

TAKEMI PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

Report 2023–2024



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduction to the Takemi Program Report 2023–2024

In this report we provide information about the 2023–2024 Takemi Fellows and their fellowship year. We also include biographies for the incoming cohort of Takemi Fellows for 2024–2025. This year was filled with many accomplishments for the Takemi Program.

In October 2023, we celebrated our 40th anniversary with a Symposium on Digital Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The Symposium was attended by over 100 previous and current Takemi Fellows from the past four decades of the program. Among the attendees was Dr. Prakash Gupta, from the first group of Takemi Fellows in 1984–85. In November 2023, the Japan Medical Association held an anniversary symposium in Tokyo also on Digital Health, and the presentations at the symposium in Boston were reviewed. The papers presented at the symposium in Boston will be published in the journal *Health Systems & Reform*, and the proceedings of the symposium in Tokyo has been published by the Japan Medical Association (https://www.med.or.jp/english/activities/40th_video.html).

In January 2024, the Takemi Program was happy to appoint Dr. Aya Goto, Taro Takemi Professor of the Practice of International Community Health (previous Takemi Fellow 2012–2013) as Director of Takemi Program in International Health. Additionally, we welcomed a new program coordinator, Ms. Nyssa Singhal. Along with Dr. Jesse Bump, Executive Director, Dr. Michael Reich, Senior Advisor, and Emily Coles, Program Manager, the program experienced another positive 2023–2024 academic year.

At the symposia mentioned above, Drs. Goto, Bump, and Reich facilitated discussions among past and present fellows to solicit their opinions and suggestions for improving program management. The notes were analyzed by the fellows and the program management team, and the results were incorporated into the program's communication and networking strategies.

Communications specialists were hired to revamp the program's website, newsletters, social networking messages, LinkedIn network, and fellows' dashboards. The poster presentation was held in the school lobby on the same day as the certificate ceremony. The entire school, students, faculty, and staff of the Consulate General of Japan attended and celebrated both the poster session and the ceremony. Regional networking opportunities were planned for the end of 2024.

In July 2024, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health was pleased to renew the MOU with the Japan Medical Association in hopes of continuing their partnership through the Takemi Program. Additionally, in July 2024, we are delighted to announce China Medical Board (CMB) has given a grant to the Takemi Program in International Health to support one fellow for the next four years.

The year of 2023–2024 was a remarkable success and we are proud to uphold the principles of the Takemi Program and deliver an excellent experience for Takemi Fellows.

As we embark on the start of the Fall semester in 2024, we are looking forward to continuing the work we are doing. We express our appreciation for the continued support from the Japan Medical Association and for the financial support from the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, especially for two Takemi Fellows from low-income countries.



Dr. Aya Goto
Director



Dr. Jesse Bump
Executive Director



Ms. Nyssa Singhal
Program coordinator

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction to the Takemi Program Report 2023–2024 | 1 |
| Eligibility and Application Document | 3 |
| Expectations and Requirements | 4 |
| Takemi Fellows 2023–2024 | 5 |
| Takemi Program Selection Process | 7 |
| Takemi Program Schedule 2023–2024 | 9 |
| Takemi Fellows 2024–2025 | 11 |
| Geographical Breakdown of Fellows to date 1984–2024 | 13 |

Eligibility and Application Document

Eligibility Requirements:



Have completed a graduate degree



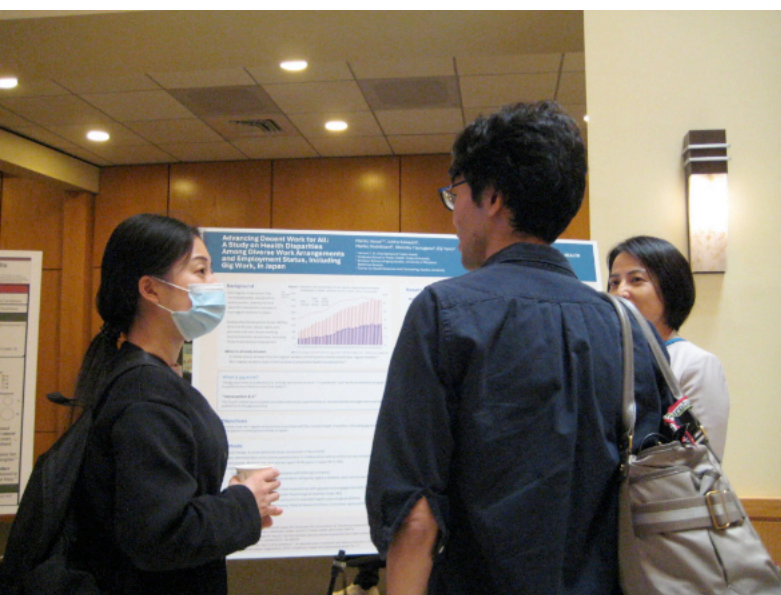
Have demonstrated potential leadership capacity in their home countries



Have significant work and research experience, including publications in internationally recognized journals



Strong promise and appropriate preparation (including facility of English)



Application Process:

The application process requires:

- Resume
- Research Proposal
- Publications in English
- Statement of Interest
- Proof of Proficiency in English
- Three References

Expectations and Requirements

Takemi Fellows work independently, under the supervision of their advisor (a member of the Harvard faculty), and the Takemi Program Director, Aya Goto, and Executive Director, Jesse Bump. Fellows set up their own schedule according to their individual needs and goals for the term of their fellowship.

The Program's expectations are the following:

- Meet regularly with faculty advisor
- Attend and participate in the Takemi Program weekly seminar
- Present research progress throughout the year via scheduled Preliminary, Mid-year, and Final presentations (where Fellows are given feedback/guidance from faculty advisors and their peers)
- Submit a final paper of publishable quality before departing

In addition to this, Takemi Fellows may also:

- Audit classes at Harvard Chan School (with the approval of advisor and instructor)
- Attend other Harvard University seminars
- Attend Office of Faculty Affairs sponsored Postdoctoral Fellows courses
- The Program welcomes comments and suggestions from Fellows throughout the year. Feedback is solicited regularly to identify ways to enhance the experience of researchers within the Takemi Program and the school.

Advisors:

Fellows are expected to meet regularly with their Harvard faculty advisor to receive feedback on their project and assistance with their progress.

Seminars:

The Takemi Program's weekly seminars are designed to introduce a wide range of research topics and methodologies by faculty at the School of Public Health. Seminars range from formal to informal, and are intended to be a forum for discussion between Fellows and Harvard faculty and visitors.

Throughout the year, the program welcomes suggestions from Takemi Fellows on potential topics or speakers.

Presentations:

September–October

Preliminary Presentations: Presentation of the Research Prospectus. Each presentation will be a 10–15-minute PowerPoint presentation, with 10 minutes discussion.

January–February

Mid-year Presentations: Each Fellow presents a mid-year progress report, with interim analysis and preliminary results. Same format for the presentation.

April–May

Final Presentations: End of the year presentation of the final reports for each Research Fellow. Same format for the presentation.

Research Paper and Poster

Each Fellow must submit a paper (on their proposed research) of publishable quality before departing and present a poster of their work.

Takemi Fellows 2023–2024



Dr.
**Maihan
Abdullah**

Afghanistan

Descriptive epidemiology of Cancer in Afghanistan: a population-based cancer registry data



Dr.
**Adam
Abdullahi**

Nigeria

Longitudinal outcomes of dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapy in people living with HIV: retrospective analysis from a nationally representative Nigerian cohort



Dr.
**Christopher
da Costa**

The Gambia

Prioritization of lassa fever vaccines in endemic countries: a scoping review and key informant perspectives



Dr.
**Mariko
Inoue**

Japan

Advancing decent work for all: a study on health disparities among diverse work arrangements and employment status, including gig work, in Japan



Dr.
**Fareeda
Abo-Rass**

Palestinian

Determinants of intentions to seek formal mental health help among Palestinian adolescents in Israel



Dr.
**Wafa
Aftab**

Pakistan

Can adopting a priority-setting paradigm help the Ministry of Health effectively promote intersectoral actions for health?



Dr.
**Arnaud
Iradukunda**

Burundi

Impact of Covid-19 on tuberculosis mortality and multi drug-resistance in Burundi: a case-control study



Dr.
**Kazutaka
Yoshida**

Japan

Differences in assessing loneliness among Japanese older adults: a comparison of family physicians and nurses

Takemi Program Selection Process

In February 2023, the 20 most competitive applications were reviewed by the Advisory Committee for the Takemi Program. A total of 7 fellows were selected. One fellow continued from the previous year.

JPMA Fellowship Award Recipients

Two JPMA awards were issued



Dr.
**Adam
Abdullahi**

Nigeria

Dr. Abdullahi audited the following classes at Harvard:

- **GHP569:** Decolonization of Global Health :
- **HLS 2100:** Global Governance

Adam Abdullahi is an infectious disease scientist with an interest in neglected tropical diseases and infectious diseases. He has an undergraduate degree in tropical disease biology from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and a PhD in Infectious Diseases and Global Health from the University of Liverpool. Prior to the Takemi Fellowship, Dr. Abdullahi was a Cambridge-Africa Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, studying immune responses to the SARS COV-2 vaccine across African populations. This included generating evidence for the first real-world assessment of the immunogenicity of the SARS COV-2 AstraZeneca vaccine in West Africa, a region of more than 440 million.

Dr. Abdullahi is currently a Takemi Scholar in International Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge. He has a background in tropical disease and infectious disease science. His current research work focuses on understanding population-level determinants of HIV treatment outcomes, including the impact of viral immunosuppression, emerging drug resistance, and viral coinfections. Also, his interest includes evaluating vaccine responses to emerging pathogens across African populations where vaccine access has been limited and sparse, with the aim of generating critically needed empirical evidence to guide infectious disease policy action.

Dr. Abdullahi will be returning to Harvard to complete a second year of his Takemi fellowship. His project title is Navigating Future Infectious Disease Threats: Assessing Nigeria's Preparedness and Response Strategies.



Dr.

**Arnaud
Iradukunda**

Burundi

Arnaud Iradukunda is both a Medical Doctor from Kamenge Teaching Hospital (University of Burundi) and Statistician from Lake Tanganyika University. He is also an International UNESCO certified in Bioethics and human rights for research (UNESCO Chair Bioethics, Haifa University, Israel). Over the last five years, Dr. Iradukunda has collaborated with a national, regional, and international organizations, demonstrating his commitment to public health. His engagements include working with institutions such as the Burundi Ministry of Health, World Health Organization, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) of Washington University, and the Federation of African Medical Student Association, among others.

On Head of ARNECH Research and Consulting Office, Dr. Iradukunda is highly resourceful and goal-driven researcher with key interest in Clinical and DHS data analysis, Data Science for Diseases Modelling, System Thinking and Dynamics Modelling. He is also interested in designing of effective M&E system and developing tools for routine data collection and data analysis using varied regressions to calculate incremental effect of projects interventions on targeted population.

Throughout his research, Dr Iradukunda aims to improve quality of international health research and evaluation through working and providing mentorship to local staff, especially in humanitarian and fragile settings in sub-Saharan Africa. As Takemi fellow, he is developing modeling skills to improve health with effective strategies for disease control and prevention particularly in low and middle-income countries. Dr. Iradukunda is working on impact of COVID-19 on tuberculosis mortality and Multi drug resistance in Burundi, digital tool (a prediction score) which assess the risk of MDR-TB, classify patients, and give recommendations based on risk level during the follow-up. Next year, he will be at the Oxford University for the Modelling for Global Health program, where he has been awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship.

Dr. Iradukunda audited the following classes at Harvard:

- **BST / BIST 245:** Analysis of Multivariate and Longitudinal Data
- **RDS 280:** Decision Analysis for Health and Medical Practice.
- **HPM-548:** Responsible Conduct of Research
- **BST 216:** Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Monitoring and Evaluation
- **GHP 501:** Modeling for Health System Analysis & Priority Setting
- **CI 702B:** Clinical Trials (Part 2) Harvard Medical School

Takemi Program Schedule 2023–2024

August

August 23: Takemi Program Orientation

August 29- September 12: Takemi Program Preliminary Presentations

September

September 12: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Michael Reich, Director and Taro Takemi Professor Emeritus, Department of Global Health and Population

September 19: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Ole Norheim, Professor, Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, Bergen Center for Ethics and Priority Setting, University of Bergen

September 26: Takemi Seminar with Dr. John McDonough, Professor of Public Health Practice, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard Chan School

October

October 3: Takemi Seminar with Dr. K. "Vish" Viswananth, Lee Kum Kee Professor of Health Communication Social and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard Chan School

October 20-21: Takemi Program 40th Anniversary Symposium

October 31: Takemi Program Alumni Seminar

November

November 7: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Aisha Yousafzai, Professor of Child Development and Health, Global Health and Population

November 14: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Jesse Bump, Executive Director and Lecturer, Department of Global Health and Population

November 28: Takemi Seminar with Nicolas Alan Menzies, Associate Professor of Global Health, Global Health and Population

December

December 5: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Richard Cash, Senior Lecturer on Global Health, Global Health and Population

December 12: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Vaughan Rees, Senior Lecturer on Social and Behavioral Sciences, Center for Global Tobacco Control Research



February

February 6-13: Mid-year presentations

February 13: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Heather Lanthorn, Program Director, Social Science Research Council

February 20: Health Literacy Workshop with Dr. Aya Goto, Director of the Takemi Program

February 27: Takemi Seminar with Melanie Cammett, Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs in the Department of Government Director, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

March

March 5: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Sawsan Abdulrahim, Palestine Program Health & Human Rights Fellow

March 19: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Veronika J. Wirtz, Professor in the Department of Global Health, Boston University School of Public Health

April

April 9: Takemi Poster Workshop with Johnattan Garcia-Ruiz, Decillion

April 16: Takemi Seminar with Dr. David Canning, Professor of Population Science Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

April 23: Takemi Seminar with Dr. Stéphane Verguet, Associate Professor Global Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

April 29 - May 1: Takemi Program End of Year Presentations

May

May 1: Takemi Lunch with Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Former Minister of Health of Senegal

May 7: Takemi Program Poster Session and Certificate Ceremony

Takemi Fellows 2024–2025



Second-year
Takemi Fellow

Dr.
**Adam
Abdullahi**

Nigeria

Navigating future infectious disease threats: Assessing Nigeria's preparedness and response strategies



Dr.
**Francis
Adzei**

Ghana

Optimizing health promotion strategies for improved health system resource allocation: lessons from Ghana's COVID-19 pandemic response



Dr.
**Yoshitaka
Nishikawa**

Japan

Stable iodine implementation as a thyroid protection measure in radiation emergencies



Dr.
**Camila
Volij**

Argentina

Policy analysis of cervical, breast, and colorectal cancer access and effective coverage across the continuum of care in Argentina



Second-year
Takemi Fellow

Dr.

**Fareeda
Abo-Rass**

Palestinian

Reconceptualizing mental
health literacy in war and
disaster zones



Dr.

**Daisuke
Kato**

Japan

Eliminating social isolation of
older persons and reducing
regional health inequities:
towards age-friendly cities with
a focus on social well-being



Dr.

**Anya Vieira
Meyer**

Brazil

A longitudinal study of the
effects of violence and
COVID-19 on the mental
health and work performance
of community health agents
in northeastern Brazil:
implications for public
policy and programs



Dr.

**Theodros
(Tedi)
Zemedu**

Ethiopia

Quality, equity, and effective
coverage of child health
services in Ethiopia



Dr.

**Jie (Jane)
Zhao**

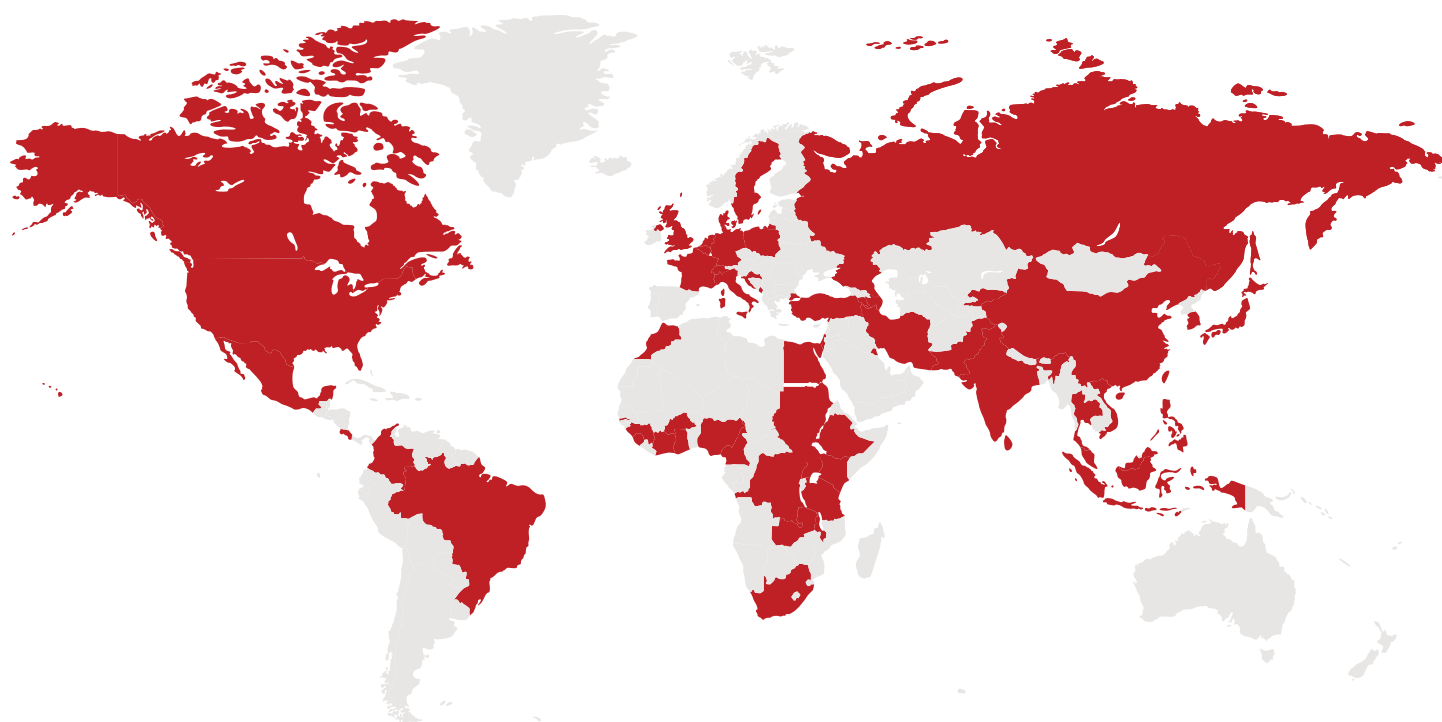
China

Building prediction models for
depression based on multi-
cohorts with diverse socio-
economic conditions in Asia

Geographical Breakdown of Fellows to date

1984–2024

Since its inception in 1983, **330 Takemi Fellows** from **62 countries** have been selected to participate in the Program



17

North
America

28

South
America

73

Africa

15

Middle
East

3

Central
Asia

5

Eastern
Europe

16

Europe

15

South
East Asia

34

South
Asia

124

East Asia



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