementing measures to reduce work through DX promotion/governance reform			Allocating priority to research effort and evaluating/improving operation status		
	(3) Diversifying the flow of funds through expansion of proprietary investment funds	Continuing to invest in No. 1 Social Impact Fund (RISF)					
		Commencing to invest in No. 2 fund	Establishing/investing in investment schemes for collaborators				
		Contemplating reinvestment schemes from diverse sources such as fund returns			Providing funding for priority research/innovation creation		